

Agricultural Intelligence.

Meeting of the Board of Agriculture.

A meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held in the Agricultural Hall, Toronto, on Wednesday, 15th August, at which there was a full attendance of members, and a considerable amount of business was transacted. Among the subjects which came up may be mentioned the following.

Several offers of hand-some special prizes were made to be given at a Ploughing Match to be held in connection with the Exhibition. These were declined on the ground that a ploughing match cannot be conveniently held by the Association at the same time with the Exhibition.

Communications were received from the managers of the leading railway lines offering the usual facilities in the conveyance of passenger and articles to and from the Exhibition.

The Exhibition grounds were visited, and the Board noticed with much satisfaction the progress made by the local committee in the preparation of the buildings.

The nomination of Judges for the different classes at the Exhibition was apportioned to the various county societies, and the Secretary instructed to communicate with the societies at once.

A communication was received from the Bureau of Agriculture, stating that the sum of \$2,000 had been placed at the disposal of the Board for the purpose of procuring specimens of the agricultural products and agricultural implements of Upper Canada for the forthcoming Universal Exhibition at Paris in 1867. The Board were of opinion that this amount was scarcely sufficient to secure an adequate representation; but resolved to turn it to account in connection with the approaching Provincial Exhibition for the purpose of procuring specimens. Exhibitors of grains and implements at the Provincial Exhibition will therefore do well to have in view the possibility of their articles being selected for the Paris Exhibition, and to prepare them in a suitable manner for that purpose.

A delegation consisting of the following gentlemen was appointed to visit the New York State Show on 11th to 15th Sept. next, viz: Messrs. McGillivray, Christie, Rykert, and Dr. Beatty.

It was ordered that the prize cattle and horses, should be displayed in the ring on the Thursday of the exhibition week at 1 p.m.

On concluding their business, the Board adjourned to Wednesday, 15th September, at 1 p.m.

A Visit to Mr. Snell's of Edmonton.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Having been recently on a visit at Mr. John Snell's of Edmonton, and having travelled through the greater part of Canada West, I had a great curiosity to see his stock. One evening I went to see him weigh some of his sheep, and was very much astonished at the size and weight of them. They are certainly the best sheep I have ever seen. Of eight Leicester and Cotswold rams that were weighed the heaviest was 401 lbs., the lightest 281 lbs., six of those were shearlings, one two shears and one three shears. The eight weighed 2,511 lbs., or an average of 317 lbs. One shearling ram weighed 320 lbs. I also saw a fine lot of young Durham Bulls, eight in number, they were from eight to ten months old, mostly by the imported bull, Baron Solway. They are not so large as some I saw imported from England to Ireland, but are finer in quality, and of a better style. Mr. Snell's stock is in excellent condition, and reflects great credit on his skill and judgment as a breeder. A visit to his farm will well repay any of your readers.

Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH H. HARE.

Beverly, Aug. 17, 1866.

THE FORESHADOWING OF RAIN.—Just before rain, flowers smell stronger and sweeter, because the vapours of the air prevent the scented particles of their perfume from ascending, as they would in a drier atmosphere. Instead of rising above the earth, the odour is disseminated by the moisture. Because the plants are stronger in fragrance just before a fall of rain, we see horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air in a peculiar manner. They are thus able to prognosticate the coming storm with unerring signs, while man stands bewildered and lost in doubt.—*Turf, Field, and Farm.*

Over 3,000 barrels of flour are manufactured daily in Milwaukee.

THE DROUGHT IN THE AUSTRALIAN CATTLE RUNS.—A correspondent of one of the South Australian papers, who has just visited some of the runs north of Clare, gives the most deplorable account of their condition. He says that some of the fenced portions had their boundaries in many places lined with the carcasses of bullocks; and that on scarcely one of the sheep runs would there be any lives saved. The ewes, unable to give milk to their offspring, were deserting them, and the lambs were being knocked on the head by the shepherds to save them from a more lingering death by starvation. Upon three runs he severally estimates the loss of sheep this year at 20,000, 8,000, and 5,000.

SEVERE LOSSES AMONG FLOCK MASTERS.—The *Prairie Farmer* of the 14th ult. contains the following:—“Our exchanges from Ohio and Michigan have lately been giving sad accounts of the destruction of sheep from the effects of a very cold storm that came on soon after a large number of the flocks were shorn. Hundreds perished in some flocks. The total number is estimated at 10,000 or 12,000 head. We have heard of no complaints from this State or other states west of us, and presume that our more fortunate flock-masters have escaped any very serious loss. The destruction of so great a number of sheep is a heavy loss in these days of high prices. We hope the reports will prove exaggerated.”

SIGHTS IN GERMANY.—A correspondent of the *New York Turf* in Germany, writes:—“What a queer sort of country this is to a man fresh from America. The roads stretch away for miles and miles together, under the shade of a double row of cherry and apple trees; there are no fences beside the roads, none around the fields, none even around most of the houses. One sees no cattle, except now and then a small herd watched by a keeper, throughout a dreary day; no sheep, except under the same conditions; no horses at all, no swine, and not even any geese and chickens. All are kept up in their places, and I have laughed more than once to see a stout Dutchman driving a flock of geese or a brood of chickens on their morning or evening promenade.”

BERLIN SEED FAIR. The annual Fall Seed Fair was held on the Berlin market grounds on Wednesday last, and proved very successful. The attendance of farmers was not so large as at last year's fair, caused, doubtless, by the late harvest, still there was a very good display of wheat. There were 22 entries altogether; four in “Midge proof,” fourteen in “Soules,” and four in wheat of any variety. Besides these there were a number of samples on the ground not entered for competition. The quality of some of the wheat on exhibition was very fine, especially in the “Soules” variety, and one of the judges informed us that he never saw better samples of this kind. We understand considerable business was transacted among the farmers in selling and exchanging for seed. The Judges—Messrs. Elias Eby, Wm. Ralph and Ephraim Wilson, Sen.—awarded the prizes as follows.—“Midge Proof Wheat”—1st, David Shoemaker; 2nd, Christian B. Snider. “Soules” Wheat—1st, Jacob Herber; 2nd, Antony Wilhelm. Wheat of Any Kind—1st, Antony Wilhelm, for red chaff white wheat.—*Berlin Telegraph.*

OFFICIAL INCOMPETENCE.—Many complaints are made by our U. S. exchanges as to the incompetency of the Chief of their Agricultural Bureau. The *Maine Farmer* is responsible for the following:—“We have it from a source eminently to be relied upon, that the Commissioner was engaged in writing a statement concerning sugar cane seed, and being called away from his desk for a few moments, one of the clerks made a glance at his unfinished manuscript, and found he had written it *Sugar cane seed!* And we have ourselves seen a communication, bearing the autograph of Mr. Newton, in which are declarations exhibiting ignorance upon common farm matters which, if made by a farmer boy of fifteen, would be inexcusable! Yet, such a man—one who has not the remotest conception of the duties of his office, and whose ignorance and incompetency would have caused his removal long ago, had it not been for personal friends in high places who keep him in office—is allowed to disgrace the important position which should be filled by a man of learning and good judgment, one of broad and enlightened views, and of some executive ability.”

The Household.

Homedale Farm.

THE CREEK TURNED TO ACCOUNT.

As already intimated, there flowed a short distance behind the orchard and garden of Homedale, a clear, silvery spring creek. Its course lay through a valley in which there was a considerable deposit of black muck, the value of which for manurial purposes was very great. From the time of his purchase of the place, Mr. Perley had revolved in his mind certain projects in regard to this creek. It had once contained speckled trout, but he well remembered how, in his younger days, he and the other boys of the neighbourhood had so thrashed the stream up and down for miles, that all trace of trout had disappeared. But it could be stocked again, and he did not know why a farmer with a spring creek on his place should not grow good trout as well as raise ducks and chickens. It was his intention, therefore, to scoop out a pond or two, and make arrangements for the cultivation of fish. Moreover, he wanted a bathing place, and he conceived the idea of making a pond large enough for swimming purposes. He was fond of bathing occasionally himself, and had been in the habit of enjoying the luxury of a swim now and then in the bay at Hamilton during the summer season. Moreover, he wanted his boys to learn to swim, and there was no stream or body of water suitable for the purpose in the vicinity of Homedale. Knowing the value of swamp muck, it occurred to him that he might make his fishing and swimming ponds actual sources of profit to the farm, by getting out of them a supply of that material for composting with the farm-yard dung. Accordingly, in the middle of summer, when the creek was at its lowest, and the valley pretty dry, he set men at work throwing out the muck in heaps upon the banks of his intended ponds. First, he laid out a swimming-pond 40 feet long, and 12 feet wide. As he could not well dam up the stream very much, it was necessary to go down some. The black muck was about two feet deep, and then they came to a solid, compact gravel, which was as hard as though it had formed a macadamized road in days of yore. No sooner did they fairly get into this gravel, than they found it full of little springs that boiled and bubbled up, and discharged so much water that it made excavation difficult. A pump had to be used before the job was finished. By keeping one end of the pond a little the lowest, they managed to pump out the water and get down the required depth. Cedar posts were set round the sides of the pond, and with scantling and plank the banks were held up so that they could not cave in. Before turning the creek through the pond, it filled up with water two feet deep from the springs on the bottom. It was like a big well, the water being as pure, clear, and cold as could be desired. The coolness of the water made Mr. Perley apprehensive that it would hardly do for bathing and swimming; but an expedient presented itself which he thought would remedy the difficulty. It was the formation of an outside pond, shallower than the one already made, which, warmed up by the rays of the sun, would tend to correct the too great coldness of the swimming-pond. He needed far more muck than the first pond had yielded, and concluded to take out more in the way just described. The outer pond would be just the thing for a skating place in winter, besides its utility as a warm water reservoir in the summer-time. A tight board fence, six feet high, round the swimming-pond, secured privacy; and a little dressing-room at one end, made the whole thing very complete and convenient. Before the end of the summer, Mr. Perley and the boys had some agreeable baths—Charles and George taking their first lessons in the art of swimming. The lads and young men in the neighbourhood, also, were very glad to avail themselves of Mr. Perley's