

Co-operative Apple Packing and Shipping.

The marketing of apples from parts of Middlesex Co., Ont., has for years been so unsatisfactory that orchardists have become thoroughly disgusted with present methods. Many have been frequently humbugged by buyers, and others who tried shipping direct to the British market have received such incomplete and unsatisfactory sale accounts and cash returns, that the advisability of cutting down their orchards and using the ground for other purposes was seriously considered. Such a thing, of course, would have been a calamity. The outcome of last season's transactions has been the straw that broke the camel's back, and a movement was started that has resulted in the organization of an association for the co-operative packing, selling, and shipping of apples. A meeting for this purpose was held in the hall at Ilderton recently, when Mr. A. McNeill, Dominion Fruit Inspector, was present, and gave valuable information and many suggestions as to how this association might be operated, and the advantages to be derived from such co-operation. By beginning in a small way, and expanding each year, not only could the produce of the orchard be more economically handled, but co-operation could also be applied to spraying orchards, making boxes or barrels for shipping, buying new nursery stock, etc. He outlined two schemes—one by which a number of orchardists could join together and agree to ship their apples through the association, each grower packing his own apples and delivering at point of shipment; the other (the one he recommended to the meeting) was the formation of a joint stock company, and have a central packing house where all apples would be brought direct from orchards, and entirely handled by the association.

The meeting was more favorable to the central packing-house scheme, and a motion to organize an association for this purpose at Ilderton was unanimously carried. Mr. H. B. Kennedy was elected chairman, and Mr. A. O. Telfer, secretary, to act for the present. A committee of Messrs. A. McLean, J. C. P. Hughes, T. B. Scott, B. Rosser, A. C. Attwood, S. P. Zavitz, Ed. Caverhill, John Guest, with President and Secretary, was appointed, with power to add to their number, to take all necessary steps for the complete organization of an Apple Packing, Selling and Shipping Association. Each orchardist in the Ilderton, Coldstream and Denfield districts will be canvassed, and it is expected that a strong association will be formed.

It is believed that this is the beginning of a movement that will soon spread over all fruit districts in Ontario, and that the results will be such that orchards will be a very profitable part of the farm, instead of being looked upon as an unprofitable servant.

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Three thousand square miles of territory in Kiova and Commanche Counties, in Oklahoma, have been swept by fire. Hundreds of people are homeless, several have been burned to death, and financial losses are very heavy.

Count Von Waldersee, the famous German soldier, is dead. He was in the battles of Metz and Sedan, and at the siege of Paris. Later he became Chief of the General Staff of the German Army, and during the Boxer campaign in China was commander of the allied forces of all nations.

A despatch from St. Petersburg announces that the British ambassador has transmitted to the Russian Foreign Minister Great Britain's answer to the Russian protest against Col. Younghusband's advance into Tibet. It is understood that both England and Russia have bound themselves to interfere in no way with the independence of Tibet, and thus an immediate ground of anxiety has been removed.

An informal conference of representatives from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches, among whom were many eminent divines, met in Toronto recently to consider the question whether these three bodies should unite to form one church. The sentiment and decision of the assembly were enthusiastically in favor of the idea, and this first movement is looked upon by many as the beginning of an important revolution in ecclesiastical affairs.

It is expected that the Russian fleet will start for the Far East early in the summer. Upon its doing so hangs a complication. After passing Jubutal, French Somaliland, where it will take on coal, it will come to no more French ports before Saigon, French Indo-China, hence will probably put into India or Ceylon for supplies. The point in question is whether Great Britain can allow the ships to receive coal at these points, or whether such a proceeding would not be a breach

of neutrality. Premier Balfour admitted recently in Parliament that the question is one of the greatest importance, and stated that it is receiving the attention of the Government.

All the civilized world is interested in the reconsideration of the case of Alfred Dreyfus, which has begun in the Court of Cassation, Paris. As will be remembered, some years ago Captain Dreyfus was arrested on a charge of having sold important military secrets to a foreign country. Condemning evidence was brought against him, and he was imprisoned on Devil's Isle, where he underwent fearful hardships. Through the efforts of friends, among whom was Emile Zola, his case was reconsidered, but he was again found guilty and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. All Europe was indignant, for it was held that Dreyfus had not been fairly tried, and there were suspicions that he was being made the victim of an infamous plot, behind which the real culprits were hiding themselves. One very suspicious fact was that the counsel for his defence was shot during the trial. So great was this public indignation that Dreyfus was pardoned, and given his liberty. But he could not be satisfied with this; for him nothing less than the complete vindication of his honor could suffice, hence he demanded a new trial. The investigation which is now going on, and in which, it is expected, many revelations of a surprising nature will be made, will not likely be concluded before the end of June.



The Jap: "Now, I wonder if I can blow this gent up before his brothers get here."

Drawn by James Frise for the "Farmer's Advocate."

Events in the Far East at present move rather slowly. On March 6th five Japanese battleships appeared before Vladivostok, in search, it is presumed, of the Vladivostok squadron, which, however, was not in port, and cannot so far be located. On March 10th, before daybreak, a Japanese flotilla advanced to the entrance of the harbor at Port Arthur, and notwithstanding the fire from the Russian guns, succeeded in sinking mines across it. At the same time another division of Japanese torpedo boats, backed up by cruisers, was met by a number of Russian torpedo boats, and a hot engagement ensued, in which the Russians lost a torpedo destroyer, a Japanese torpedo boat being also badly damaged. The Russians on board the sinking destroyer were rescued by the Japanese. Later in the day a Japanese squadron, consisting of 14 vessels, appeared before Port Arthur, and, from behind the lighthouse of Liaotishin, fired shells, numbering in all about 200, upon the cruisers in the harbor and the fortress, the Russians returning the fire whenever the opposing vessels appeared from behind Liaotishin. No heavy losses, however, have been reported from either side. Official reports state that at one Russian soldier killed and six wounded during the bombardment, and the damaging of the Japanese cruiser Takesasago. In the engagement during the night seven Japanese were killed and eight were wounded. The most significant news which has arrived is that Admiral Makarov is stirring up the Russian fleet to take the offensive, and that he is sending his torpedo flotillas to harry the Japanese. From all appearances, Port Arthur will be the center of activities for some days yet, and land engagements are hardly expected before the first of April.

Wm. Murray, Pictou Co., N.S.: I am glad you have made the "Farmer's Advocate" a weekly. You may make it a twice-a-week if you wish, as it is hard to get too much of a good thing.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Eastern Ontario Live-stock Show.

The live-stock show held on the exhibition grounds at Ottawa, March 7th to 11th, notwithstanding the unusually severe winter and the blocked conditions of roads in many sections the week previous, detaining many of the entries, and doubtless many visitors who would otherwise have been present, was yet a very interesting event, and in many respects a very successful one. This being the result under adverse conditions, augurs well for future exhibitions at the capital, when the new and more suitable building projected for the purposes of the show is completed, and under average conditions of March weather. The show this year was held in the very comfortable cattle stables, the best on any show ground in Canada, the stables being connected by covered passageways or vestibules, all outer doors except the entrance being closed. The offices and lecture-room were comfortably heated by means of stoves, as were also many of the stables. Secretaries Westervelt and McMahon and Superintendent Hamner were untiring in their efforts for the convenience and comfort of exhibitors and visitors, and contentment and good humor prevailed generally. The large delegation from outlying provinces attending the Stock-breeders' Convention added much to the interest of the occasion, and were afforded a good opportunity of seeing some good stock and making acquaintances which may be mutually beneficial.

THE HORSE SHOW.

This section of the show, styled the first annual Central Canada Spring Horse Show, while not notable for the number of entries forward, was truly representative of the leading breeds, there being first-class animals in nearly every class. The heavy draft classes were judged by Messrs. James Henderson, Belton; Geo. Gray, Newcastle, and John Bright, Myrtle; and the light breeds by Messrs. S. B. Fuller, Woodstock, and W. S. Spark, Ottawa, who gave general satisfaction by their decisions. The prizes offered were very liberal in number and amount, there being six cash prizes in each section, the amount in the aged stallion class running from \$50 for first to \$15 for sixth, and proportionately in the list for younger horses.

CLYDESDALES were shown by Robert Ness, Howick, Que.; R. Beith, Bowmanville; Smith & Richardson, Columbus; Reid & Co. and J. G. Clark, Ottawa; T. W. Ross, Myrtle; John Vipond, Brooklyn; R. N. Harris, Gattineau Point, and James Callander, North Gower.

The first place in a capital class of horses, four years and over, and the championship of the breed, went by common consent to Mr. Ness, for his imported Senator's Heir, by Senator, by Baron's Pride, a bay four-year-old, of grand quality and even balance, standing well on the best of feet and legs, and moving well and truly at the walk or trot; a horse big enough, weighing 2,015 pounds, without being overfat, and having plenty of bone of the best quality, and plenty of body and constitution to match. Seldom indeed has a better horse been imported to Canada. Mr. Beith had in imported Prince Priam, by Prince of Albion, a worthy second; low-set, deep-ribbed, symmetrical, and a good mover. Smith & Richardson's Imp. Sticato, a big, good horse, was placed third, and their Imp. Locomotion fifth, Beith's Star of Roses taking fourth place. Mr. Beith had a sure winner for first place in the three-year-old section, and a strong candidate for championship in his imported horse, a big, good one, combining weight, quality and action in high degree. Smith & Richardson had a worthy second; Ness & Sons an excellent third, and Reid & Co.'s good horse Cecil was fourth. Smith & Richardson led in the two-year-old class with a capital big imported colt, coming three, which stood well in the competition for the championship, and had many ardent admirers. Lack of space forbids personal mention of all the winners in this and other classes, but the prize-list on another page tells the tale. An extraordinarily good Shire horse was shown by J. J. Anderson, Dominionville, in his imported Flagship, winner of first at Toronto Spring Show, 1902, and first and sweepstakes silver cup here. He has grand quality, action and form, and was much admired.

CATTLE.

The entries in the cattle classes were not numerous, but those present were of first-class quality. In pure-bred Shorthorns, W. C. Edwards, Rockland, had out some capital representatives of their fine herd, which made such a good record at Toronto exhibition last fall, winning there first for both aged and young herds, and junior sweepstakes in females. They won here all the prizes in the section, heifers two years and under three, with typical beef animals. Alderman Slattery, of Ottawa, had on exhibition, but not for competition, the grand white three-year-old steer, bred by Harry Smith, of Exeter, that won championship at Guelph in 1900, looking well and cheerfully waiting to make