

their C. family, represented by Comfort, Collin, Carnation, Cheerful, Careful, Cricket, etc., and Balgrays, from J. Jardine Patterson, Lockerbie."

We are glad to learn that these valuable animals have all reached quarantine at Quebec in good condition, and, after being there three months, will be brought west. It is a pity that their detention will not expire soon enough to admit of their being shown at the fall exhibitions. We trust and believe that these additions to Mr. McCras's herd will prove a profitable investment for their enterprising owner, who has long been distinguished among the stockmen of Canada as a warm advocate and successful breeder of polled cattle. These breeds are coming to the front, and, as beef-makers, are destined to be formidable rivals of the Shorthorn and other tribes that have heretofore, somewhat unjustly, thrown them in the shade. Their hardiness, early maturity, excellence of meat, and freedom from useless and dangerous horny appendages, will secure for them high appreciation as they become better known to the farmers and cattle-dealers of Canada and the United States.

TAKE A HOLIDAY.

Fresh from the enjoyment of a summer holiday, and realizing to the full its wonderfully rejuvenating and recuperative influence, we add our editorial "Amen" to the following sensible paragraph from the *Prairie Farmer*:-

"There are many farmers who will in this season of rainy days, more than ever, think that a holiday, when the whole family can lay aside the daily routine of farm life, in doors and out, 'hitch up' the horses and take a picnic or fishing excursion, cannot be afforded. But it is a fact that a little recreation and pleasant social intercourse pays far better than constant labour by men, women and children. Farm life in this country is almost everywhere too isolated, too monotonous. Mentally and socially the people of the farm need the friction of others to wear off the rust that dulls the brightness of the pure steel that exists within. It matters little where one goes, the change is what is needed, and almost any change will be enjoyable. It matters little what recreation is indulged in, so that it is rational and does no harm to others. So we say, occasionally during the busy season break away from work and care, and have a good time. The man or woman who has come to think that such days cannot be enjoyed should realize that they have lost more of the vitality with which nature endowed them, and intended that they should preserve, than they are aware of. Such a feeling should create alarm, and lead to immediate endeavour to regain the spirit, the jollity and the general desires of youth."

IMPORTANT MEETING.

We have pleasure in aiding to give publicity to the following notice:-

"The third annual meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science will be at Montreal, August 21 and 22, previous to the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Aug. 23rd. The following members have forwarded to the secretary the titles of papers to be read or presented. The meetings will be open to the public, and time will be granted for discussion: L. B. Arnold, A.M., Origin of Butter Fat; Patrick Barrie, Esq., Underdraining; W. J. Beal, Ph.D., (1) Testing Seeds at Different Temperatures, (2) Varieties of Red Clover; C. E. Bessey, Ph.D., The Phylloxera of the Red Elm, a new disease attacking fruit trees; T. J. Burrill, Ph.D., Notes on Parasitic Fungi; G. O. Caldwell, Ph.D., The Maintenance Ration; Peter Collier, M.D., (1) Upon the methods for the estimation of the so-called Reverted Phosphoric Acid in Commercial Fertilizers, (2) Results of my Investigations the past four years upon the Sorghum; J. Henry Comstock, B.Sc., The best methods of Destroying Scale Insects; A. J. Cook, M.Sc., Experiments with Bees

and other Insects; Geo. N. Cook, LL.D., The Study of Soils; C. H. Dwinelle, Horticultural Quarantine; W. G. Farlow, M.D., On some Diseases of Cultivated Blackberries; F. A. Gully, B.Sc., the Food Value of Cotton Seed; B. D. Halsted, D.Sc., The Soil a Factory, not a Mine; W. H. Jordan, M.Sc., On the Non-albumenoid Nitrogen of Timothy at different stages of growth; R. C. Kedzie, M.D., The Source of Nitrogen of Plants; A. R. Ledoux, Ph.D., The Past, Present and Future of Peruvian Guano. Chemically, Agriculturally, and Politically considered; I. P. Roberts, M.Agr., Pulverizing and Sturring the Soil; D. E. Salmon, D.V.M., Our Animal Plagues and the means of controlling them; J. W. Sanborn, B.S., The relation between the relative and absolute quantities of Food and Water taken, to the amounts of Food Nutrients assimilated; J. J. Thomas, Esq., Germination of Seeds; W. W. Tracy, M.Sc., the Influence of Soils on the Germination of Seeds.—E. LEWIS STURTEVANT, Secretary, Geneva, N.Y.

DOMINION CATTLE COMPANY.

We find the following references among our exchanges to the above-named organization, whose operations would seem to border on, if not actually to realize, the gigantic.

The *Country Gentleman* quotes "a Chicago paper" as follows:-

"The Dominion Cattle Company of Canada has now invested nearly \$700,000 in lands and cattle in the Panhandle of Texas. Their latest purchase was the Wolf Creek cattle ranch of 18,000 cattle and 400 horses and mules, with all the personal property belonging to the ranch, for the sum of \$450,000. This property adjoins the Word ranch, containing 11,500 cattle, just previously purchased by the Dominion Company, thus uniting the two ranches, which, combined, are capable of carrying 50,000 cattle, making it the most valuable property in the Panhandle."

Says the *Mobettie Panhandle*:-

"The largest cattle sale of the Panhandle country ever made by an individual stockman, was the sale that was consummated about ten days ago, J. M. Day selling his stock, numbering upwards of 20,000 head of cattle, together with his ranch privileges, to the Dominion Cattle Company, for \$450,000."

The *Prairie Farmer* has the following comments on the paragraph just quoted:-

"The Dominion Cattle Company, of which W. P. Herring is manager, makes at least \$50,000 on this purchase, as they could get half a million dollars for their purchase if they desired to sell. This without doubt is the largest sale made in that portion of Texas by a single cattle owner. Doc can no longer be hailed as the cattle king of Wolf Creek, since he has parted with his 'cattle on a thousand hills.'"

THE Executive Committee of the Western Dairymen's Association has decided to hold a great Cheese and Butter Fair in Woodstock on the 11th and 12th of October next, under the auspices of the Western Dairymen's Association of Ontario. Over \$1,000 will be offered in prizes.

ADVANCE REPORT.—We have received an advance report of the experimental department of the Ontario Agricultural College, detailing certain modes of cattle-feeding, with the ascertained result. It came to hand too late for careful study and extended notice in the present number, but we shall hope to pay our best respects to it hereafter. This report contains details as to the relative value of corn, peas, oats, oil-cake and cottonseed cake in the fattening of young cattle; also an account of the microscopic examination of twelve varieties of wool; together with sundry facts in regard to the production of beef and mutton, with their application. We are sure this pamphlet is a record of painstaking work, and that its perusal will be highly thought-provoking.

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

By W. L. KELLER, LISTOWEL, ONT.

THE TANAGERS.

The Tanagers form a numerous genus of birds, the majority of which are confined to the tropical regions of America. Among the feathered tribes they are conspicuous for the brilliant plumage with which they are adorned. Only one species, the well-known and much-admired Scarlet Tanager, is a summer visitant of Canada; but in form, and many of their habits, the grosbeaks and some of the finches bear a strong resemblance, and seem to follow in natural order.

THE SCARLET TANAGER.

The Scarlet Tanager is one of the most beautiful and admired of Canadian wild birds. With the exception of its wings and tail, which are of velvet black, the whole of the body of the male is adorned with an elegant plumage of rich scarlet. Its beautiful form, brilliant plumage, and graceful movements, when seen among the green branches of the trees, or flitting over the newly-sown fields, or over the blossoming flowers, gives it a very fascinating appearance, which excites the admiration of every beholder, and renders it one of the most welcome of our summer visitors. The tanager is not among the earliest of our spring visitors, but as soon as the woods have assumed the emerald garb of summer, and the insect tribes, aroused by the heat of the solar rays to renewed life and activity, leave their dormant state, and flit again through the genial air, the tanager, impelled by migratory impulses, and the love of its native woods, once more returns from the tropic regions where it has passed the winter season, to enliven the Canadian wilderness with its presence and its song. For some time after his return he may be seen, in company with other birds, in the fields bordering on the woods, where he comes to pick up the uncovered grain, but being of shy disposition and retired habits, he, as soon as his favourite insect food becomes more abundant in more concealed places, retires into the depths of the woods and the tops of the trees, where, during the summer months, he is not often seen. Occasionally he may be seen in large orchards in quest of small ripe fruit, but as soon as the demands of hunger are satisfied he again retires into the deep woods. The song of the tanager somewhat resembles that of the robin, but though melodious, is warbled in a low tone. This song is heard at intervals during the summer months, and generally at an elevated position among the tree tops. His more common notes of "chip-bird" are often heard, while his person is concealed from observation among the thick foliage surrounding the place where the female may have placed her nest. The notes appear to come from a distance, though the bird making them may be in the immediate vicinity—a faculty bestowed on him by the beneficent Author of Nature, no doubt for his protection, to compensate in a degree for the danger to which his brilliant colour would expose him. The Scarlet Tanager is seven inches long; the female is somewhat less; her plumage is olive-green above, and ash colour beneath; the wings and tail are dusky black. She is yet more retired in her habits even than her more beautiful companion, and is seldom seen in his company except in the vicinity of her nest. She is strongly attached to her progeny, and when the nest is approached, evinces much distress and strong maternal affection. The nest is placed on a branch or in the fork of a small tree, generally not high off the ground; it is formed of small bramble and fine roots; the eggs, three to five in number, are of a light green colour, mottled with dark spots. The manners of the tanager are retired, easy and inoffensive. It arrives in the woods of central Ontario towards the latter end of May, and departs again in September.