

his good characters in the next generation of this may be discerned about the bird, for if the forehead is broad, keen the prospects for a vigorous hatched, and such a male is likely to be proportion of fertile eggs. Since the female to lay eggs is transmitted the cockerels instead of through the was at one time supposed, it is on the ladder to success if a male can get the get of a parent with a good nest, are too much, trouble on farm, yet a hen can be sized up by watching the flock rather closely a mental record of their performance three females that have acquitted well should be given separate quarters breeding season, and the eggs from be set to produce the best breeding following year. The bulk of the be hatched from the best remaining would be an easy matter indeed to marking. In this way a farmer his fowls under conditions nearer with those under which poultry ate. Furthermore, the males would be best parent stock, would possess qualifications for service the next year, would pass along the capacity for laying birds are early off the roost in and late returning to the roost in select good specimens of the breed, to shape, color and size.

## BULLETIN.

### That Merger.

By Peter McArthur.

of a particularly daring banking were current during the past couple and me of a story that used to be the New York Stock Exchange. One of the members, Travers, was equally famous for his wit and his stuttering. One day he was standing on the Broad Street steps of the exchange when he saw a man across the street who was trying to sell a parrot. Turning to a group of friends who were standing beside him he stuttered:

"C-c-come across the s-s-street and we'll have some f-fun."

Seeing that a joke was in sight they all followed Travers across the street. Going up to the vendor of the parrot he examined the bird carefully. Finally he asked:

"How much?"

"Twenty-five dollars."

"T-t-too much!" said Travers. The owner of the bird expatiated volubly on the history and wonderful qualities of the parrot until Travers interrupted him to ask with a particularly violent spasm of stuttering:

"C-c-c-c-can he talk?"

"Well," said the parrot owner, "if he couldn't talk better than you can I'd wring his neck."

Quick as a flash to his friends and said quietly:

"The merger is postponed."

That it is merely postponed.

\*\*\*\*\*

ature of the rumor was the roused in all quarters. Even are usually regarded as apologists system ventured a line or two of No reason was offered for the except a further concentration of Both banks are sound financially would not be increased by the As far as the public interest is is uncalled for. Apparently the y a further step in that movement powerful bank that has long been ew powerful financiers. But the

immediate indignation with which it was received is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. When the whole mind of the country is concentrated on the war it is a good sign to find such instant impatience of any scheme that would increase the power of any individual or corporation. Because we were so apathetic in the past the corporations were able to do as they liked. Possibly they thought that the present would be the best time to "dig themselves in"—that no one would be paying attention. But they were all wrong. The people have at last learned to some extent that powerful corporations mean weak governments and now is the time when we need the strongest government possible. Railroad corporations with inordinate ambitions and other interests that are at present prowling for more power and privileges would be wise to take warning from the opposition to the bank merger. They may have found political deals helpful in the past but the people are not now in a temper to endure juggling of any kind. Those to whom the tragedy of the war has come home in a personal way have little interest in business or political trickery. They want fair dealing, candor and sincerity during the struggle for which they are making such sacrifices and are not likely to endure anything else. If I am not mistaken the attitude of the great mass of the people towards both business and political interests at the present time might be summed up in the final words of the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Russian army contractors: "No stealing, gentlemen!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A. C. Gardiner, Editor of the London Daily News, whose books, "Prophets, Priests and Kings" and "Pillars of Society" have done so much to inform the public regarding the personality of the men engaged in the war has just published another volume entitled "The War Lords." While it contains much that helps to give a glimmering of the men it so characterizes it has one passage that is more significant than anything else in the book.

"The remarkable thing in this colossal struggle is the absence of the element of personality. It is as though the forces at work are too vast to permit the emergence of the individual, as though nothing but some collective, impersonal intelligence is capable of manipulating hosts which are beyond the comprehension of the human mind." There is the situation in a very few words. The war is too great to be directed by men, or understood by men and we are incapable of promoting peace as we are of directing the war until it has run its disastrous course.

### Crops in York County.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The crops in York County, Ontario, promised to be such as we never had harvested at the end of July. Then a very small percentage of the fall wheat was standing and about 50 per cent. of the barley.

The storm of August 3 put all other grain crops down so it was impossible to cut more than one way. The frequent showers kept the low land so wet that the binder would not run. It was a great task for those farmers who could cut their crop to get it in a suitable condition to mow away.

The corn went down to the ground, especially the well-advanced crop. It has straightened up considerably but it will be impossible to cut it more than one way.

The mangels are not injured to any great extent, but the turnips have simply ceased growing and the under leaves are turning yellow and dropping off. We still are in hopes for we think there is yet time for a good crop of turnips if we could loosen the earth around the plants, but we cannot yet walk through the fields.

The potatoes are poor, the plants seem to be doing no good and there are no potatoes to be seen. With the exception of the latest a few patches which were planted late in June have that rank green look. The bugs are bad and seem to be very hard to kill. The rains keep the poison washed off the leaves.

The pasture is looking well and growing fast. The prospects are for a bumper yield of second-crop clover. The alfalfa has a good start on the third crop.

York Co., Ont.

W. J. T.

### The Annual Excursion to Monteith Farm.

The Third Annual Farmers' Excursion to the Ontario Government Demonstration Farm at Monteith, which was held recently, was very largely attended. It was estimated that there were upwards of 2,000 people present, about 1,400 coming from the south, 300 from the north and 200 or 300 from settlements immediately in the vicinity of the farm. Weather conditions were very favorable, the North having escaped the severe rains which have proven so disastrous to Old Ontario. The crops were in splendid condition as was also the stock, and the visitors spent a considerable portion of their time studying the results which have been secured in the use of different varieties of seeds and the different methods of cultivation suitable to their common condition.

Addresses were given from the residence verandah, and one of the outstanding characteristics of the audience in attendance at these annual gatherings is the close attention they pay to the information given and the intelligent questions which they ask in an effort to secure further information. Hon. Jas. S. DuJ, Minister of Agriculture, presided, and addresses were first delivered by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, who referred specially to the efforts being made at settlement, and N. W. Rowell, K. C., who made a patriotic address and incidentally congratulated the Minister on organizing such a gathering of so much social and educational advantage. C. F. Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister, took charge of the live-stock demonstration, dwelling particularly on the merits of the milking Shorthorn cow. He referred, however, to other animals and recommended Shropshire sheep, Yorkshire pigs and heavy horses, as well as the milking Shorthorn cow, as being most adapted to conditions in the North country. He illustrated his arguments with one of the herd of milking Shorthorns on the farm where the entire herd is in the record of Performance test and is headed by an imported Shorthorn bull of milking strain, which is recognized as one of the best in Canada.

Prof. W. J. Squirell, of the Field Husbandry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, discussed crop improvement, emphasizing the importance of the proper selection of varieties, as the best variety is usually twice as good as the poorest. He also emphasized the necessity of keeping humus in the soils, and spoke of clovers which grow like weeds in the North, and alfalfa which has shown itself hardy enough for that climate.

Dr. G. C. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, delivered an eloquent address on the importance of practical education. Referring to the conditions in the North, he said it was a shame that potatoes should be imported there from New Brunswick when they could grow them to such good advantage being still free from "bugs." He said, "Don't try to grow peaches or melons or things that are out of your line, but stick to heavy horses, close-wool sheep, bacon hogs and Shorthorn cattle, and you will make a success for yourselves in your district."

Jas. R. Fallis, M. P. P., for Peel, made a brief address, remarking particularly on the splendid crops which were to be observed in the district and which were equal to any in Old Ontario. R. H. Clemens, the Resident Superintendent of the Farm, gave a talk on the methods that had been adopted in farm work, and was kept busy for some time answering questions.

In the meantime, in a tent, a meeting of special interest to the ladies was held. L. A. Zuffelt, of the Kingston Dairy School, gave demonstrations in butter-making. W. G. Nixon, the District Representative for Timiskaming, took up poultry, and Mrs. W. H. Parsons, of Cochrane, President of the Timiskaming Women's Institute, delivered an address in regard to the work the women were doing all over the province, and received as a result invitations to organize two branch Institutes. A. M. Rankin, M. P. P., for Frontenac, presided.

On the day following the picnic, the Minister of Agriculture and those accompanying visited the country along the Transcontinental between Cochrane and Hearst, a distance of 130 miles. This is now attracting special attention as one of

the new Transcontinental routes to the west, and it will no doubt be the scene of considerable development in the next few years. About half way between the two towns, on the banks of the Groundhog River, J. F. Whitson, Ontario Government Commissioner in charge of road building, has cleared about 55 acres, and is this year growing crops there as good as could be found anywhere in the Province. These crops include spring and fall wheat, oats, barley and peas, while on about five acres of the bank sloping towards the river, in a loamy clay soil, he has a garden which for variety or healthy growth would be very difficult to surpass anywhere. It includes almost everything from strawberries to potatoes.

A little farther West, the Dominion Government is establishing an experimental farm on land which is now being cleared by alien enemies who are interned. Between six and seven hundred acres have already been cleared in the past year, and the site for farm purposes appears to be well selected. At Jacksonboro, near Cochrane, another 700 acres have been cleared and a portion of it cultivated, and there are other settlements here and there along the line. Evidences, therefore, are not lacking to show the possibilities of the soil and indicate a future development of considerable agricultural importance.

### Too Much Rain in York and Ontario Counties.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Weather conditions in York and Ontario Counties have been such as to render harvesting operations almost impossible. Four fine days last week helped matters somewhat, but a heavy downpour Saturday night following a showery, foggy day Saturday and more rain Sunday again soaked the ground, which was just becoming dry enough to get a binder over it, and delayed harvesting for several days longer. A great deal of the winter wheat in these two counties was very badly sprouted and some of it was not yet in the barn by August 21. However, some farmers harvested their entire crop without getting it sprouted, and some got in at least a part of their wheat. The wheat was a heavy stand throughout the counties. We heard of one man threshing 17 acres just a few days ago, and after it was completed his bins held 900 bushels, or an average of nearly 53 bushels per acre. Many fields will yield upwards of 45 bushels to the acre, and those who saved it without sprouting will have a profitable crop indeed, while those whose wheat grew badly can make very good use of it for feeding purposes, for York and Ontario are live-stock counties. At the end of last week considerable of the barley was still uncut. That which had been cut was partly in the barns, the rest standing in the stook. Barley, like the wheat, grew badly. The oat crop, one of the heaviest these counties ever grew, was still unharvested and no small proportion of it was uncut. The heavy rain from the east on that memorable Tuesday early in the month laid every oat field in the two counties flat to the west. All the cutting must be done one way, but it is surprising how well binders are picking up this down grain. One man remarked that the binder was the most wonderful machine yet invented, and that with it he could cut his grain better than any other way, even mentioning the scythe. Some of the land bordering on Lake Ontario has been so wet since the rainy season began that harvesting operations have been practically at a standstill, and, unless things brighten up immediately, a great deal of this crop must be almost a total loss. This, of course, refers only to that land lying very close to the shore. Much of this is low and has been too soft to get a binder over it. Wherever fields are underdrained conditions are not quite so bad. Root crops are not looking well. There has been so much rain that turnips are turning yellow. Mangels promise a better yield than turnips. Corn is not up to its usual standard. It has been so wet that cultivation is impossible and corn does not like wet feet. The potato crop promises to be a failure; Rot is already prevalent and increasing daily. However, with two weeks fine weather now a big change could be wrought in these counties, and farmers are still optimistic.

Ontario Co., Ont.

W. T.

## Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

### Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, from Saturday, Aug. 21, to Monday, Aug. 23, were 283 cars, comprising 3,094 cattle, 91 calves, 1,239 hogs, 1,056 sheep, and 2,446 horses for the Allied armies in France. Cattle generally half finished; few choice; trade very slow; the bulk unsold at noon; prices easier. Extra choice butchers', \$8.50 to \$8.85; choice butchers', \$8 to \$8.35; good butchers', \$7.50 to \$8;

medium, \$7 to \$7.50; common, \$6 to \$6.50; cows, \$4 to \$7; bulls, \$4.75 to \$7; feeders, \$6.50 to \$7.50; stockers, \$5 to \$6.50; milkers, \$70 to \$100; calves, \$4.50 to \$11. Sheep, \$3.50 to \$6.75; lambs, \$7 to \$9.25. Hogs, \$8.65 f. o. b.; \$9 fed and watered; \$9.15 to \$9.40 weighed off cars.

### REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars .....	17	478	495
Cattle .....	150	6,262	6,412
Hogs .....	334	5,784	6,118
Sheep .....	1,083	4,784	5,867
Calves .....	43	573	615
Horses .....	20	1,442	1,462

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1914 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars .....	45	361	406
Cattle .....	441	5,592	6,033
Hogs .....	288	5,897	6,125
Sheep .....	1,140	3,065	4,205
Calves .....	178	1,044	1,222
Horses .....	24	180	154

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets for the past week show an increase of 89 cars, 1,662 sheep and lambs, 1,308 horses, and 379 cattle, but