



SELDON.
Gaited saddle horse. Owned by E. F. Frego, Hoopeston, Ill.

receive fresh inspiration for work. No two States work along the same lines. In some cases there is little or no system, the superintendent working as best he can with a moderate grant; in fact, in some States there is no special grant at all. In other States there is a liberal grant, but the exactions of legislative enactment are most vigorous and restraining to a man of enterprise. In some States the Superintendent plays a free hand; in others he is secretary of the State Board, and is closely tied down by a cumbersome body. On the whole, I believe the Ontario system combines the best features of the most successful U. S. systems, though there are here and there points at which we can improve. The two things that struck me as to our advantage are the permanency and thoroughness of our local organizations and the flexibility of our work through having it responsible to a Minister.

THE GREAT NEED.

In nearly every State the work has been started from the agricultural college and experiment station, and even now in some cases the men attached to these institutions are carrying on the work with little assistance and no encouragement except from the farmers. College and station work is growing so rapidly that the professors and experimenters are finding themselves unable to meet the demands, and from all directions came up the cry: "How shall we get good workers and speakers?" Again and again this was discussed by the Association. "Men wanted—where and how shall we get them?" The work is great and the laborers are few; that is, laborers able and acceptable. In some States the scientific experts are still looked upon with a little suspicion; in other States the purely practical man with no scientific training will not do. The happy medium, the man who knows and who can do, the rare combination of theory and practice, this is what is wanted, and the need is felt in the South as well as in the North. Many useful suggestions were made by various directors, but perhaps this one may be selected: The man chosen for Institute work must take the agricultural papers and he must receive the reports and bulletins of the colleges and stations, and must read them. He must keep himself abreast of the latest work in scientific agriculture.

AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Though the subject of the teaching of agriculture in our public schools had been allotted to me, there was no special necessity for placing it formally on the programme—it cropped up again and again; it would not stay down, as we say. The Hon. Secretary of Agriculture grew eloquent and waxed strong on the subject, and if some of the educationists of America could have heard him they would have shaken in their shoes at his arraignment of their short-sightedness in regard to this matter. One thing is certain, the farmers of America are gradually becoming thoroughly aroused to the necessity of giving their boys and girls some special instruction in the simple principles of agricultural science, and those who stand by doing nothing and those who stand in the way blindly opposing will, one of these days, be swept out of the way. It was evident that some of the States are ahead of Ontario on this question, and that agriculture and nature-study (which are practically the same subject) are making substantial progress in some of the States of the Union.

WOMAN'S WORK, AND OTHER THINGS.

Woman's work received some attention. We

had two fine papers on the teaching of domestic science. Miss Jacobs, Director of Cooking Schools for the City of Washington, gave us a most comprehensive paper on the best methods for towns and cities, while Miss Breed, of Norfolk, Va., showed what a band of devoted women had done for the negro children of the rural schools of Virginia. Miss Breed's was one of the best home missionary papers I have heard for many a year, and recalled the days of old, when the Southerner took a loving interest in the welfare of the slaves.

There were other subjects discussed. We were told how a western railroad company engages men to conduct Farmers' Institutes in the country through which their road runs. And why not? But I must bring this to a close.

Secretary Wilson talked to us of tea and tobacco, of rice and macaroni, of dates and of peaches, of cotton and silk, and we concluded that though agriculture may be a very wide field when applied to Ontario, when the continent is concerned it becomes the most comprehensive and most interesting subject engaging the attention of mankind.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture will publish the report of this convention in pamphlet form, and many of our Institute workers will be able to read it. But the most interesting and the most helpful part of such a convention does not appear in the printed report. The best part of such a convention is to be had in the personal talks and the comparison of notes made between sessions in the little groups where men disclose the secrets of their work, as they do not in the formal meeting. Our workers will have a chance of attending the convention next year, for, with great cordiality, they accepted the invitation to meet in Toronto the last week of June, 1903, under the presidency of Prof. W. C. Latka, of Indiana. Our Superintendent, Mr. Creelman, remains as secretary, so that we count on having a good programme. Mark the date and keep it marked.

C. C. JAMES.

STOCK.

An Effective Dog Law Needed.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—There is no doubt that in this western end of Nova Scotia, apple-raising is what we can do best. Farmers have become better acquainted with the better methods of dealing with the orchard, and no longer set out a few apple trees in the greensward and expect them to shift for themselves. Many are also beginning to realize that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches (for one year only), and are packing their apples more honestly. I might name many farmers who always get top prices for their fruit simply because people know their fruit is well packed. Last year both crop and prices were good, and this year the crop also promises well, except in some low-lying districts, where an untimely frost nipped the buds.

Reverting to other subjects, let me say: Do use all your influence to have the Governments abate the dog nuisance. The present Sheep Protection Act of Nova Scotia is absolutely inoperative. I would suggest that a man be allowed to kill any dog found straying at any time on a sheep farm. At present it can only be done after dark or when he is seen worrying the sheep.

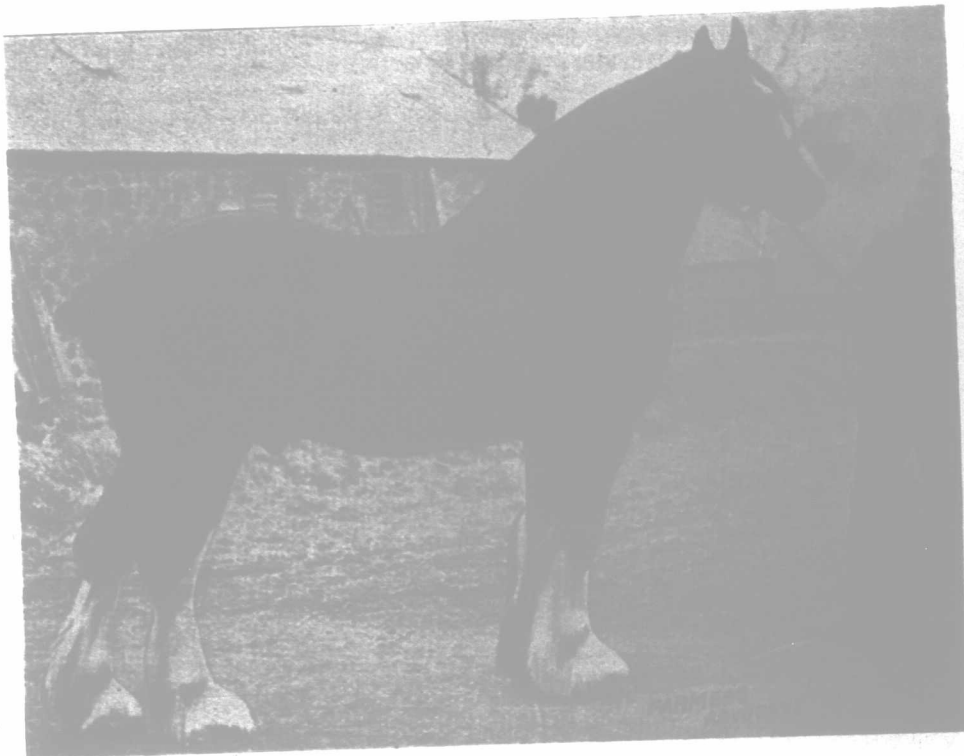
Secondly.—Let the municipalities put a substantial tax, say five dollars, on all dogs, and collect it and apply the fund towards the loss sustained by sheep-owners through this plague.
Hants Co., N. S. W. H. B.

Mating for Early Lambs.

Mr. J. S. Woodward, of Niagara County, New York, who is regarded as an authority on mutton-raising, says: "Very many methods have been suggested to make the ewes accept the ram in hot weather, a very necessary thing for the winter lamb-raiser, and I think we have tried about all of them. Sometimes we have thought we had a sure method, only to find the next year that it had no merit at all. It is not natural for sheep to mate till cool weather in the fall, but there is a great difference in breeds. Take the Dorset, for instance; they have been long used for raising early lambs, and have become accustomed to breeding much earlier than any other breed. In fact, a Dorset ewe, if rightly treated, will breed at almost any time of year. But they are not plentiful enough to fill the demand for early lamb-raising, and we want to know how it can be brought about to induce the ordinary grade sheep of the country to breed out of season. Much depends upon the breed of the ram. A Leicester or Cotswold ram can hardly be induced to associate with a flock of ewes before cool nights in October, while a Dorset ram will follow with the ewes at all seasons, regardless of the heat. And there is no disputing the fact that the constant attention of the ram will have much influence in bringing the ewes into condition. I have no faith whatever in any system of medication further than the effect of feed upon the ewes. The largest percentage of ewes we ever had to drop lambs before New Year's was several years ago, when, during the great railroad strikes, we had a flock of ewes tied up in the stock-yards at Detroit for over a week. We could get nothing for them to eat but stock-yards hay—poor, wild hay—with no grain, and before we got them home they looked pretty hard. We then turned them in to good feed, put rams with them, with the result that a remarkably large proportion dropped lambs in December. Since that time I have always found that ewes that were gaining were more disposed to accept the ram, and that is the only thing upon which we place any reliance. We manage to have our ewes in such condition at the beginning of the season that by turning them in to good pasture they will begin to gain, and we also sometimes give a little extra food like wheat bran—anything to start them gaining—and then see to it that the ram is of such breed that he will persistently follow the ewe.

Hog Raising Declining in England.

The live-stock statistics of England show that there are less hogs to-day in that country than at any time since 1893. For this decline various reasons are suggested. One is that the restrictions made necessary through swine fever has made hog-raising less profitable than formerly. Again, it is said that in some districts the farmers are giving up cheese and butter making, and selling their milk to dairy factories in the large cities, thus disposing of the skim milk and whey, which heretofore constituted a valuable part of their swine ration.



ROYAL FAVOURITE (10630).

Five-year-old Clydesdale stallion.

BRED AND OWNED BY MR. ANDREW DEWAR, ARNPRIOR, SCOTLAND.