

Agriculture.

VALUE OF STRAW TO FEED STOCK.

[The report of the meeting of the Blandford Farmers' Club, which we give beneath from an English paper, will be interesting to our readers. The opinion of the several speakers as to the value of straw for feeding stock I can fully corroborate, having used it for that purpose for many years in the old country. I found my pure-bred Durham cattle as well as grades thrive well on it, with the addition of a feed of mangolds, turnips, cabbages, or rape twice a day during the winter season. The cattle were kept perfectly clean, and fed regularly, and care was taken to have the straw as fresh as possible, and free from any taint or foul smell; and they were, when turning out on pasture, about the 12th of May, in good order.—As't Ed.]

At one of the meetings of the Blandford Farmers' Club, Mr. J. Ford said:—"Farmers were obliged to partly feed their beasts and sheep with straw; necessity had driven them to do what they had never done before. I must say I have not been depending so much on hay as many of you have. I have thought for a very long time that hay was some of the dearest food we fed with. What I mean about hay being expensive food is this: I have known many farmers pinch their sheep by keeping them short of food during the months of April and May, all for the sake of having a great stock of hay for the next winter. I think it more to our advantage to be a little more liberal with our clover and rye-grass in the spring, to improve our sheep after the winter is over, and not think so much about the hayricks for the next winter. I think it likely there is not one of you that makes use of so little hay as I do, according to the quantity of stock I keep. I have a notion that if we pay a little more attention to straw-feeding we can keep our stock so as to make it answer our purposes better than to depend so much on hay. We can winter our store beasts well with a liberal allowance of any straw, and a little addition of a few pounds of cake or corn per day for each beast, instead of keeping them on hay. I have for many years past cut my oats rather green, perhaps I may say a week before some people would say they were fit to cut; but I think the crop that is cut at that stage is the most valuable, taking both corn and straw into consideration. In cutting the oats before they are quite ripe we save all the best oats that would perhaps fall out if allowed to get ripe before cutting; and should there be a few under-ripe corns that the threshing machine would not take out, the straw would be none the worse for it. I also like to cut my wheat rather gay. I find by so doing I get a good bold sample, and I find the millers like it better, and the straw is of more value for feeding. I say the same with wheat as I said of oats—we do not get so much prime corn shed out in the fields as we should if we allowed it to be full ripe before cutting. The barley we are obliged to let stand and get ripe before cutting, so as to have, or try to have, it fit for malting. I last year wintered my little Southdown tegs with roots and straw, and have done the same many times before. They ate the straw very well, and were certainly in very good store order. Try your improved Hampshires; see how they like it, if they will eat it. I think it better than to depend so much on hay. Many people, I find, are cutting a great quantity of straw into chaff and mixing corn or cake with it to rub through the winter. For my own part I object to having so much cut; let them have a small quantity of chaff with the cake or corn that you give them; let them have a sufficient quantity of straw as it is, and save the expense of so much cutting. I believe the stock will do much better in that way. I fat some quantity of oxen during the winter months. I never think of giving them hay, but I cut

The President's Address at the Provincial Exhibition, 1872.

GENTLEMEN,

One year since, on an occasion similar to this, we enjoyed the privilege of listening to the address of my predecessor. How short that time appears when looking back into the past! then we were assembled at Kingston, the point farthest east at which these annual gatherings have as yet been held; now, brought into direct communication with the citizens of this ambitious City of Hamilton, which, I believe, deservedly ranks first among the manufacturing centres of our vast Dominion.

Our Fairs here have ever proved a success; and when I look over our grounds on the present occasion, I feel that the farmers, mechanics and others, who have lent their aid in the talent and ability displayed by each, in their various contributions to this vast collection, have indeed something of which to feel proud, and may well rest assured that they are contributing to the building up of that national prosperity and greatness to which we may justly look as the boast of our posterity in the future.

We have great cause of thankfulness to a kind and beneficent Providence for continued peace and prosperity; and although the drouth in the early summer affected the crops in some localities to a considerable extent, and the west has suffered severely from the ravages of the Colorado potato beetle, which has now become one of the worst enemies with which we have to contend, yet the labor of the present year generally has proved productive and remunerative to the husbandman, so that we have plenty, and to spare; and all are blessed with ample means to provide the necessities and comforts of a home.

The cultivation of Flax is increasing in extent, and is marked with decided success, so that those who have advocated its introduction have every reason to anticipate that it will soon rank among our staple productions.

As our country becomes more opened up, we see the greater necessity of providing green food for our stock (particularly cattle during the summer months), when the grass has become parched and dried up by the hot weather; the experiment of sowing broadcast or thickly drilling Indian corn at different times during the season, so as to be cut and fed to them, have been tried with success, and is likely to prove a great boon to the dairyman.

The results of our labors for a short twelve-month have been brought together, and openly exposed to view, and let those who see by judges of the fertility of this fair Province of Ontario, and of the ability of her sons in yet forming the nucleus of one of the strongholds of the British Empire, or, if need should arise (which I pray may never occur), of forming the centre of a great and prosperous Independent Nationality. Our motto is "Defence—not defiance;" and, as was said by my predecessor, "although ready on any and every occasion to resist oppression, we have nothing to gain from, nor do we desire an aggressive policy." Our aim is to promote the peace and goodwill, the wealth, intelligence and happiness of nations.

The drainage now being carried on in the Western Peninsula, by opening up the natural watercourses, and in some cases cutting artificial ones, is producing a marked and growing effect. Lands which heretofore were totally unfit for cultivation, and worthless, with the exception of a small growth of wild grass for pasture, are rapidly being brought under the influence of the plough, and are found to be the most fertile, productive and remunerative; thus amply rewarding the proprietor or tenant for any costs he may have incurred in their production.

In looking over the past few years, I cannot but observe the many changes through which we have passed, and are passing. One of the principal of these is in the manner employed in carrying on the operations of the farm. He who hires farm laborers now can seldom obtain native born young Canadians or Americans—farmers' sons bred up on their fathers' farms and at home in all the minutiae of farming; such as were the hired men on our farms a few years ago. Nor is it any less difficult in most sections of the Province to obtain a farmer's daughter as the "hired girl," either for house work or dairy. To obtain skilled labor now-a-days, is in fact one of the greatest difficulties to be contended with in carrying on a farm. Fortunate indeed is it for us that so many labor-saving machines were introduced, before this great want had become so much felt.

I do not wish it to be understood that I

fail to appreciate our indebtedness for both individual and national prosperity to the strong arms and stout hearts of our foreign immigration, but that class of laborers require a long and patient teaching before they are capable of managing our machines or handling our teams, or of understanding our system of farming generally; yet these men are apt to expect the wages of our first-class Canadians. Besides, as a general rule, unmarried men of that class are unsettled in their habits, roving, and with no local ties to bind them, ready to leave for trifling causes, or small inducements of higher wages.

The question is becoming serious, but how is it to be avoided?

The most feasible system appears to be that of encouraging the employment of married men, and building suitable places on the premises in which they and their families can reside; thus they become permanently settled, and feel that they have a home of their own; their interest becomes more and more identified with ours, and our influence is more directly brought to bear upon them and their growing families, so that they much more rapidly develop into Canadians and citizens. By this means they not only board themselves, but we can frequently avail ourselves of the much needed household assistance, thereby also relieving our over-taxed wives and daughters.

If such a system were generally introduced, I believe all parties, and especially the laborer, would be better satisfied and permanently benefited.

Another very pleasing change is found in the constant improvement which is taking place in the country. The dense forest is fast giving way, and where only a few years since the hardy pioneer could with difficulty find the means to furnish a scanty subsistence, we now find the thrifty farmer, with his land cleared and well tilled, his humble dwelling replaced by one more suited to his present wants and comforts, his outbuildings being renewed or extended to meet the requirements of his increasing stock, which is every year becoming more valuable by importations and direct crosses with pure blood; his orchards, now approaching maturity, supply every want with the choicest varieties of fruit, and he begins to think the pleasure derived from looking at a few shade or ornamental trees will amply reward him for the care and cost of providing them. In short, he just begins to feel a self-respect and independence, which more properly belongs to his than any other calling.

There is another change which, though not productive of emotions of pleasure, yet demands more than a passing notice. I refer to the growing aversion exhibited by many of our young men and boys to honest manly toil, the tendency to leave the farm for the whirl and excitement of the city, the uncertainties of the professional or commercial life.

The very term "Commerce" seems to carry with it a kind of spell, and they forget that it is rarely one in a hundred who succeeds in his speculations and accumulates a fortune. Yet, some agency or patent right, in short, anything that demands travel or produces excitement, has a fascination for the young man that seems irresistible; and we frequently meet sound, able-bodied young men peddling the country with some simple little contrivance with an energy that would have done honor to a better cause.

Commercial pursuits are over-valued, because they lie more upon the surface and are open to observation; but he who is successful has often, nay, always, to toil and labor far more unceasingly than the agriculturist.

This can only be counteracted by making home pleasant to them, and so educating them that work on the farm shall not be considered mere drudgery, but an intelligent use of the resources of nature. Nowhere else do intelligence and taste so readily ripen the conception of the mind into utility and beauty. Go to the towns and cities, and you will find that a large majority of those who went there as country boys, instead of achieving wealth and fame, have attained to less than they would have enjoyed had they followed their agricultural pursuits, and many are rapidly sinking into the lowest depths of degradation and misery.

I have very great pleasure in being able to say that the "Ontario Veterinary College" is being carried on with much success, and is increasing in number and popularity. During the past winter the number of students attending its lectures was upwards of fifty, and at the last examination fifteen candidates were awarded the Diploma of the Board. The prospect is, therefore, that in a short time we

shall have a skilful veterinary surgeon in every part of the Province on whom to depend in every case of emergency.

The grant to the Entomological Society is still continued with favorable results.

Financially, we are in a sound, healthy and prosperous condition, and notwithstanding the very great falling off in our receipts at the Fair last year, from that of the previous year, amounting to several thousands of dollars, yet we were able to pay all our liabilities and report a reliable balance in the hands of the Treasurer.

With regard to the Denison matters, I have much pleasure in being able to say that a considerable portion has already been paid in, and the balance is amply secured by mortgage on real estate, which has increased fifty per cent in value since the security was taken.

It has been suggested that so grand an opportunity for discussion on agricultural topics as is afforded by the meeting of so many delegates and judges, all leading agriculturists from different parts of the Province, should not be lost; and although the members of the Council might not be able to attend, owing to pressure of other business at that peculiar time, yet a meeting might be organized, different topics of discussion selected, and such discussion form a leading feature of our future exhibitions.

Epizootic Influenza.

The following letter by D. McEachran, Consulting Veterinary Surgeon to the Council of Agriculture, P.Q., is of some importance, and the position of the writer justifies full confidence in his statements:—

SIR,—Seeing the epidemic among horses is rapidly spreading, and even now prevails to such an extent that it is impossible they can all have proper professional attention, I have felt it my duty to the public to offer the following hints as to the management of the disease:—

It is indicated by dullness more or less, the pulse is quick and weak, extremities cold, the breathing quick, a very deep, hacking cough, the lining membrane of the eyes and nose of a yellowish tinge, the throat is swollen and sore internally, consequently he swallows with great difficulty, and in many cases refuses food. There is in most cases a discharge of adhesive brownish yellow matter from both nostrils, and in many cases it is coughed up in lumps from the throat. Weakness is one of the earliest and most prominent symptoms. In most of the stables they have taken it almost simultaneously.

The principles of treatment will consist, in the first place, of thoroughly ventilating and cleaning the stables, and sprinkling the floor with carbolic acid powder, (much better than solution). Keep the animals warmly clothed, but keep the stable cool, without draughts; give them no dry food, especially oats; linseed tea, oatmeal gruel, boiled oats, bran mash, carrots, apples and bread, will be found the most nourishing articles to offer them. They should be encouraged to drink as much linseed tea as possible, and if they should refuse all food, they must be drenched with either the tea or oatmeal gruel. In this disease mild stimulants and vegetable tonics should be given early, of which cinchona bark and gentian are the best.

I have found that the Sulphite of Soda in half ounce doses given three times a day, with gruel, has marked effects both in preventing and modifying the attacks. The throat should be mildly blistered, and, if the lungs become affected, the sides of the chest also. It is of the greatest importance that they be kept from wet or cold; the owner will study his own interests by keeping them from work, especially in cold, damp weather. So long as they continue to feed well and the weather is fine they may be worked moderately, with blankets under the harness.

These remarks refer merely to the disease generally, each case presents its own special peculiarities, and requires special prescription, of which the qualified practitioner is best able to judge; but as it is next to impossible to visit and prescribe for all the cases at present, I hope the above remarks may not only be of use to the public, but of service in relieving the profession.

ance, to the owner, to a similar disease of Great Britain. lowered; some farming their farms with the ox. We do not use for alarm from me will cure it, but might with advantage to horses that they should be shot, or to keep them in a stable; or, if in a one by a live fence, and by his own land, becoming supplied with, that know if a or not; each of our surgeons; no glances allowed to travel in

Politics.

stant remarks in real policy during the election of the electors every remark was tend to turn the desire has been to natural interest irres-ly. You may all ad-should be maintained poses only, but there that can imagine the course. In fact, it most impossible.

have greater weight they than agricultural that at the next ses- the questions at issue ure may be discussed best being placed before st. Many will con- political and serving as been the agricultur- fair or honest man- ury have read our pub- mment.

of Farm Stock by Government.

Model Farm. Economist charges us to prove that the Gov- a great injustice to the importers in Ontario Model Farm." In the there is not a sentence ment of that Farm.— or future consideration, which we are at issue nt is this:—We main- coming stock importers to true principles of po- to the plain dictates should characterize the a Government and the munity. Nor is it the sing of a few cattle of is, as is now said in pal- ing—it is the import- means to all farmers of look."

any observations made the Farmers' Club that tentions of the Govern- ster of Agriculture was mean authority on the liating excuses put for- an acknowledgment of project, to give it the

from the Economist the ners' Club meeting, we pection that it should from our reporter. We the paper, handed it to ting that the usual cre- ven. It was omitted, e believe.—As't Ed.

ense amount of lumber of the Southern extension B. Railway, awaiting the road to be shipped.