

### Strawberry Island.

This island in Lake Simcoe, and some 10 miles distant from Orillia, is a marvel of fertility. It comprises about 50 acres, and on its outer rim is a hedge of woodland which serves many useful purposes.

It is a delightful summer resort. Captain C. McInnes, of Orillia, its owner, has put up some cottages and built a hotel, where those seeking pleasure or rest may find the object of their desire.

What most drew our attention was the marvellous fertility of the soil. It is a sort of black humus, mixed with sand several feet in depth, and of surpassing fertility. The strawberries we saw growing on the island (June 21st) were of extraordinary size, the vines being the largest that it has ever been my lot to look upon. They were quite untouched with frost while those in localities within a short distance of this city were very much injured.

After looking upon the extraordinary vegetation of the Island we ceased to wonder how Capt. McInnes, living so far to the north, was so successful in competing for prizes on vegetables at the exhibitions of last autumn. We were loth to leave this pleasant spot, where the fresh breezes from the surrounding waters brought with them a feeling of strength renewed.

The daily communication with Orillia adds not a tittle to the desirability of choosing this island as a resting place after the tiring fight of months of hard work.

### Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

Buoyed up by past successes, and stimulated by present encouragement, the authorities of the Toronto Industrial Fair are putting forth all their power to make the coming exhibition, extending from September ninth to the twenty first, surpass all others that have been held under their auspices; and from the many indications of energy and enterprise we already have, we feel we may safely draw the conclusion that they will achieve the object of their desires. Ever since its inception, by close attention to all details relative to the comfort of exhibitor and visitor, and by keeping well abreast of the times, they have won for their exhibition the eulogiums of foreigners, and the hearty co-operation of Canadians, so that they may now closely contest the claim of superiority with any other like institution on our continent, and well represent us as our national show of live-stock, the products of our agriculture, arts and manufacture.

Having secured a new lease from the City of Toronto of the Exhibition Park and buildings, running for ten years, they have decided to spare no labor nor expense that will aid in making the exhibition an unqualified success, and to secure this desired result, many alterations are being made in the old buildings, and a number of new ones are being reared. They have found, owing to the stupendous growth of the exhibition the last few years, that it would be absolutely necessary for them to extend the limit of their grounds, and to permit of their doing this, they have been negotiating with the Ontario Rifle Association, and success has at last crowned their efforts. Among the new buildings being erected is a new poultry house, at a cost of \$4,000, and the city have thoughtfully and liberally decided to erect a new conservatory on the grounds, to be the harbinger of many rare and beautiful plants from all tropics. Several of the other buildings are being refitted and enlarged, including the machinery hall and the natural history building.

Our horsemen may look forward to many new innovations, as the authorities have built at a cost of \$12,000 three new stables in conformance with modern ideas, and provided with many conveniences for the

comfort of the 150 animals which they will shelter. The several show-rings are being improved, and that of the horses especially considerably enlarged.

These few notes will serve to indicate that the officers are not content to rest on their past reputation, but are imbued with a true progressive spirit that promises much, and as a rule accomplishes its desires.

If we were in need of criterions as to the estimation of this exhibition in the minds of our countrymen, no better one could be noted than the fact that everyone that exhibits always prizes highly their winnings. As the judges are men of careful choice, and have always filled the onerous office imposed upon them with integrity and honor, the equal, if not the superior, of any other similar institution on our continent, they no doubt have contributed largely to enhance the honor of obtaining a prize at this show. Then the liberal prizes offered, and the close competition that follows usually as a result, have also contributed in a large measure to increase the honor of securing a prize. This year the prize list is especially good, as fully \$25,000.00 is the sum total of those offered, including many special prizes for stock. A large number of sweepstake prizes are also offered in the several classes, and many new ones added to those of the poultry department. From the value of the prizes, and the consequent honor of securing them at this fair, we feel sure that our stockmen will turn out in such goodly numbers and that the prizes will be closely contested.

Many special attractions for amusement seekers have also been secured, and many special displays are also promised from foreign countries, and from our more distant provinces.

Those desiring any information should apply at once to H. J. Hill, the manager and secretary, Toronto. We desire to impress on those intending to exhibit, the advisability both for their own individual interests, as well as those of all others concerned, that all entries must be in before the 17th of August.

Grouping together the many signs of industry and enterprise on the part of those connected we freely advance the prediction that the citizens of Toronto are destined to view an influx of visitors and exhibitors during the weeks of her fair that will far surpass in numbers that of any former year.

### Keeping the Farm Clean.

The magnitude of this subject seems to grow with the passing of the years. A good deal is said and written on the wisdom and necessity of keeping weeds under control, and legislative enactment is sometimes called into existence to promote the end thus sought; and yet in the face of all this even the careless observer may note the alarming increase of weeds from year to year.

Some farms are one large thistle patch throughout the whole extent. Others furnish a mustard garden of enormous dimensions. In some false flax is too firmly entrenched to be easily uprooted, and in many, several other varieties of pestiferous weed life are contending for supremacy.

The most favored propagating ground for many of these is the highway, for the cleanliness of which oftentimes no man seems to care. Even the highways around the Experimental Farm at Guelph are threatening the farm with an invasion of the viper's bugloss, more numerous than the hosts of Tamerlane. When men are commissioned to cut down the blue-robed invaders they do it in an imperfect manner, leaving many of the weaker and more spreading thus uncut, which are joined in seed propagation by seeds from

second growth stems, so that the last state of the highway every autumn is worse than the first.

In view of all this, thoughtful persons cannot but look at the question with a justifiable alarm. Weeds can no more flourish in any soil without extracting nutriment from it than can our most useful cereals. The farm which any year produces but one-fourth as many weeds as grain, wastes one-fourth of its producing energies for that season, plundering the farmer quite as effectively as though one had entered his granary and carried away one-fourth of his grain.

To what purposes, we ask, is this enormous waste of producing power? We have shown that weed-production robs the farmer with a ruthless hand. It adds not to his physical or social comfort, nor does it of necessity minister to his moral or spiritual advancement. It is degrading in all its tendencies. Why then should it be allowed? Why should the good sense of our Canadian people give any place to weed growth when it is possible so to keep it at bay as to render it virtually harmless?

In the first war against weed life a few leading principles underlie the mode of attack which will ultimately succeed. If we were asked to give these in one word, we would choose the word *worry*. By keeping them in a constant tribulation they must be worried out of existence. No one mode of attack will suffice, they must be harassed till no place is found for them by every means within the reach of the farmer.

It is our firm conviction that the farmers of the future who are to have clean farms must go over every acre of them, including fence corners and old pastures once a year, with spud in hand, destroying every form of intrusive weed life with a most careful destruction. Farms that are tolerably clean will require about one day of a trusty man spent upon every ten acres, and the best suitable time for doing this work is the month of June. By pursuing this method the vanguard invaders are discovered, whose presence might not otherwise have been known until they had scattered the seed-germs of a numerous progeny of vagrants of the most audacious types.

We admit that all forms of pestiferous weed life may become so numerous as to preclude the profitability of this weeding or destroying by hand. It is very doubtful indeed if this will pay any farmer when a whole day must be spent upon an acre. Under these circumstances some more rapid mode of destruction must be resorted to, but we repeat it again, that those who are to have clean farms in the future must go over them every year in the month of June, spud in hand, for many forms of weed life will get a footing in our lands without the winds even being capable of furnishing an answer as to whence they came.

When weeds have got possession of the soil it may be necessary to resort to summer fallowing, but usually a hoed-crop will answer the purpose nearly as well if properly cared for—we say, if properly cared for. If a few weeds are left, the trouble that has been nearly mastered, repeats itself, whereas complete extermination would have brought practically years of respite.

In weed extermination, where it has got possession of the whole farm, a regular rotation must be abandoned for a time. Those crops only should be sown which are best capable of favoring weed-destruction. One field may be devoted to roots, another to corn, a third to millet, sown late, the ground in preparation having been ploughed the previous autumn and then run over with the broad share cultivator as often as necessary prior to the sowing. If any thistles appear again the spud may be used.