

# The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

VOL. XXIII

TORONTO, 15 DECEMBER, 1904

No. 24

## Have a Definite Aim in Farming

**T**HIS is the leisure season on the farm; the season when the farmer can look over the work of the year and note his successes and failures, and at the same time plan for the future. Such reflection is always beneficial. It enables one to profit by past failures and to plan the work of the future so as to reap the greatest reward. It is true, climatic and other conditions often prevent the farmer from making the most of his opportunities, and yet by following a definite plan of procedure, which his past experience has shown him to be the wisest one to adopt, persistently and to the end, success is sure to follow. This is not the age for haphazard farming. The successful farmer of today must have a definite aim in view and bend his energies along that line. The failures of the present in agriculture are largely traceable to indefiniteness and shifting around from one line of farming to another without any pre-conceived plan in view.

To win the greatest success in agriculture, therefore, the farmer must put his best skill and energy to work and decide upon a line of farming for which he has a liking and for which his local and other conditions are well adapted. Look over the list of successful farmers today and you will find that some definite pre-arranged plan has been followed, whether it be in live stock breeding, dairying, fruit culture or any other branch. Sometimes circumstances such as scarcity of help, etc., make a change from the branch of agriculture decided upon necessary, otherwise nothing is to be gained and much lost by jumping about from one line to another in a haphazard fashion. The farmer as well as the business man must have a definite aim in view, and his success will in a large measure depend upon how he carries it out. A definite aim based upon past experience and the experience of others will greatly assist in making farming a pleasant as well as a profitable undertaking.

## The Week at Guelph

The big week of the year at Guelph has come and gone. Once more several thousand farmers have attended that great educational institution, the Winter Fair, seen the live stock judged, heard the lectures given and returned to their homes.

What has been the effect of it all? Will these farmers do better work in 1905 than they did in 1904 because of this two or three days' schooling? Will the interest in better live stock be increased by this outing and will the live stock on the farm be better fed

and better cared for because of the lessons taught at Guelph?

These questions can only be answered by the farmers themselves. If they have returned home determined to put into practice some, at least, of the things learned, a marked improvement will be noticed a year hence. If, on the other hand, the visit to the Winter Fair is looked upon as mere pleasure seeking, the help to be derived from it will avail little. There is certainly much in the fair itself and in the lectures that cannot but be of value to every farmer if properly applied, and it should not be allowed to go to waste because of lack of application.

## The Great International

The Canadian farmer's first visit to the great International Show at Chicago

is always something in the nature of an eye-opener. The large scale on which, not only the show itself, is conducted, but also the elaborate preparation and display on which exhibitors spare no expense, the splendidly arranged and decorated stables and showings, and usually last of all, the crowning discovery that all this, which at first seems such a great thing in itself, is in reality only a small side issue to something far more momentous, the stockyards and live stock trade of Chicago, is what impresses the stranger. The magnitude of all this can only be surmised after one sees with his own eyes what is being done, and done every day, not excepting the sacred seventh day of rest. Yet the show in itself is after all the very cream of all this immensity, the choicest of the choice, with which the buyer or the breeder or the dealer seeks to connect his name for a moment above those of his fellows, and to stand forth amongst all this commonwealth of cattle men, as the one who knows his business a little better than the rest. The Canadian visitor marvels at the

stables full of such grand cattle, their numbers, the long classes of reds and whites and blacks and blues, cattle from far off Texas, meeting with others equally mighty in fairness from Minnesota and Wisconsin, Ohio and Kentucky, corn fed and grass fed, amid the blue grass of the south, off the luxuriant Alfalfa fields of the west, a galaxy of Shorthorns, Herefords, Polled-Angus, thick and curly Galloways, and grades and cross-breeds of all descriptions, in such long array as to make one wonder what a land of cattle it must be where they all come from.

Into this arena, with its galaxy of the choicest of America's nobility in live stock, Canadians have ventured, met the strongest competition in the showing, and returned with a full share of the best awards. All honor to them. They have made a name and reputation, which shall live long in the years to come.

## Is a Cattle Shortage Coming?

A few issues ago we referred to the statement of a prominent Texas cattle drover who claims that within a year or two there will be a distinct advance in the price of cattle owing chiefly to the large percentage of yearlings and calves that have been marketed this year. Following this comes the testimony of no less an authority than E. J. Hagenbarth, president of the National Live Stock Association of the United States, who is quoted as saying that in his opinion one of the greatest shortages in cattle in the history of the industry is about to come to public notice. He further states that he has information to the effect that fifty per cent. of the range stock handled by the packers this year from the range districts consisted of females.

And there is other evidence, of a more or less general nature, it is true, than that supplied by the two authorities referred to above. Owing to spaying becoming more common on the ranges and that it is now fashionable to feed young cattle, there has been a large decrease in the number of the cattle in the west and central Western States. The yearling fed out until about two years old is now a very popular class of beef. Likewise, a greater number of calves, whether heifers or steers, are now being brought from the range to the feed lot and converted into "baby beef" at from twelve to fifteen months' old. Nowadays there is little if any discrimination as between the heifer and the steer, when the former is well fattened and sold for beef under two years of age. Shrinkage in the young heifer or the spayed heifer, is no greater than in the steer, hence the favor which the