

The Hartney District.

From this District has come wheat good enough to win at world's fairs or expositions, and also in hot competition at our own big show—The Winnipeg Industrial. This year's wheat crop is a record one, and will mean the wiping off of indebtedness or a snug bank account to many a resident of the District. Well supplied with elevators and flour mills and two railroads, Hartney should want for little, especially so as it is backed up by one of the best and largest wheat districts in Manitoba, peopled with prosperous farmers who work large areas of land. The local agricultural society is building a combined agricultural hall and skating rink. The quarter-section man is very scarce in this District. Halves, three quarters or entire sections are the common sizes, so that under such conditions wheat farming is at a premium, and stock-raising is as yet not much gone into. East and south of the town lies the finest land and biggest farms: W. H. Galbraith with a section and a half, E. C. Nixon with a section, Frank Henry a section, Ab. Colter 640 acres, H. Cowan over a section of land, and the reeve with three sections, all carrying field after field which are expected to yield from 20 to 35 bushels to the acre of 1 hard. The bare appearance which this prairie presented 15 years ago has disappeared, and now the farmsteads are shaded and sheltered by trees, the enclosures being devoted to small-fruit raising and gardening. Windmills, brick houses and fine barns all bear witness to the prosperity of this highly-favored District. Other large farms are those of J. D. Ross, W. C. Robinson, the Turnbells, the Whites, the Somervilles, F. Hill and W. Muir. G. Agnew, while farming extensively, is also into pure-bred stock, as is Jno. Aikenhead. While some agitation has been made towards the establishment of a creamery at the town, it is doubtful whether it could be made to go. South-west of the town are to be found the Shillingtons, J. B. Alcock, N. E. Cresselman, and the mammoth farmer, Chas. Thomas, whose extensive holdings necessitated the employment of six binders to cut his crop. In what is known as Melgund such good farmers as Wm. Higgins, Geo. Morrison, once stockman at the world's famous Collynie farm of Duthie; Jas. Duthie, a cousin of the great Scotch Short-horn breeder of that name, and A. H. McGaffin, whose buildings and location are beautiful, as well as useful for general farming and stock-raising. The President of the Agricultural Society, Jno. R. Shepherd, has extensive holdings, as have also the Gibsons, the Keelers, George Bennett and Alex. Macdonald. Across the river, sand hills and bluffs, sloughs and lakes abound, and a country suited only for more diversified farming is found. A large number of the residents in that district are French, French-Canadian and Belgian. Dairying is quite an industry, large quantities of cream being shipped from Deleau frequently. Hereford cattle are raised in numbers near Deleau by Fred West and J. E. Maples, the latter well known in the show-rings. Grades of the beef type are given range conditions on the ranch of Frank Hill, the District's stock buyer and shipper. Even the townsmen dabble in agriculture, the local bank manager, E. K. Strathy, being the owner of a good farm in close proximity to the town, as well as an extensive operator in horned and other live stock.

Percentage of Foals and Stallion Fees.

Of special interest is an appendix to the last report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding. In this appendix details are given of the number of mares served in the several districts in which the sires selected for premiums under the Royal Commission in Horse Breeding have stood for over ten years, and the number of foals got as the result of such services. The returns are very interesting, as showing that the percentage of foals is much lower than is usually supposed. In only two instances did the proportion of foals to services exceed sixty per cent., and in the majority of cases the average ranged from 56 to 58. In the year 1899—the last for which the figures are forthcoming—the average percentage of foals was 56, and two of the sires had a proportion of under 40 foals for every 100 mares served. On the strength of these returns the percentage of foals to services in the case of Thoroughbred sires may be put down as 58 per cent.

No statistics seem to be available as to the percentage of foals from heavy-draft stallions, which is to be regretted, as the question of stallion fees depends to a great extent on the percentage of foals got. In this respect stallion fees are not always based on the amount of money invested in the stallion and his ability to earn a sufficient amount to make him a good investment. Writing along this line some time ago, J. A. S. Macmillan, of Brandon, suggests \$12 as a reasonable fee. At the present time, owing to the increased prices paid for horseflesh, stallion

fees are somewhat higher, \$14 and \$15 being the mark during the last season. A good stallion costs from \$1,000 up, first-class horses fit to win running from \$1,500 to \$2,000 in price. At such prices, with 60 as the foaling percentage, the stallion fee cannot reasonably be expected to go below \$12-\$15. Interest on the money invested, the cost of handling, deterioration in value, advertising and insurance (which cannot be got for the full value of the horse) will mean on an investment of \$1,500 at least \$400 a year, to which should be added the year's keep, and a sum for incidentals such as harness, veterinary services and shoeing. The earnings may be materially lessened for the season if a venereal disease be contracted from a diseased mare, as oftentimes happens, or if the stallion get kicked at the time of service, either of which will lay him off for two to four weeks in a season. The moves of the scrub-stallion peddler can only be checkmated at present by the charging of a reasonable fee by the owners of the high-class horse. On the other hand, extortionate prices by which a stallion owner seeks to pay for a horse in one season can only redound to his own disfavor and encourage the peddler of the scrub to persist with his nefarious traffic. Possibly no better example of the flimflam game has been shown than the high fees (\$25-\$50) charged for the use of some trotting-bred stuff whose main qualification was a long pedigree, containing possibly a grandsire who went in '20, and who also got a '30 horse. The Manitoba Horse Breeders' Association might do something towards securing some statistics regarding percentages of foals, and thus pave the way for a discussion regarding stallion fees at the annual meeting next winter.

Flavor in Dairy Products.

A student of dairying will have noticed at the fairs where the score card obtains that in nearly all the exhibits points were lost on flavor. Since the commercial value of dairy products is determined in a high degree by their flavor and odors, and since these qualities are judged through the sense of smell, which all know is delicate and keen, and since only small quantities of odor or flavor are sufficient to produce unfavorable impressions, it is evident that the greatest of care must be exercised in the production, handling and care of the dairy products through all the steps preceding their delivery to the consumer. Knowing all this, it therefore follows that too great care in keeping milk clean cannot be taken, and that only those who do so can hope to secure the best-paying customers—people who are willing to pay well for milk, cream, butter or cheese that suits them.

Odors and flavors find their way into milk by three different avenues: (1) From the blood at the time the milk is secreted; (2) from the outside after the milk is drawn; (3) by being produced within the milk after it has been secreted, before or after it is drawn.

Any volatile principle which may be in the blood of the animal at the time the milk is drawn will find its way into the milk, and will impart a quality to it, the intensity of the flavor or odor depending upon the amount of the volatile principle present, and the readiness with which it evaporates. The majority of foodstuffs contain substances which produce odors, and if these substances are not destroyed during the process of digestion, they will again escape from the animal body, through the excretory channels, viz., the skin, kidneys, lungs, rectum or udder, and if any of these principles remain in the blood at the time the milk is being drawn they will appear in it. It follows, therefore, that the longer the interval of time between the taking of food into the body and the drawing of the milk, the less danger there will be of the milk being tainted by it. In practice we know of dairymen who were careful to observe this precaution when feeding substances very liable to taint the milk, such as turnips or rape, feeding them right after milking. The reason for the above is found in the fact that the milk is excreted during the milking, while the blood is coursing through the udder, carrying whatever odor-producing substances may then be present.

TIME TO FEED ODOR-PRODUCING FOODS.

It is clear from the above statement that there is a time more suitable than another for feeding such foods which would be apt to leave the milk charged with the odor principles. We can make one assertion, however, and that is, if possible let the dairyman totally avoid such feeds, and thus save himself trouble. On the other hand, if his circumstances force the use of the odor-carrying principles, they should be fed as stated above—as soon as possible after milking, and never just before, in order that time enough may have elapsed to permit the odors to have been thrown out by the excretory organs, instead of the udder. If, however, the feed contains a principle whose odor is desired in the milk, then the food in question should be fed just previous to milking.

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.

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:

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| 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.