

## EDITORIAL.

Among the most satisfactory tendencies of farming in Ontario and other eastern provinces of Canada at the present time is the increased attention being paid to fruit growing.

Mr. Wm. L. Bradley, head of the great American fertilizer concern bearing his name, died on December 15th. During his first year in the commercial fertilizer business his gross receipts were about \$15,000; to-day the corporation does a business of about \$5,000,000 annually, and employs nearly 2,000 men.

There is no gain, but positive loss, in falling into a state of despondency. A man who lapses into a chronic condition of "the blues" will usually see things much worse than they really are, imagining many evils that have no existence. Hence, at this the beginning of 1895, "Plowman," in another column, does well to strike a more hopeful tone, which we commend as the key-note for the year.

The shipment of live cattle to Belgium from Canada, which attained considerable dimensions during the past year, has received a check by an order prohibiting further importations for the present, two "suspicious" lungs having been discovered—one from an animal shipped on the Hispania, and another on the Sicilia. The situation is rendered more difficult of adjustment because of the attitude of the British authorities in regard to Canadian cattle.

In the speech from the Throne, by the Lieutenant-Governor, at the opening of the last session of the Quebec Parliament, very considerable progress in agriculture was noted. The universal encouragement given to agricultural journals was cited as evidence of the intelligent vigor of the movement. Many of our oldest and most appreciative readers are in portions of Quebec Province, and their number is increasing.

In Eastern Canada farming naturally runs in a more conservative groove than in the Western part of the Dominion, where a variety of circumstances, as our readers are well aware, have necessitated important changes of late in methods of farming. This is very well indicated by the observations, in reply to our enquiries, by the Superintendents of the three Western Experimental Farms, who are not only observant and thoughtful, but thoroughly practical men. Reading between the lines, the farmer of Eastern Canada may draw useful conclusions from what they have to say.

An official report received by the British Board of Agriculture goes to show that approximately for every three acres of land cultivated in India, two acres are capable of being cultivated, but not yet required to meet the home necessities of the country or the demands of her foreign trade. This culturable waste area is roughly put at 99,000,000 acres. While it is admitted that the productiveness of this area is never likely to equal in value that now under cultivation, it is considered safe to affirm that with the extension of measures of irrigation, more thorough and complete facilities of transport, improvements in methods and materials of agriculture, and the expansion of the area of cultivation [(a) In ascertained culturable waste, and (b) in regions for which no returns exist], the productiveness of India might easily be increased by at least 50 per cent.

A somewhat critical reader writes that "the experiment stations are finding out a great many things that farmers knew before." The wisest of men once wrote that there was nothing new under the sun; but still the patient, scientific investigator may discover facts of great value, or present new ones in a clearer light. He can also lead the way in feeding, seed-testing experiments, etc., that no farmer alone would be warranted in undertaking. There is advantage also in having on record in black and white, for future reference, the results of careful investigations. Hence the necessity for experimenters doing their work so as to secure definite results, even though it takes a long time to do so. To make sure of a few fundamental facts of a practical bearing is worth more to the country than making a great show "on paper" of what is being "done for the farmer." It should also be borne in mind that there is just as much difference between experimentalists as between farmers or city business men. All are not equally successful.

## A Typical Highland Sheep.

Our first page illustration in this issue (reproduced from the Scottish Farmer) represents a good specimen of that hardy, active race of sheep called the Highland Blackfaces. They are smaller than the Cheviots, with curly, loose wool hanging nearly to the ground and rather more hairy and lumpy in its nature. Their mutton is highly esteemed. The subject of our illustration was one of the highest priced shearling rams of the breed sold in 1894, viz., "Bonnie Scotland," got by the successful breeding ram, "The Maori," a Crossflat sheep which won 2nd prize for wool at the Highland and Agricultural Show, Inverness, in 1892, and first and championship at Lanark in 1893. His dam was a Balnacole ewe. He was a prize winner himself both at Lanark, in July, and the Highland and Agricultural, Aberdeen, last year. He was bred by Chas. Howatson, of Glenbuck, and was sold to Jas. A. Gordon, of Arabella, Ross-shire, at the Lanark ram sales last year, for £95. His full brother, "Red Gauntlet," was sold at Lanark for £56, to Mr. J. K. Borland. Mr. Gordon, the purchaser of "Bonnie Scotland," is well known as a successful and enterprising Ross-shire farmer, who has become laird of the holding with which his name has been long associated. "Ladas of Cross flat," another shearing Blackface ram, bred by Mr. Howatson, was sold at the Perth ram sales last year to Middleton Campbell, of Camis-Eskan, Dumbartonshire, for £110.

## A Wholesome Judicial Decision.

An important decision of the U. S. Supreme Court was recently rendered, affirming the constitutionality of the Massachusetts law prohibiting the sale of oleomargarine as butter and coloring it so as to resemble butter; also prohibiting its sale or shipment in original packages into another State, under the Inter-State Commerce law, unless the laws of that State are conformed with. The decision ought to prove an effective weapon in the hands of the legitimate dairymen of the Republic. The unjust competition of the "oleo" fraud has made it a life-and-death struggle for honest butter. In substance the text of the Supreme Court's decision is as follows:—

"We are of the opinion that it is within the power of a State to exclude from its markets any compound, manufactured in another State, which has been artificially colored or adulterated so as to cause it to look like an article of food in general use, and the sale of which may, by reason of such coloration or adulteration, cheat the general public into purchasing that which they may not intend to buy. The Constitution of the United States does not secure to any one the privilege of defrauding the public. The deception against which the statute of Massachusetts is aimed is an offence against society; and the States are as competent to protect their people against such offences or wrongs as they are to protect them against crimes or wrongs of more serious character, and this protection may be given without violating any right secured by the National Constitution, and without infringing the authority of the General Government. A State enactment forbidding the sale of deceitful imitations of articles of food in general use among the people, does not abridge any privilege secured to citizens of the United States, or in any just sense interfere with the freedom of commerce among the several States. It is legislation of the kind referred to in Gibbons vs. Ogden, 9, which 'can be most advantageously exercised by the States themselves.'"

## The Test of Experience.

## PREFERS THE ADVOCATE.

F. M., St. Ann's, Ont.:—"In renewing my subscription, I desire to state that I have received more practical information from the FARMER'S ADVOCATE than from any other agricultural paper I have taken."

## WORTH DOUBLE ITS COST.

A. BELL, Trout River, Que.:—"I am very much pleased with the FARMER'S ADVOCATE; I would not be without it for double the money."

## HELPS TO MAKE MONEY.

WM. PEARSON, Singhampton:—"The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is such an old friend, I would not like to be without it. I am confident every farmer that intends to make money by farming and stock-raising would be benefited to take the ADVOCATE, study it carefully, and follow the example of many of the stockmen who contribute to its columns."

Swine fever is very prevalent in Ireland. It is reported that, during the week ending December 15th, there were 200 outbreaks on that island, as against eighty in Great Britain.

The champion beast at the recent Smithfield Club Show, Mr. Clement Stephenson's Polled Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Benton Bride, dressed 1,328 pounds, showing 71.36 per cent. net to gross live weight, and 1.77 pound daily gain from birth.

## Farming in Western Canada.

1. What do you regard as the more hopeful aspects of farming during the past year?  
2. What discouraging features are there, and how may they be best overcome?  
3. What line or lines of farm work received special attention and made the most noticeable advance, in your judgment, during the past year?  
4. Would you suggest any particular direction which the efforts of the farmers should take in 1895?

REPLIES BY S. A. BEDFORD, SUPERINTENDENT EXPERIMENTAL FARM, BRANDON, MAN.

1. (a) The interest taken in mixed farming, viz.: dairying and stock, as well as grain. (b) Farmers are buying only necessary supplies of implements, etc., and that for cash. (c) They are not increasing the size of their farms. (d) The Provincial Government is introducing the teaching of agriculture in the schools.

2. (a) The low prices for grain and stock, which can be partially overcome by better bred cattle. (b) More intensive farming. (c) Selling less thin stockers and more fat cattle. (d) Feed bi-products, such as straw, chaff, and small grain, instead of burning them.

3. The raising of beef cattle; the exports have increased very largely this year. The home market is being supplied with all poultry used except turkeys.

4. (a) To gradually work into the keeping of beef cattle, dairy stock, pigs or sheep, and all kinds of poultry, use only pure-bred males. (b) Enquire into the advisability of erecting a creamery or cheese factory in the neighborhood. (c) Aim to grow more and better grain on less land by sowing less on spring or fall plowing and more on summer-fallow. (d) Use only pure, clean seed of good varieties. (e) Always bluestone the wheat seed, whether it is smutty or not. (f) Learn to dress poultry right. (g) Plant out a liberal supply of currant, raspberry and gooseberry bushes, also a good variety of rhubarb, and keep a good vegetable garden, well fenced.

REPLIES BY ANGUS MACKAY, SUPT. EXPERIMENTAL FARM, INDIAN HEAD, N. W. T.

No. 1. (a) The most hopeful aspect is the large number of farmers going into the several branches of farming, and not depending entirely on wheat. (b) A second, is the conviction left on the minds of every one, that to successfully cope with the dry seasons, better cultivation of the soil is absolutely necessary. The delusion so prevalent in the early days over the whole Northwest, that the soil of this country need not be cultivated to any great extent, is fast being dispersed. (c) The third is the tendency to buy as little machinery as possible, and the better protection of that already on hand, though in this there is still room for improvement.

No. 2. (a) One discouraging feature is the dry weather, which in so large a country is sure to be prevalent in some districts each year. To overcome this, the land must be fallowed the year before the crop is sown, which, if done during the proper season, will store up sufficient moisture to carry a crop to maturity. Whether the crop will be large or small depends entirely on the nature of the land and the manner in which the fallow has been cultivated. (b) Another discouraging feature is the winds, especially the warm winds during August, which blow off the sandy deserts south of the International Boundary line. In overcoming the bad effects sure to be produced by these winds, summer-fallowing is of prime importance, and live wind-breaks are of great assistance, if grown east and west, to break the south or south-west storms.

No. 3. (a) The most noticeable advance in farm work the past year has been in the dairy line; almost every section, especially those along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has been more or less interested. Several districts have gone into this industry already, and a number of others are preparing for the coming year. (b) The large number of hogs which have been marketed at the different stations and towns throughout the country give evidence of increased activity in that branch of farm work. (c) Another noticeable feature is the large quantity of fallowed land ready for crop of 1895.

No. 4. (a) Every farmer should summer-fallow one-third of his cultivated land for crop of 1896. (b) Less wheat and more coarse grains should be grown, and the latter fed to cattle and pigs. (c) Where land is light, with a sandy or gravelly sub-soil, no grain should be sown on anything but good fallows. (d) Breeding light horses for farm work should be discontinued, and only animals that are able to pull a plow with ease, or draw a good load to market, should be raised. (e) No farmer, anywhere, or in any case, should attempt to raise a third crop of grain without fallowing the land.

REPLIES BY THOS. A. SHARPE, SUPT. EXPERIMENTAL FARM, AGASSIZ, B. C.

1. The live interest farmers are taking in the direction of supplying their own markets with all farm products that can be profitably grown or raised at home, instead of sending abroad for their supplies, as has been heretofore done.

2. The want of a comprehensive system of diking and draining in the lower Fraser River Valley, so much of the land being subject to, or liable to be overflowed during high water in spring; and for the interior, a system of surveys by competent engineers, to enable land-owners, as well as land-seekers, to arrive at at least an approximate estimate of the cost of irrigating the lands requiring it.

3. Fruit-growing and dairying, and to some extent, hop-growing, have received more attention than any other specialties in farming.

4. The farmers, in my estimation, cannot find a field that offers a better promise of surer reward than in fruit-growing and dairying.