

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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VOL. XXXII.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., NOVEMBER 1, 1897.

No. 441.

EDITORIAL.

The Pig in the Political Sanctum.

The Hamilton (Ont.) *Spectator* undertakes to tell its readers that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE "pooh-poohed" pea feeding and maintained that the Canadian Government "did the proper thing in admitting cheap American corn free to feed Canadian pigs"; but that now the ADVOCATE is "down on corn." The editor of the *Spectator* may be an eminent authority on the subject of liver and bacon, but his agricultural education has been sadly neglected, and it is a matter for regret that the editor of a good newspaper like the *Spectator* has had so little time to devote to a careful study of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, by which he would have been saved from such misrepresentation as the foregoing, and from misleading those of his readers who do not happen to be subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, which stands for the interests of the farmer and stockman first, last, and all the time. Before Grit and Tory editors began to talk buncombe about the use of peas and corn the FARMER'S ADVOCATE had frequently taken occasion to sound a note of warning against the dangers of Western States methods of hog raising, which include very much more than exclusive corn feeding, bad as that may be. Fortunately, Canadian breeders and farmers (whose attention, by the way, does not happen to be exclusively devoted to swine raising) reached the front rank in producing the modern bacon type of animal long before the hog got into politics, and their good judgment will still enable them to take wise advantage of a good supply of raw material in the production of animals and their products, the basis of permanently successful farming.

The Fat Stock Show at Brantford, Ont.

The herds and flocks, large and small, of Ontario are now being sorted up and placed under fitting for the battle royal at Brantford on December 7, 8 and 9, where we shall witness the grand finale of the Provincial showing events of 1897. There is every indication that the coming Fat Stock Show will be a distinct advance upon its long line of successful predecessors. The City of Brantford is to be congratulated upon securing the presence of this great event of the stockmen, and will doubtless give it a worthy welcome. The point has sometimes been raised, in the nature of a complaint, that some of the large autumn exhibitions are so largely under the direction of city men. Whatever ground there may be for that feeling, it certainly does not exist regarding the Fat Stock Show, the directorate of which is composed almost without exception of prominent breeders and farmers, who are thoroughly versed as to the needs of the times. The prize list is a handsome one, amounting to some \$1,000 all told, apportioned among cattle (beef and dairy, the trials in the latter being actual performance at the pail), sheep, swine, and dressed poultry. The secretary of the show, Mr. F. W. Hodson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, will cheerfully furnish any information desired in regard to entries, etc. We know of no exhibition where the young farmer or stockman can study to such advantage the various types of meat-producing animals that bring the highest returns in the world's best markets to-day. Not only this, but a series of popular meetings are held during the evenings of the show, where questions of vital interest to stock raisers are discussed. We doubt not but that, in addition to the large attendance of breeders from various parts of the country, the good farmers of Brant and adjacent counties will be out in strong force, so that the gathering will in every way be commensurate with the important interests represented. The entries are reported to be 300 per cent. greater than they were at this season last year.

WM. RENMUTH, Colchester County, N. S.:—"We all like your paper very much, and would not be without it."

The Canadian Butter Trade.

During the past summer an exporter purchased one month's make of butter from an Ontario creamery-man as a sample lot for the British market. Having every confidence in the output of his establishment, the latter, before closing up a lot of the packages, placed on top of the butter a slip of parchment paper used for his pound prints, on which the name and address of his creamery was neatly printed. The butter crossed the Atlantic in due course and went into consumption, giving the best of satisfaction. Ere long the creamery-man received enquiries from several parties of whom he had no previous knowledge, asking if he could undertake to supply them regularly with butter similar to the package from which they had evidently picked up one of his parchment paper wrappers. The main lesson—though there are several others—is apparent. There need be no question about Canadian butter taking a high stand in the home market against the product of Denmark or any other country, but as Mr. Sleightholm, principal of the Western Ontario Dairy School, pointed out in our last issue, and Mr. Harrison, bacteriologist at the O. A. C., emphasizes in the present number, citing the experience of Australia, supplies must not only be uniformly choice, but be regular the year round. Butter will not improve with age; the chances are in favor of deterioration. It is idle to try and build up a satisfactory trade on spasmodic supplies on the "feast one day and a famine the next" principle. The British consumer, if pleased, will be a steady customer, because constancy is a national characteristic. The increasing consumption per capita of butter as compared with cheese is a tendency which should encourage the butter producer, especially in the face of the fact that British imports of butter increased from \$65,489,268 in 1894 to \$74,674,537 in 1896, or a gain of over \$9,000,000 in two years, while the imports of cheese were increasing at a very much slower rate, from \$22,752,290 in 1895 to \$23,848,749 in 1896, or an increase of only \$1,000,000 worth. There would seem good reason, then, for confidence in the butter trade. In the immense areas of Canada suitable for dairying there is, however, ample room for the continuance of the great cheese industry which has given the Dominion world-wide fame, together with an immense increase in buttermaking. Districts and dairymen now devoted to cheesemaking with satisfactory results would probably do well to continue giving it their main attention; but in view of the growth of winter dairying at cheese factories, makers who are wise will at once qualify themselves by a course at one of the dairy schools or otherwise for buttermaking.

Pasteurizing and the use of special cultures as starters are means of attaining uniform flavor and better keeping qualities, with which practically nothing has yet been attempted in Canada, but presenting an important field for investigation and advance. With regard to the use of preservatives, to which Mr. Harrison refers, we might say that, at the request of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Mr. J. S. Larke, the representative of the Canadian Government in Australia, investigated the subject carefully and reported adversely in our issue of Nov. 2, 1896, and June 15, 1897. Australians have used a good deal of "Preservitas," the basis of which is said to be boracic acid, but considering the relatively cool climate of Canada and its nearness to England, where there has been an agitation against these expedients, Canada need not meddle with them; in fact, Mr. Larke expressed the opinion that our goods might with advantage be advertised as absolutely free from all such questionable ingredients. Absolute cleanliness, with the best of modern methods in manufacture and transportation, and the use of salt to suit the consumer's taste, along with regular shipments, will

enable Canada "to have and to hold" a splendid position in the British market.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE predicts an increased home consumption of butter also. At a late date in October the creameries in the Northwest had not closed, and the butter was being disposed of—chiefly in British Columbia—as rapidly as customers could be found for it. We are pleased to state that out of a total make of over 10,000 boxes there were on October 25th less than 300 boxes not yet disposed of, in cold storage at Montreal, and that would have been shipped before but for the great engineers' strike and other causes which have depressed the British market.

The Manitoba Elevator Monopoly.

The above question was brought up before the Winnipeg Grain Exchange recently in the shape of the following motion, and, as would be expected, was defeated by a majority of 28 to 9. It was moved by J. K. McLennan, seconded by W. T. Gibbons:

"That, whereas, an impression obtains in certain quarters that an elevator monopoly and grain combine exist in Northwestern Canada to the prejudice of the best interests of the people at large, the same having recently been the subject of considerable newspaper controversy here and in Eastern Canada: we, the members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, having the well-being of our city and Province at heart, and feeling the importance of taking prompt action in connection with this vital question, in order to indicate to the farmers, upon whose efforts largely depends the general prosperity of our country, the fact that our organization as a body is opposed to monopoly and combines in every form; therefore, we hereby request as a simple and effective solution of the whole difficulty that the C. P. R. Company abrogate forthwith their present regulation which prohibits farmers and others from loading direct on cars at elevator points."

As has been previously stated in these columns, there exists a very general belief among farmers that a combine obtains between four large elevator companies, and to our minds there has been ample evidence adduced to prove the existence of a combine or pooling arrangement between these concerns. Referring to this matter previously, we gave our reasons for believing that if the C. P. R. abolished the so-called elevator monopoly clause in their regulations, that the keystone which permit pooling arrangements and the regulation of prices by the big wheat companies would be knocked out, and the chief cause of the very general complaints among the farmers would then be removed. Of course the C. P. R. argues that they could not possibly supply sufficient cars to handle the traffic if farmers were permitted to load off wagons. But there is no difficulty experienced in this regard on the Northern Pacific nor on the Manitoba Northwestern, where there is no obnoxious elevator clause prohibiting farmers from loading on cars direct from wagons. As a matter of fact, the freedom to ship without putting wheat through the elevators practically does away with the necessity for it.

Tuberculosis at Ottawa Experimental Farm.

For the second time the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has had an unfortunate experience with tuberculosis among its cattle stock. The first case officially reported there was in July, 1891; others were discovered before the close of the year, and again in 1892, when in November the tuberculin test was first used. From then until February, 1894, when Bulletin Number 20th, giving a history of the trouble, was issued, fifty-four head were tested and twenty-six gave the reaction indicating disease. The other twenty-eight were regarded as sound and healthy. Besides the older animals slaughtered, twelve young calves were killed out of consideration. From the Central Farm breeding stock went to the four branch farms, where the disease also appeared. In the present instance twenty-six out of fifty-two animals are reported diseased. A full report is promised, which may indicate the relation, if any, of this to the former outbreak. A rigid investigation into all the circumstances is needed. Evidently there is much yet to learn regarding tuberculosis, the test, and the subject generally.

Another opportunity is thus afforded to demonstrate the efficiency of the methods of dealing with the ailment that have been recommended to others; and at the same time there is no occasion for a newspaper "scare" on the subject.