

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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freshened the pastures, the quality of the grass is not equal to that of the early summer pastures. The horses, too, will keep up in condition and do better work if kept in stable when the nights are cold and frosty. Where sheep are kept, they will require special care at this season, the lambs being kept on the freshest grass or on rape, in order to putting on flesh, that they may go into winter quarters in good heart; the sexes being separated, and the breeding ewes also given a run on better feed, to improve their condition before being mated with the rams, in order to bring them in season as early as possible in the same weeks, ensuring a large percentage of lambs with greater uniformity of size than when they come straggling along through months in spring.

Tree-planting—which is generally relegated to the spring months, when, as often occurs in the rush of work at this season, it is neglected—may advantageously be done in the autumn months, evergreens and many other varieties doing quite as well if planted in the fall as in the spring. And tree-planting is more than a mere sentiment, as it adds to the beauty of the home, furnishes shade for the stock, and improves the appearance of the farm, making it more attractive and enhancing its value in case it may be offered for sale. The farmer who is ambitious to improve his farm and surroundings, and to keep up with the progressive spirit of the age, will find plenty of work to profitably employ his time during the later months of the year.

Why the Cities Grow Big.

The last Canadian census and the last U. S. census both show that population is concentrating in cities and towns. Ten years ago 29 per cent. of the people of the States were living in towns of 8,000 or more inhabitants. The town dwellers have now increased to 32.9 per cent. This is not altogether a new tendency: it has been going on for more than one hundred years. Yes, for more than 1,000 years. The density of population tends to increase as one moves from the remote farm, through prosperous towns, thence through the suburbs and the residential quarters of a great city, reaching its most congested condition in the tenement-house areas, where the poorer class of wage-earners are packed together within easy access of their work. At various times this problem, in its different aspects, has been discussed by writers in the "Farmer's Advocate," and it will interest our readers to note the explanation given, by as thoughtful a periodical as the N. Y. Independent, of the fundamental reason why population drifts cityward. It is one of the effects of the struggle for existence. The business, and the employments in general, of the cities are highly specialized. In ninety-nine cases in a hundred, or perhaps in nine hundred and ninety-nine in a thousand, the town dweller is earning his living by some very narrow "line" of trade, or by some kind of skill or muscular activity that has been cultivated at the expense of all other aptitudes. Whether in profession, business or manual labor, he has succeeded, if at all, by concentrating his effort, his thought, his interest, his soul, on some one activity, and a great part of the capacities that he was born with have shrivelled into nothingness. Day after day he grinds away in his narrow little round.

Absolutely different in its nature and demands is the occupation of the farmer. The "jack of all trades" may be a master of none; usually he is. But the farmer who would succeed must be a jack of all trades and a master of all. His business, if the oldest of human callings, is also far and away the most difficult. The farmer who succeeds in any such degree as the business or the professional man may succeed combines with the "horse sense" that he claims for himself a great deal of scientific knowledge and business genius. He understands soils and sunsets; roots and animals; machinery and human nature;

And so, concludes the writer referred to, this problem of the growth of cities comes down to one of human ability. Cities grow because "any specimen of a man can earn his bread in town if he lets drink alone and diligently becomes a human automaton; whilst to succeed in the country he must be next of kin to an immortal genius." That Canada has so large a proportion of pre-eminently successful men among the rank and file of her farmers, at the same time supplying so many of the outstanding leaders in business and professional life, speaks volumes for the stamina and brain power of the sons of her soil.

Fairs and "Attractions."

(From the Haverhill, Mass., Gazette.)

A Boston committee recently investigated the matter of fairs, and addressed letters to a number of State secretaries of agriculture asking whether, in their opinion, the purely legitimate or the "wide-open" agricultural fair pays best in the end, financially, socially or educationally? The replies received from fifteen of the secretaries indicate that the evidence is in favor of the purely legitimate fair. It has to be conceded, of course, that educationally and socially, the "wide-open" institution is not a success, but it has been argued by many that in order to draw the crowd which is necessary for the financial support of the other features of the fair, it is necessary to have the "wide-open" accompaniment—in fact, that these side-shows are necessary for the success of the big show, an argument which is maintained even when the side-show becomes the real thing and the big show is relegated to a position of no importance. There has been very much of the same idea in the planning and management of the greater exhibitions of national importance, where the "Midway" has

been considered an essential, because of its supposed drawing powers, which the exhibits of the arts and sciences have not been credited with possessing. Now the managers of the Buffalo Pan-American have demonstrated some degree of independence of these "Midway" people, and forced them to a realization of the fact that they are in reality but a side-show, and the management of the St. Louis Exposition have gone a step farther, deciding to do without the "Midway" features altogether. The agricultural managers, on their minor scale, have evidently come to the same conclusion, for the consensus of the replies of the State officials referred to, is said to be given in the reply of Secretary True, of Wisconsin, who says: "Temporary financial advantage may be gained by ignoring the educational and social features of the fair and admitting questionable attractions, but in the long run only the clean fair will succeed, financially or otherwise." And the others are uniformly of this opinion. Secretary Bell, of Vermont, says: "The most successful fair in Vermont is purely agricultural, no side-shows or games of chance, and draws the crowd every season."

The management of our own Essex County fairs have always held strictly to this theory of fair management, and have maintained in its annual appearance the prominence of the agricultural interest, and while they have from time to time introduced popular features in the show, they have not suffered anything to be countenanced which would lower the tone of the exhibition or that would have a tendency to detract from the original purpose of this institution. In a recent appeal, indirectly issued, the belief is expressed that "the farmers of Essex County who have a very vital interest in the society, on considerations affecting the past, present and future, can materially aid this year by taking an unusual interest in the coming fair, by preparing for larger exhibits than they have made before, and by letting it become known that they are making such preparations, and that the agricultural exhibit with their co-operation will be the largest of years." It cannot be denied that the members of the society have kept the interests of the farmers at heart, and that their efforts have borne fruit, and the response to the appeal should be a general and generous one.

The letter of Mr. John B. Pettit, which we publish elsewhere, indicates that in several important particulars justice has not been done some of the staple fruits of Ontario in the selection of exhibits for the Pan-American Exhibition.

STOCK.

Sheep Stock Declining.

Mr. J. T. Critchell, in the Melbourne Pastoralists' Review, gives the approximate number of sheep in the world, as the result of inquiries made to our Board of Agriculture, the Agent-General for South Africa and Canada, the Consul for the United States, and other authorities, as follows:

Australasia.....	92,000,000
Europe.....	165,000,000
Asia.....	53,000,000
Africa.....	13,500,000
United States.....	42,000,000
Canada.....	4,500,000
Argentina.....	80,000,000
Other S. American States.....	40,000,000
Total.....	490,000,000

A trustworthy estimate in 1895, Mr. Critchell adds, gave the total at 583,000,000, and the decrease that has taken place since is general. The cause of the decrease in Australia and South Africa is known, he remarks; but we might be informed as to the meaning of the gradual diminution in the colder parts of the earth. In the last twenty-five years, it is stated, there have been reductions of 7½ per cent. in the United Kingdom, and of 46 to 60 per cent. in Belgium, Hungary, and Germany, while Denmark has lost 42 per cent. The United Kingdom, with 31,000,000 sheep, it is remarked, stands second in Europe to Russia, with 48,220,000, and fifth among the countries of the world, only Australasia, the United States, South America and Russia having more sheep.

"Marbled" Hereford Meat.

"Of all our breeds of cattle, that in which the fat and the lean are most evenly intermixed," says a British exchange, "is the Hereford, and it is for this reason that the picturesque whitefaces which have their homes in the English Midlands always find such favor with the butchers. Hereford meat, in the technique of the trade, is always 'beautifully marbled,' or, in other words, its lean and its fat are very evenly blended, and this renders their joints much more salable than those of other breeds in which the lean and fat are not so well mixed."

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