

New Appointments at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Several new men have recently been appointed to fill vacancies at the Ontario Agricultural College, and, after careful inquiry, we have no hesitation in congratulating the Minister of Agriculture on the wisdom of his selections. The following gentlemen have been added to the staff of the College:—

Wm. Rennie, of Swansea, Farm Superintendent; G. E. Day, B. S. A., Eramosa (Wellington), Lecturer on Agriculture; H. L. Hutt, B. S. A., Southend (Welland), Lecturer on Horticulture; J. B. Reynolds, B. A., Oshawa, Assistant Resident Master.

Some important, and we think wise, changes have been made in the department of Agriculture. Hitherto, the lecturing, experimental work and superintendence of the farm have been all under one man, who has spent the greater part of the time in his office, or in the College class-rooms; but henceforth the work and responsibility shall be divided: Mr. Day will be the lecturer on agriculture; C. A. Zavitz, B. S. A., will take charge of the experimental work; and Mr. Rennie will devote his undivided personal attention to the management of the farm and live stock, and the instruction of the students when at work in the farm department.

The appointment of Wm. Rennie to the position of farm superintendent has assured the success of the farm department. Mr. Rennie was born and brought up on a good farm in Scarborough, east of Toronto. For a number of years he was known as one of the tidest and most successful farmers in Ontario. After a time he opened a seed store in Toronto, and finally became a somewhat extensive dealer in Clydesdale horses. He carried on the farm, the seed store and the horse business all together, and with marked success. Mr. Rennie is a genial, modest gentleman. He has been very successful in everything he has yet undertaken, and if he fails at Guelph it will be the first time in his life. He says the College farm is in a very different condition from what has recently been proclaimed with such a flourish of trumpets in some of the daily papers. On arriving at Guelph he found the farm so far from being anything like clean, and things generally on the farm in such a shape, that he insisted on the executive committee of the board making a thorough inspection before he entered on his duties, and he has since asked several farmers who have been misled by the statements in the papers to go to the farm and see for themselves. Already the students are beginning to express their appreciation of the new order of things under Mr. Rennie. They begin to see the difference between office management and the close, personal supervision of a sharp, competent man, who is always moving about amongst both men and students at work.

Mr. G. E. Day is a young man about twenty-six years of age. He worked on a farm in the neighborhood of Guelph till he was twenty. He then went to a Collegiate Institute and took a second-class certificate, upon which he taught public school for a time. Afterwards he went through the full course of the agricultural college, and received the degree of B. S. A. from the University of Toronto. During the past summer he has been lecturing very acceptably in connection with one of the travelling dairies in Lambton, Huron and Bruce. The farmers in the county of Bruce speak in strong terms of Mr. Day's practical knowledge and ability as a speaker.

Mr. H. L. Hutt is also a young man about twenty-seven years of age. He was brought up on a fruit farm in the Niagara district. He entered the Agricultural College in 1888, and after the completion of the course received the degree of B. S. A. from the University of Toronto in 1891. He took the highest standing in horticulture that has yet been taken by any student in the College. After graduation he went to work on his own farm, but during the past summer he has been employed at special work in horticulture under Prof. Bailey, in Cornell University, in visiting the leading nurseries and large gardens in the neighborhood of Rochester, New York and Boston, and in examining the work done in the best fruit districts of Ontario. We have no doubt Mr. Hutt will prove a successful lecturer and efficient worker in the department of horticulture.

J. B. Reynolds, B. A., the new Assistant Resident Master, is a farmer's son. For the last few years he has been well-known throughout South Ontario as one of the best and most scholarly young men in that part of the country. He has had several years experience in public school teaching, has gone through the school of pedagogy, and has completed a brilliant honor course in the University of Toronto. We understand that the students at the College are much pleased with the beginning he has made, and we feel safe in predicting that he will be a very efficient and successful assistant resident master.

Every room in the College is occupied, and the outlook is most encouraging. We congratulate President Mills on the prospect. Now, with a staff of able and loyal men about him, and backed by an intelligent, progressive Minister, he will no doubt succeed in making the Ontario Agricultural College the pride of this province.

STOCK.

Air Space in Cattle Barns.

The number of cubic feet of air required per head is a subject that we receive many enquiries about by those contemplating building stables for cattle and horses. The general plan of ventilation is paid so little attention to, that many losses ascribed to other causes are frequently from want of attention to this essential. Within a few miles of this city a cattle barn with stone basement was built, the proprietor thinking that he had succeeded in providing comfortable quarters for his cattle that would last his life time; but when during the first three years he lost a large percentage of his fattening cattle, he was thoroughly nonplussed and seriously thought of abandoning the new stables. However, he called in an expert, who quickly told him the seat of the difficulty, and condemned stables where little or no ventilation was properly provided for. In this case it was remedied by merely cutting holes in the walls just under the sills, which had the desired effect, as there has been no recurrence of the trouble since. A writer in the Surveyor gives his idea of how much trouble may arise for want of care in this matter, taken from an Old Country standpoint. By far the most fatal disease that affected dairy stock, he says, is tuberculosis, and he quotes statistics to illustrate the fact that a supply of pure air had a very direct effect in diminishing the amount of sickness among stock, and in reducing the death rate even from diseases that were not supposed to be specially associated with the condition of the atmosphere. Recent investigation had shown that tuberculosis prevailed in cows to an extent that would be held incredible if proof were not so undeniably absolute. Statistics showed that from 20 to 25 per cent. of our cattle were more or less tuberculous; but the death rate from the disease was small as compared with the number of animals suffering from it—the average death rate in dairy stocks of Ayrshire cows in the west of Scotland being, he estimated, 5 per cent. The loss to the owner, however, amounted to more. Of the remaining 15 per cent. diseased, the most part were, perhaps, sold to the butchers at low and unremunerative prices while the disease was in its incipient stages. Among those in the byre there was also a further loss incurred from diminished quantity of milk yielded by the cow during her illness. He was disposed to consider that the annual loss caused directly and indirectly in the dairy farms of the west of Scotland by tubercular disease could not be estimated at less than 7½ per cent. of the total value. In round numbers, tuberculosis caused an amount of loss to the owners of dairy stock in Scotland of nearly £410,000. In the county of Wigtown alone the loss amounted to £22,000. In Ayrshire there were 50,000 cows, the loss amounting to £49,000 per annum. In other words, extirpate tuberculosis from Ayrshire, and the farmers could pay annually £49,000 more rent. There was another matter which must not be overlooked. It could not be doubted that the presence of this disease in our milking herds constituted a distinct danger to the health of mankind. Ventilation was the primary condition of a pure atmosphere in a byre; but that could not be made effective without a sufficient cubic space. The actual amount of cubic air space required per cow had been variously estimated. The Board of Supervision recommended 1,000 cubic feet, while the Local Government Board recommended a minimum of 800 cubic feet. The lecturer was disposed to think that the space of 800 cubic feet, adopted in Glasgow on the recommendation of Dr. Russell, was what ought to be aimed at in all the south-western counties of Scotland.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

The choicest native beeves sold at \$5.90; top hogs sold at \$7; fancy sheep sold at \$5, but good sheep have been selling under \$4, with holders crazy to unload. The drought has been broken throughout most of the corn-producing area, and the demand for stock and feeding cattle has sprung up wonderfully. Distillery cattle feeders are getting a harvest among the western range cattle at \$2.00 to \$3. The best western range beeves sold at \$1.75; some that had been hay-fed during the winter sold at \$5.10. The practice of hay-feeding in winter is a growing one in the far west.

Pregnant sows, within a period of two weeks on either side of farrowing time, are now condemned by the States Government. The packers seem glad to co-operate.

Native "beef" cattle the first nine months of the present year averaged fully fifty cents per hundred pounds higher than the same period last year. The top price yesterday was \$5.75, being within 60c. of the highest price of the year.

Receipts of cattle at the four principal western markets last month were \$5,000 larger than in August and 100,000 smaller than in September, 1892. During the first nine months of 1893, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis packers slaughtered 70,000 more cattle than the corresponding period last year.

For an all-round hog the Berkshire seems to hold her own in great shape.

Shropshires and Southdowns seem to have the right of way at the great Exposition.

The Shorthorns have lately been taking first honors in the greatest live stock markets in the

world. So far this season they have taken top prices, with Angus beeves next best. It must be admitted that the open market is a pretty good test.

The big heavy hogs are beginning to sell more readily than the light weights. For so long the small pigs have been at a premium that raisers of mature heavy porkers have felt discouraged.

It must be very gratifying to Canadians, especially those of Ontario, to see how gallantly their shepherds defended the fair fame of the Dominion for fine sheep at the World's Columbian Exposition. At the reception of Canadian sheep men at the Canadian headquarters, Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick, of Ontario, on being called on for a speech, believed that in the sheep exhibit Canada had taken 60 first prizes, against 21 for the United States; 45 seconds, against 24 for the States; 42 thirds, against 21 for the States; and 30 fourths, against 23 for the States—or a total of 137 against 92. There was still another class to hear from, which might increase Canada's total. The number of sheep shown by Canada was 270, as against 300 by the United States.

Entries for the swine and sheep exhibits at the Exposition were as follows: Swine—Illinois, 214; Indiana, 132; Iowa, 91; Kansas, 23; Kentucky, 8; Michigan, 83; Minnesota, 1; Missouri, 139; Nebraska, 198; New York, 134; Ohio, 241; Ontario, 86; Pennsylvania, 53; Wisconsin, 15; total, 1,418. Sheep—Illinois, 90; Indiana, 73; Kansas, 52; Kentucky, 19; Michigan, 116; Minnesota, 17; Missouri, 55; Nebraska, 13; New York, 121; New Jersey, 22; Ohio, 86; Ontario, 431; Pennsylvania, 81; Russia, 24; Vermont, 91; Wisconsin, 75.

The display as a whole was pronounced to be one of great excellence, but the best things came from Canada or England.

Horses are selling somewhat more readily, but the approach of winter forces in many at prices which owners were unwilling to take as long as keep was at a minimum.

"Holsteins as General Purpose Animals."

[Read by T. W. Charlton before the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Holstein Breeders' Association.]

I think it is great presumption on my part in attempting to give anything either interesting or profitable on this subject to those who have been long and successful breeders of Holsteins. But as there are a good many people who are not familiar with the characteristics or merits of this breed, a brief sketch of their origin and home may be helpful, especially to those who may be searching for the most profitable kind of cattle; and among all the various breeds known at present, there is none entitled to so much merit or coming so near the requirements of a general purpose animal as the Holstein Friesian, being the product of the most favorable natural conditions.

Their home and origin, as far as can be traced, was on the fertile flats of North Holland and Friesland, noted for their fertility from a very early period, every condition of soil and climate calculated to develop a large and hardy breed of cattle. And when we find that the industrious Hollanders were the pioneers in dairy husbandry, and that their products in amount and quality have never been equalled by any other people on the same area, we see the reason of their zeal and effort to perfect a breed of cattle suited to their special industry. To them the typical dairy cow has been the image of profit.

To develop in the Holstein offspring those qualities that should add to their value for this particular purpose has been their study, not for one, but many centuries. Thus strength of heredity has been acquired and intensified through successive generations.

The breed characteristics have become so firmly established that we can depend on their being transmitted to their offspring in a remarkable degree. Some of these characteristics are:—Color (with the exception of the Angie family, the color is almost invariably black and white, both in pure-bred and grades), rapid growth, vigor, early development, shape, large size, heavy weighing either alive or slaughtered, and gentle disposition; these qualities place them in the front rank as producers of veal and beef, and unequalled producers of milk for cheese and butter. I admit that the standing of the breed in our beef markets is not what its actual merits entitle it to, but do not be distracted by any clamor that the breed is wanting in beef quality; there is no doubt that prejudice has contributed largely in this matter. Prejudice is very likely to be the child of ignorance.

It is the lack of a knowledge of the facts that very often leads to wrong impressions and to false conclusions. There has been such a demand for pure-bred Holsteins for breeding purposes that very few have found their way to the principal beef markets hardly enough for dealers to grade them in value properly, yet without knowing how or why dealers class them unsatisfactory for the markets.

For dairy purposes the Holstein-Friesian cow is preeminently above all others in turning the products of the fields into the best and largest amount of milk for the city dairyman, or for the cheese factory or creamery. Would it not be wise then, since dairying has become a necessity to the farmers of Canada on account of the "McKinley Bill," "National Policies," monopolies and all other plagues, for the Canadian breeders of Holstein-Friesians to maintain and improve the dairy qualities of the noble black-and-whites?