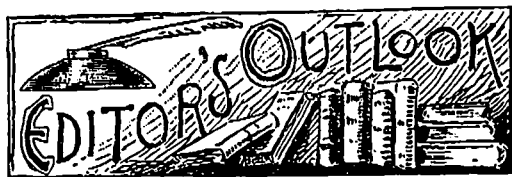




### March.

I thought that March was wildest in the twelve,  
With dreary fields whose shining garments show  
But ragged edges left along the walls;  
A riotous youth that cares but for his will,  
Sending the dust awl with boisterous breath,  
And wrestling with the elms along the lane,  
Then playing saucy tricks with pretty girls  
Who seek to hide from him beneath their veils,  
And with rude frolics sending old men's hats  
A merry race. No good I knew of him,  
Till once, quite sudden made his confidante,  
I found that March, like many another, hides  
His sweetest and his fairest from men's sight.  
Within a forest nook where his wild winds  
Were lulling breezes, covered by dead leaves,  
Sweet-breathing, pink-cheeked babies curled asleep  
He showed me: then with mad hurrah was off;  
But carried in his breath arbutus scent.

—M. F. Butts.



THE importations of cattle, sheep and swine for breeding purposes last year were large. Among the Ontario imports were 29 Jerseys, 36 Holsteins, 11 Durhams, and 32 Galloways. In sheep the imports numbered 1,994, of which 1,263 were Shropshires. Sir John Lester-Kaye brought into the country during the year for his Northwest farms 396 sheep, 65 swine, and 99 cattle.

HON. MR. CARLING'S report of the Agricultural Department laid before Parliament is of considerable interest in so far as it relates to immigration. The assisted immigration system was discontinued on April 27th last resulting in a rise in the emigrant passage rate on the ocean lines from £3 to £4, but despite this there has been as steady a stream of immigration as in former years, the total arrivals being 174,474 as against 175,579 in 1887. The number of actual settlers last year was 88,766 as against 84,526 in 1887. It is gratifying to know that the stoppage of assisted passages has brought out a very superior class of immigrants, the pauper element being conspicuous by its absence.

THE official report on Canada's foreign trade should give Canadians cause for rejoicing. It is almost incredible that our exports to Great Britain have exceeded those to the United States by nearly \$120,000,000 during the last sixteen years, but such is the case. Our exports of cheese last year were valued at nearly \$9,000,000, and our export cattle trade aggregated over \$5,000,000; while \$813,000 worth of apples, \$127,000 worth of poultry, and eggs to the value of over \$2,000,000 were exported. Farmers, by paying more attention to the production of these commodities and by combining to introduce factories for butter and cheese-making, would provide themselves with a profitable investment for their capital.

ONE of the most pleasing features of the report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture is the progress of the ranches of our Northwest Territories. Besides supplying the local market they have had a surplus of between four and five thousand head of cattle to export to Europe, and it is gratifying to learn that good profits have accrued from these exportations where the animals were carefully selected and shipped. When the high price that had to be given for beef in the Northwest a few years ago is considered, the benefit to local consumers by now having an abundant sup-

ply at reasonable figures must be great. The horse ranches are also doing well and a brisk and profitable trade with the old country is looked for in the near future.

DURING last year about 1,500,000 boxes of cheese were exported from the port of Montreal, being the largest exports in the history of the trade. Strange to say, the exports of butter were the smallest in the history of the trade, being only 22,000 packages against 78,000 packages in 1887, and 71,000 in 1886. What is the cause of the marked falling-off in the butter export trade? Probably it is because our butter is too good for export and it is impossible to get a paying price in view of the cheap manufactured article, made from American oleo, thrown upon the English market.

THE report of the Department of Interior was laid before the Dominion Parliament on February 26th. The report states that during last year in the Northwest 420,333 acres have been homesteaded which is the largest area homesteaded since 1884. During the same period 70,521 acres were pre-empted and 197,140 acres sold. The total area of land taken off the hands of the Government was 678,994 acres. But 2,655 homestead entries and 454 pre-emption entries have been cancelled, an unusually large number. The total cash revenue of the Department was \$212,606. The report states that the settlers have never had better crops and there has been practically no damage by frosts. The prospects for the future in regard to settlement are exceedingly bright.

THE Dominion Parliament, on motion of Mr. Adam Brown, M. P., has appointed a special committee to enquire into frauds practised on farmers by bogus seed agents, lightning rod men, etc., and to devise means by which farmers may be protected from these swindlers. The appointment of such a committee has been made none too soon and it is to be hoped that the results of their investigations will be such as to put an end once for all to the systematic frauds practised on the farming community. The farmer, as a rule, is easily duped because he has only occasional dealings with other men and he has difficulty in learning to mistrust them. Other people by continually dealing with other men learn to be always on their guard against treachery, but not so the farmer, and it is a bitter experience when he finds his confidence made his bane. It is astonishing, however, that they are not thoroughly alert to the devices of these swindlers in view of the constant exposures in the press of their modes of operation.

THERE is a man in Brooklyn, N. Y., who is anxious to get his name handed down to posterity as a leader in the noble cause of the advancement of his fellow-beings. He has written to the New York papers propounding the interesting theory that men, women and children can acquire the power to wag the ears possessed by mules, horses, dogs and other dumb animals. He explains his theory in this way: "If the face be contorted into what is known as a broad grin, from ear to ear, as it were, it will be observed that the ears progress more or less toward the crown of the head; repeat, gradually suppressing the actual grin, and allowing its force to expend itself at the ends, right and left, and the ears can be raised without any other change of expression." He believes that by assiduous practice on this line everybody will eventually be able to wag his ears as easily and freely as a mule in fly time. He does not say what benefit human beings will derive from the ability to wag their ears, which is to be sincerely regretted. Perhaps he thought that was unnecessary as one's imagination would supply the omission.

THERE is not much legislation of special interest to the farming community to be dealt with at this session of the Ontario Legislature. Hon. Chas.

Drury has introduced an amendment to the Agricultural Act authorizing the Entomological Society to elect only five directors instead of thirteen, and to divide the thirteen agricultural districts into five groups, each of which must elect a resident as a member of the Board. Another amendment is to empower township and horticultural societies to unite their funds for exhibition purposes; while another amendment is to devise a scheme for organizing agricultural societies in unorganized districts by providing a judge to fill the functions of a reeve in that respect. Another bill is of interest to farmers along the north shore of Lake Ontario. It is to prevent the removal of stone, sand and gravel from the shores of the lake. Representations had been made to the government that the land was being washed away by reason of this natural protection being removed. The bill is to compel parties to get the consent of owners to the removal of stone, sand, or gravel, otherwise they will render themselves liable to punishment.

THE third Spring Stallion Show of the Clydesdale Horse Association will be held in the Drill Shed, Toronto, on March 14th. Entries must be made to the Secretary, Mr. Henry Wade, Toronto, not later than March 9th. From the large number of entries already made the show should prove a most successful one. Several very valuable prizes are offered. It is a pity that in such a large city as Toronto there should be such miserable accommodation for live stock shows. There has been considerable talk for some years about procuring a commodious and suitable building but it has amounted to nothing else but talk. There should be a building devoted entirely to the interests of agriculturists where besides holding these shows there should be rooms in which to hold the annual meetings of associations and other bodies connected with the agricultural industry. Bitter complaints were made by those who attended the last annual meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute at the poor accommodation afforded them, and, if the citizens of Toronto do not bestir themselves and show some practical interest in their country brethren by providing them with a comfortable meeting place, they will find that some other city will do so and thereby reap the benefits to be derived from the influx of farmers and others. The "Queen City of the West" has justly earned for herself an enviable name for rapid progress in wealth and population, but she should not in her pride and popularity neglect to do all in her power for the comfort and convenience of a community that has helped in no small degree to make her what she is.

WE have received a communication in which the writer claims that the increased use of machinery is in danger of bringing about an over-production on the one hand, and a lack of employment on the other. We do not agree with this view. Our progressing civilization increases the demands of the people, and more laborers are required to produce what our advanced needs require. It cannot be denied that we dress better, have better furnished houses, and have more luxuries than our ancestors. Consider the number of new inventions such as the telephone, which has called for the services of thousands of men and women as linemen, operators, manufacturers of implements, inspectors, clerks, etc. It has also created and stimulated a number of allied industries such as wire making. Look into the statistics of the agricultural implementing business, and the large number of men making mowers, harvesters, plows, cultivators, rakes, harrows, etc. Think of the large number of people employed in making pianos, organs, fine carpets, and other luxuries unknown in farmers' homes years ago, and the vast number of employees necessitated by the modern newspaper and the telegraph. Where an invention throws one person out of employment it is apt to make employment for a great many more. The only trouble is the confusion, caused by the temporary loss of business and disturbance sometimes arising by a new invention causing one to adapt himself to new conditions. The more the world progresses, the more we want, the cheaper and more accessible become the new commodities, and the more people it takes to serve us.