

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:  
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:  
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:  
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Fitzalan House, Strand,  
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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### Evening Attractions.

Regarding the question of attractions at the larger exhibitions, a correspondent writes that while he does not suggest doing away with wholesome entertainment before the grand-stand, he would propose that their programmes should be given chiefly in the evening. In this way the public would not be drawn away so largely during the best part of the day from the legitimate exhibits and educational features of the fairs. Manufacturers and others go to great expense to fit up displays of their products, and it is not just that the attractions should be so run as to divert and absorb so completely the attention of visitors. The point deserves consideration.

### The Demand for Horses.

The summer that has just ended has been the best for the dealer in the long history of the market for good horses. Those in closest touch with affairs report that the demand for coach and carriage horses has been unprecedented, and that with the coming of fall there is a decided increase in the number of buyers. Common horses are not asked for to any extent, as the call is from buyers who have money and want the best the market affords. Of course, some of the fall activity can be traced to the call for horses that will do for the show-ring. But the summer activity had no such mainspring. It came from the regular and increasing purchases, which are due to the fact that the era of prosperity promises to continue with unabated energy. Men who are doing well in business indulge their taste for good horses, and instead of buying the medium grades, as they would in dull periods, insist now on having the best that the market affords. In consequence dealers and breeders are happy and the great horse industry is on as substantial a basis as any interest that can be named.—[Coach and Saddle.

### The Western Fair of 1902.

The Western Fair for 1902, at London, Ont., has come and gone. It was a gratifying success both in point of attendance and exhibits. Last year the Western was hit hard by bad weather, Pan-American competition, and the dissatisfaction among thoughtful and influential people of late years regarding the growing preponderance of side-show and fake features, to the detriment of legitimate exhibitors, and the neglect of educational features. This year the weather smiled, and Western Ontario people, uncharmed by Buffalo, returned to their first love, the attendance aggregating probably 80,000, or double that of 1901. It was by far the largest since 1898, the year of the cheap railway fares. When the balance-sheet is struck, the fair treasury will probably show a surplus of several thousand dollars. In the matter of exhibits, also, there was a very marked improvement. The live stock, always good at this show, was better than usual in most departments, while the exhibit of poultry, fruit, agricultural and dairy products were all very fine. The directors are to be congratulated upon the excellence of the art exhibit, which excelled by far any display made at the Western Fair in recent years. The entire annex of the Main Building was devoted to art, and more will likely be required next year. Prof. F. M. Bell-Smith, of Toronto, captured the \$100 prize on a notable oil painting of a scene at the corner of Yonge and King streets, Toronto. All the leading manufacturers of agricultural implements who withdrew from the Canadian shows a few years ago are still conspicuously absent, but an American firm this year made an exhibit, and a member of a well-known Canadian firm intimated to the "Farmer's Advocate" that next season might see a change in the relations of fair managers and the implement men. Farmers everywhere complain of the absence of this great feature of the exhibitions. We are certain that the public would appreciate seeing the space occupied by the noisy "Midway" occupied by the splendid productions of the factories of the country. A proper representation would fill that avenue as well as the old manufacturers' building. The side-shows should be shunted into a corner, as was done at Toronto. Col. Gartshore (the President), Secretary Nelles and others deserve much credit for what has already been accomplished in the direction of improving the substantial features of the show, and we heard little or no complaint of the general character of the grand-stand attractions. The buttermaking competitions proved a splendid feature, for which a proper building, large enough to contain all the dairy exhibits, should be provided next year. The towns and villages of Western Ontario came to the show en masse, probably more so than the substantial agricultural public, which has not yet recovered from the feeling engendered of late years that the show had run too much to "circus." We earnestly counsel the directors to further improvement in educational directions and a higher standard of general excellence. Your work, gentlemen, in that direction is not yet done. It is only well begun. We find also, and feel bound to state the fact, that exhibitors and judges in a good many cases feel that they were shamefully neglected. In a couple of the departments, at least, the directors in charge could hardly ever be found when the judging was going on, the business being a regular "go-as-you-please." The horse department was probably one of the worst neglected in the whole exhibition. Descending to minor points, great complaint was made, both by exhibitors and visitors, of the wretched whitewash daubed on the ring fences and pens, doing great damage to people's clothes and the skins of animals. It looks all right, but should be made to stay where it is put. It is high time that such "Cheap John" expedients were discarded. With the good start the fair has made this year, it strikes us that the time is opportune for a decided advance, and what is wanted before much more progress will be made is the infusion of some new and more vigorous "blood" into the directorate.

### STOCK.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

The late harvest is the sole topic of conversation here. On all hands it is agreed that the harvest will not be general for three weeks. In the earlier districts, fields that are cut may be seen, and in others roads are being made for the binders; but throughout the country the feature is the great bulk of straw and its green condition at this late date. Barley will now be a poor sample. Oats will be cut unripe. Wheat is being cut in a condition which pleases no one. To add to the gravity of the situation, we have during the past week had heavy wind and rain storms, and many fields of waving corn have been laid flat. The binders will be exercised to the utmost and the skill of their manipulators tested. There is bound to be a deal of middling work done by them, and much straw will be left on the ground. Fields will have more the resemblance of prairie land than is usual in these parts, but no doubt when all is over people will find cause for congratulation in the fact that, bad as things are, they might have been worse.

The season for lamb sales is almost over, and two things may be remarked regarding it. The lambs themselves have as a whole been put upon the market in only middling condition, but yet they have realized better prices than was anticipated. The late harvest and continued growth is to some extent responsible for this. "Keep" is plentiful, and in the main swedes and turnips promise well. There is therefore encouragement to feeders to go on, and no class of men in this country is more optimistic. They are badly hit some years, and after one such experience, one would think they would never invest in store lambs again. But a year of profit comes round, and the years of leanness are completely forgotten. Feeders go in more briskly than ever, and trade bowls along as though there was never such a thing as a period of mistrust, stagnation, and dead loss. Optimism is the sheet-anchor of the British farmer. The native agriculturist "never is, but always to be, blest"; and in anticipation of the day when the balance will be on the right side, he goes forth rejoicing, delighted if in the end of the day he is not found a bankrupt.

According to the statistics of the Board of Agriculture, it is a good thing for the farmer that he is an optimist. Not only is he cropping less than he did, but his live-stock census shows a decreasing population. This is not calculated to promote exhilaration of spirit, and it must be admitted that it is a condition of things somewhat difficult to understand. So far as cattle are concerned, the increasing demand for early maturity no doubt prevents that accumulation of stocks which used to be the great feature of British agriculture. The four-year-old steer, whose beef was the ideal of the epicure, is extinct; nobody now wants to keep a steer to that age, and therefore he is scarce and likely to become scarcer. But this demand for early maturity has been in existence quite long enough to have adjusted all disturbed balances, and I fear the chief reason why cattle are fewer in number than formerly is that cattle-breeding does not pay. This week, in conversation with a gentleman who is popularly supposed to have made cattle-breeding a success, I was surprised to find him emphatic in declaring that it was not so, and that were it not for his own business, he would not pursue farming for a day. He has his own profession to rely on as a means of subsistence, and his cattle-breeding ventures are simply a hobby. He finds them profitable as a means of relaxation, but not commercially. The truth is, the breeding of stock must be carried on as a part of the regular economy of the farm, and not for its own sake. In the former case the average man can make money out of it; in the latter, the Duthies and the Marrs may do well, but the average man gets left.

The tuberculin test is giving a deal of trouble in this country, and the majority of breeders here do not believe in it. What makes them skeptical is primarily the fact that tuberculin so frequently condemns the unlikely animal and lets the likely one go free. There is also reason to believe that the effect of the tuberculin can be nullified in various ways. Wise men suspect this, and give tested cattle or cattle from a herd in which testing is known to be carried on a wide berth. I do not believe that any eminent breeder in this country would give more for a bull which had stood the test than for one which had all the appearance of health, but reacted. During the next fortnight this idea will be reviewed. Cattle are to be sold by public auction, descended from cows which are popularly known to have reacted. They have all the appearance of being excellent cattle, and I will venture to predict that they will sell as well as any cattle which have stood the test. The testing officials of certain governments are