

gone on in a most satisfactory manner within recent years. In local markets, butter has sold at from 50c. to \$1 per pound. Two traveling dairies have done much to improve the methods, and there is now a large export butter trade with Great Britain developing. Butter is now stored and carried in refrigerating chambers, and the industry promises to become of considerable moment. In some districts the co-operative plan is employed, especially in cheesemaking. Separators and milking machines have been introduced and will likely come more into use as the industry develops and they become better known. [NOTE.—Since March last that dreaded plague, rinderpest, has been causing great havoc among cattle in South Africa.—Ed.]

The horse is not indigenous to South Africa, the natives having no knowledge of the existence of such an animal at the time the Cape was discovered by Europeans. They were brought there about 1650 by Dutch settlers from Java. They belonged to the North African breed, and were known as the Gulf Arab. In 1813 English Thoroughbreds were brought in, and immensely improved the Cape horse. Turf clubs and jockey clubs sprung up, and since then Hackneys, Cleveland Bays, and Suffolk Punches have been taken in and are leaving their impress. Mules and asses are used to a considerable extent for transport purposes in the drier portions of the Colony. They can endure more starvation and rough usage than horses. Some mules are of immense size, reaching seventeen hands in height.

Goat farming is not without its place in the Colony. The goats are herded in flocks, and are reared for their meat as well as their hair. The Angora is one of the most popular breeds, although there are a number of other good sorts reared. The bastard goats are liable to retain the natural tendency to periodically shed the hair, and are therefore sheared twice a year to avoid loss. Cape mohair has not yet reached the perfection of Turkish-grown mohair, neither being so bright nor having the spinning property to make it of equal value by two pence to three pence per pound.

The sheep which the European discoverers of the Colony found in possession of the natives were a parti-colored, hairy, lop-eared, fat-tailed breed. They are a leggy sort, yielding light carcasses, having broad, flat tails, which usually weigh from six to fifteen pounds, some as high as twenty, and a few as much as thirty pounds. The Spanish Merino rams were introduced about the year 1793 and bred to many of the native ewes. The female progeny were again crossed with the pure Merino until the Merino characteristics were tolerably well fixed. Large flocks of these are now kept and raised principally for their wool, but their mutton is largely used at home, but not exported. One drawback to the sheep industry is the number of destructive wild animals, such as baboons and jackals, which have to be fenced against in some remote localities.

Little is yet known in the Colony of the respective merits of the most prominent English breeds. There are, however, a number of Hampshires, Shropshires, Suffolks, Border Leicesters, and Cheviots in the country, and they are being largely used for crossing with the Merinos and Merino grades.

Pigs.—Domesticated pigs, which are kept in considerable numbers in Cape Colony, though frequently far from pure, are descended from European breeds. The common country pig is a thick-set, well-bodied animal, on short legs, and frequently gray in color. The Tamworth is there, and does well. Pig breeding is not practiced to anything like the extent that would be profitable. Acorns, maize, and green foods are largely grown, which could be utilized to good advantage in pork-making.

Irrigation has to be practiced extensively in much of the country, especially in fruit-growing regions. Farm machinery and implements are much the same as our own.

Plows (single and double), diamond and disk harrows, self-binders, and other modern machinery are in use.

The field crops are wheat, barley, oats, oat hay, rye, maize (corn), Kaffir corn, potatoes, and tobacco. Each of these crops occupies a large area, the least grown being rye, of which in 1893 there were 182,362 acres. The crop returns of 1895 show for the whole Colony a yield of eleven fold harvested, exclusive of crops to the extent of over six fold that were destroyed, results which are a few bushels below the average of former years. This is estimated to be about eighteen fold.

Agricultural Department.—The first Department of Agriculture for Cape Colony controlled by a secretary was created in 1887, and associated with the office of the Colonial Secretary. In 1892 a reconstruction was effected, and the Department became a Department of Lands, Mines, and Agriculture, administered under the Colonial Treasurer. The existing Department, including the office of Minister of Agriculture, was created in 1893, and provisions made for its administration by an Act that year. The Department is well manned and managed, and is doing good work for the farming industry of the Colony.

If any one purposed going to South Africa to farm, or desired information on that country, he could not do better than read this work; but we would not recommend ADVOCATE readers to leave Canada for the Cape.

Despite its many possibilities, Prof. Wallace does not say yes or no to the question, Is it a great

agricultural country?—He is a bimetallist, and asserts with characteristic confidence that there is little hope for agriculture at the Cape or anywhere else in the world so long as the standard of currency remains in its present unsatisfactory condition.

In the West.

A GLANCE AT MANITOBA AND ITS EXHIBITION THROUGH EASTERN EYES.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Seeing the interest you have always taken in the progress of agriculturists, I take the liberty of sending you a few notes of observations made while on a trip to Manitoba. Having had the honor of being appointed judge on dairy cattle at the Manitoba Provincial Exhibition, which was held at Winnipeg, from July 20th to 25th, I left Carleton Place on July 14th at 2.50 p. m. and reached Winnipeg on the 16th at 3.30 p. m., making the trip in a little over forty-eight hours. When in sight of Winnipeg I thought I had made a very speedy trip compared with the time when I first visited Manitoba, twenty-two years ago. It then took me thirteen days to go there and twenty-six days to return, coming by the Dawson Road.

After an hour's stop at Winnipeg, I took the train again for Portage la Prairie, where a relative was waiting to meet me, and where I have several friends and relatives farming. I was surprised at the great change in Portage and the country around it since I was there twenty-two years ago. There were then only about half-a-dozen houses, scarcely worthy the name village; now it is a flourishing town with about three thousand inhabitants. I was also surprised to see the large, comfortable farm dwelling-houses, some of which rank high compared with what may be seen in the best country of Ontario. Next day came the Portage la Prairie Exhibition. It was a great success. I expected to see a good exhibit of grain, and was not disappointed; but that of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine quite surpassed my expectations. The ladies' department was also well sustained.

The crops in this part of the Province are not as good as usual, on account of the very wet spring, but when I tell you how they were sown I am sure you will wonder that they have any crop at all. The fields were literally covered with water, making it impossible for seeders to work, so that most of the grain was sown by hand from wagons drawn by two and sometimes three spans of horses. One man drove the horses while another sowed the seed from a box or tub placed in the wagon. Very little of the grain was harrowed, as it was sprouted before the water dried off. This wet season was followed by a severe drought, and lately the rust has attacked the grain. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, I saw several very fine fields of wheat. The farmers say if they have half the grain they had last year they will be satisfied. Hay is an abundant crop and a great quantity of it was saved.

On the 20th I returned to Winnipeg and reported at the office of the Exhibition Association, and was pleased to hear that the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, was to judge the beef breeds; Mr. McTurk, of Selkirk, the grade cattle; and Mr. Gibson, of Delaware, sheep and swine. Altogether the Exhibition was a grand success, the receipts being three thousand dollars more than last year. Tuesday was a very wet day, which gave the officers of the society the "blues," but the weather cleared that night and the remainder of the week the weather was almost perfect. The horse exhibit was very good; in fact, it was almost as good as Toronto and better than Ottawa. The exhibit of Shorthorn cattle was extra good, some of the prizewinners at the World's Fair being there. The competition was so close sometimes that Hon. John scarcely knew what to do, but he has a wonderful knack of pleasing every exhibitor and pleasing himself also. The other beef breeds were not so well represented, but there were some very fine specimens of Hereford and Angus cattle. The fat cattle were excellent. The first prize was awarded to a Hereford. The dairy breeds were all well represented, also the Holsteins, in numbers as well as in quality; some of them showed great individual merit. The Jerseys were not very numerous. The females were hardly up to the mark in quality, but some of the males were very good. The exhibit of Ayrshires was excellent, and their thrifty appearance shows that they are well adapted for Manitoba.

Hon. J. C. Patterson, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, offered a gold medal for the best herd of dairy cattle, consisting of one male and four females, any age or breed, owned by one exhibitor. The judges were Hon. J. Dryden, Mr. Gibson, Mr. McTurk, and myself. Five herds were competing for the prize, viz., two herds of Holsteins, two of Ayrshires, and one of Jerseys. After all the herds were carefully examined, Hon. Mr. Dryden proposed that the judges should not speak to each other, but that each one be supplied with a slip of paper on which to write the name of the herd he thought worthy of the prize, and that they be handed to Mr. Greig, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, who was in the ring at the time. When the ballots were read it was found that three were marked for the Ayrshire herd (owned by W. M. & J. C. Smith,

Fairfield Plains, Ont.) and one for the Jerseys, so Messrs. Smith carried off the gold medal. The Association offered a prize of fifty dollars for the cow that would produce the most good butter in a single day. This is looked upon as being the most important prize offered by the Association. An Ayrshire cow, owned by Mr. J. S. Cochran, Crystal City, was an easy winner of the prize.

The sheep exhibit was a large one and some very good specimens were shown, but the country seems better adapted for hog-raising, probably on account of the grain being so plentiful. Hogs were a good exhibit, the Berkshire breed predominating. When judging that breed sometimes Mr. Gibson seemed scarcely to know what to do. On one occasion, when the crowd outside the ring thought he was in a "tight place" and expressed fears that he would get into trouble, Mr. Dryden allayed their fears by saying, "Richard will pull through all right"—and so he did. The root exhibit was much better than I expected to see, it being so early in the season. But no part of the exhibition was so much of a wonder to the Ontario visitor as the machinery, which was all in motion. The stubble-burner and the wind stacker were new things to us.

The ladies' department was an excellent show in itself, and the attractions were the best that could be procured.

Doubtless your Ontario readers will think it very strange to have an annual exhibition in July, but it is impossible for them to have it after harvest, for when the grain is off the fields threshing commences (much of it being done from the stack), and it is often not completed when winter sets in. At the close of the Exhibition I took the Manitoba & Southwestern Railroad for Crystal City and Pilot Mound, and found the crops there better than they were at Portage la Prairie. The prairie being more rolling, the water had drained off earlier. I also crossed the line into Northern Dakota to visit a settlement at Woodbridge, mostly composed of people from the County of Lanark, who first settled in Manitoba, but moved across the line because they could buy their agricultural implements, fence wire, etc., much cheaper and sometimes get one or two cents per bushel more for their wheat. I was surprised to find them nestled under the wing of the Eagle, and they would put up their hand and stroke her down as kindly as if they had been born under the shadow of the Stars and Stripes. The crops in Dakota are similar to those in Manitoba, but, as a rule, late. If the frost and hail do not strike them they may turn out very well.

When at Crystal City I visited the Crystal City Dairy Association's butter factory, which is running on the joint stock principle. The cream is gathered and paid for according to the oil-test churn. Mr. F. W. Tucker, the buttermaker, is a native of England and has made butter in the British Isles and New Zealand. Butter made by him took a gold medal at the World's Fair. About seventy-five or eighty patrons send cream to this factory. The butter is sold in Winnipeg, Victoria, and other large towns, and so far has realized 14½ cents per pound. It costs five cents per pound to gather the cream and manufacture the butter, but it is expected that the price of butter will increase so that the patrons will get at least twenty cents per pound for their product. There are twenty-eight butter factories in Manitoba and about twenty cheese factories. Some of the cheese factories are not running this season. One great drawback to cheese factories is the great distance they have to haul their milk, but of course that will be got over as soon as the country becomes more thickly settled.

From what I saw of the country I came to the conclusion that the farmer who follows mixed farming is the one who is going to make a success of his business. Some of the best of farmers I met told me that they could not depend on more than two crops of wheat without summer-fallowing. Now, summer-fallowing does not enrich the soil, but rather impoverishes it by making the fertile ingredients in it more available for plant food; but there is also a great loss of fertility with a bare fallow, and the time will come when summer-fallowing will not bring the crop of wheat without manure. I found some farmers who save their manure as carefully as we do in Ontario, and have beneficial results from doing so. I think every farmer should have at least ten or twelve milk cows and send the milk to a butter or cheese factory, and raise young stock, sheep and hogs enough to utilize all the coarse and damaged grain. There should never be a bushel of damaged wheat sent out of the country, as it hurts the name of Manitoba wheat and flour, while it costs just as much to send it to market as it does to send the very best. I met several parties from Ontario. One of them, Hon. Thos. Ballantyne, of Stratford, speaks very highly of this Province as a cheese producer. If this country makes as much progress in the next twenty years as it has done in the past twenty it will be a wealthy country. Twenty years ago there were only about six houses in Winnipeg; now it has a population of thirty-one thousand. I found that most of the business men were from Ontario. Mr. Heuback, the courteous, efficient, and energetic manager of the Winnipeg Exhibition, is from Ottawa. I would not be doing my duty in closing did I not mention the many kindnesses we received from the railroad officials. They seemed more like new officials catering to the wants of the public than merely running a train.

Carleton Place, Ont.

JOS. YULL.