AGRICULTURAL.

The Forsaken Farmhouse.

Against the wooded hills it stands,
Ghost of a dead home staring through
Its broken lights on wasted lands,
Where old-time harvests grew.

Unplowed, unsown, by scythe unshorn,
The poor, forsaken farm fields lie,
Once rich and rife with golden corn
And pale green breadths of rye.

Of healthful herb and flower bereft,
The garden no housewife keeps:
Through weeds and tangle only left,
The snake, its tenant, creeps.

A lilac spray, once blossom-clad,
Sways bare before the empty rooms;
Beside the roofless porch a sad,
Pathetic red rose blooms.

His track, in mould and dust of drouth,
On floor and hearth the squirrel leaves,
And in the fireless chimney's mouth
His web the spider weaves.

The leaning barn, about to fall,
Resounds no more on husking eves;
No cattle low in yard or stall,
No thresher beats his sheaves.

So sad, so drear! it seems almost
Some haunting presence makes its sign,
That down yon shadowy lane some ghost
Might drive his spectral kine!

J. G. WHITTIER.

Our Experimental Farms.

The report on the Dominion experimental farms by William Saunders, which has just been published, contains a deal of information in regard to the progress of the work, and also contains the evidence given before the committee on agriculture and colonization of the House of Commons.

The distribution of seed grain for test is held to be one of the most important branches of work carried on at the experimental farm. The great interest which has been awakened in this subject far exceeds our anticipations. Last year requests were made for samples of grain to the extent of 12,353. These came from 5,896 different farmers, and these, having been supplied, would not, in most cases, receive samples this year. We have, however, had applications in 1891 from 4,388 additional parties, which has involved the further distribution of 11,230 3 lb. samples, or between 16 and 17 tons of seed grain. There are at the present time growing on the experimental farm 69 named varieties of wheat, 61 of oats, 29 of 2-rowed barley, 22 of 6-rowed barley, or 181 varieties of cereals in all. To these must be added the new crosses and hybrids which have been originated on the Central Experimental Farm. There are now 114 varieties of grain growing on the farm, which are entirely new, and which have been produced by bringing different varieties of grain together and by cross fertilizing.

The special tests with fertilizers have been continued; 105 plots, of one-tenth of an acre each, are devoted to this special work, where the same fertilizers are applied each season, with test-plots not fertilized amongst them for comparison. The same varieties of grain are grown on these plots every year, and it is hoped that we shall thus be able, in the course of a few years, to ascertain the effects of each fertilizer or group of fertilizers on the crops under treatment.

The tests of grain as to vitality have also been continued during this spring. Last year there were received for test 1,245 samples, many of them coming from farmers residing in distant parts of the Dominion, who desired to know if the grain they held in stock for seed was suitable for that purpose. Every farmer in the Dominion has the privilege of sending to the farm samples of grain through the mail free of postage; they are tested and the information is given free of charge with as little delay as possible. This season, between the 1st of January and seeding time, 2,757 samples were tested and reported on.

Some additions have also been made to the stock on the Central Experimental Farm. A few Durhams of good milking families have been added to the herd, also some Devons and Galloways; eight Quebec Jerseys or Canadian cows have been selected in the eastern part of Quebec, these being good representatives of that particular family of cows, the descendants of the importations from Normandy by the early French settlers. These cows are promising as milkers, and give rich milk. Feeding experiments are being tried with the different breeds, and experiments also in crossing. During the year an experimental dairy building has been erected, supplied with the necessary apparatus for carrying on butter making in the most approved manner. There is a store room also, in this building, for curing cheese, where some of the products of the experimental dairy stations, which are now being organized by Prof. Robertson, will be stored.

A piggery has been built and stocked with four pure breeds of pigs. Six pens were also filled with grade animals, which have been submitted to feeding tests during the winter. Most of these have lately been disposed of, as the experiments are concluded. An engine-house has also been erected, with shafting running the full length of the barn, so that conveniences may be available for threshing, also for grinding and cutting food wherever required. The planting of shelter belts of trees around the farm is nearly completed, over 3,000 trees having been planted this season. The objects in planting these are to afford shelter and also demonstrate the rate of growth of the different varieties in this part of the Dominion.

Perhaps no feature of the farm work will convey a clearer idea as to the interest which farmers are taking in what is going on than the increase in the correspondence between the farmers of the country and the experimental farm. The letters received at the Central Experimental Farm in 1889 numbered 6,864, whereas during the same period in 1890 the number was 17,539, an increase of nearly three-fold. The number of bulletins and reports sent out in response to applications in 1889 amounted to 41,584; last year they numbered 218,129, more than four times as many as in the previous year. The names on the permanent mailing list, which have been put on by special request, number now over 21,000, showing that the reports and bulletins are in great demand.

The horticultural department at the Central farm, under Mr. John Craig, is making good progress, and a large number of additions have been made to the fruit trees. There are now on the experimental farm over 500 varieties of large fruits, including apples, pears, plums and cherries; also, 343 varieties of small fruits, such as grapes, raspberries, strawberries, currants and gooseberries. Besides these there are several hundred sorts of new fruits, which have been produced either by selection or by crossing. The question of vegetables has also been taken up on a rather large scale during the past year, and is again under process of test this season. Last year 51 varieties of cabbage were tested, 57 of tomatoes, 50 of peas, 31 of cauliflower, 32 of lettuce and celery, with smaller numbers of other vegetables. The different qualities of many of these sorts are taken note of and the results submitted in the annual report. In the horticultural branch experiments have also been carried on with regard to the treatment of apple scab. You all know that the black scab on apples lessens the value of a large quantity of the fruit produced in Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces. It is believed that this disease can be prevented or checked by the use of fungicides if applied at the proper time. Experiments have been conducted to determine the best time to apply such remedies, the strength of the mixtures which should be used and the most economical and convenient methods of making the application. Bulletin No. 10 contains the results of this special work on apple scab.

The demands from Manitoba and the North-west for samples of forest trees for experimental planting on the plains have been very great. One hundred thousand trees had been secured and arrangements made to put those up in 1,000 packages of 100 trees each, thinking this would be an ample supply; but within five or six weeks after the announcement was made 2,600 applications were received. The requests were complied with, as far as the material would allow, and a circular was sent to those who did not receive any, stating that if any further distribution was decided on their names would be considered first. By instruction of the Minister, preparations were made to distribute 200,000 more in the spring of 1891, taking first the names of those who applied last year. This has been done, and about 400 additional applicants applied.

In the chemical branch, conducted by Mr. F. T. Shutt, excellent progress has also been made. A number of samples of soil from the different provinces, including alkaline soils from the North-west, also heavy soils from the far western plains, have been analyzed, with a view to determine the relative fertility of these different soils. Similar work has been done on samples of muck, peat and muds from the eastern provinces, for the purpose of finding out how far these can be used as fertilizers.

Sugar beets, grasses, milk, fodder plants and other products have been analyzed.

The etomologist and botanist, Mr. James Fletcher, has also been doing very useful work. He has experimented to a large extent on injurious insects, especially on those which attack the more important crops of the country. Much of his time is necessarily occupied in giving information to correspondents who apply to him in cases of special invasion.

In the botanical department a large number of experiments have been conducted with grasses likely to be useful to the different provinces of the Dominion. Nearly 150 varieties of these are now under test for hardiness, productiveness and general usefullness for agricultural purposes.

Very satisfactory reports are given of the progress made on the farms at Nappan, N. S., Brandon, Indian Head and Agassiz, B.C.

Scours in Calves.

Recently a writer in speaking of the care of calves has this to say about the ill effects of scours:

"Hundreds of calves die annually, or are stunted in growth by this scourge and it may be said to be a voluntary sacrifice, as by the exercise of good judgment in feeding, the disease may be wholly prevented or at least its fatal termination avoided, for in nine cases out of ten, scours will be found to be the effect of neglect, in one way or another. Perhaps the change from whole to skim milk is made too suddenly; or perhaps the milk is given the calf either too hot or too cold; or if the calf is not yet weaned, it is allowed to suck its dam when the latter is over-heated or excited. In all these cases scours is almost sure to be the result of quite apparent neglect or carelessness. Occasionally, however, a case may occur without any apparent cause. Very likely the calf has a sour stomach, but the feeder does not notice anything wrong and is quite surprised to see after a while that the calf has an attack of the scours. If the case were taken in hand when first noticed, it would be found to be very easy to deal with; but generally it is neglected in the hope that it will cure itself, or as it is conveniently called, "run its course." Too often, it does run its course—not a very long one, to be sure, but a very effective one—dysentery and death.

"Prevention is a hundred times better than cure, and by the exercise of sound udgment and intelligence in feeding, scours may be entirely prevented. If, however, a case develops, as soon as noticed, give the calf one or two raw eggs—shells and all. This is a very simple, homely remedy, but it has always proved a satisfactory one in my experience, if applied in the earlier stages. I have given as many as six eggs to a calf in one day—not all at once of course, but at intervals through the day—and I have very seldom been compelled to resort to medicine for a cure. The beauty of this remedy lies in its homeliness; farmers generally have plenty of eggs about, and as they are perfectly harmless (except when they have passed into the sere and yellow leaf of an egg's life) there need be no fear of an inexperienced hand giving the calf an over-dose.

"As a precautionary measure, calves newly weaned should be given one or two tablespoonfuls of lime water in the milk they drink. This will correct acidity of the stomach if any exists and prevent it, if none is present for, as I said before, prevention is better than cure, and if we feed our calves carefully and guard them from all the various causes of scours, we will find it less troublesome and more satisfactory and profitable than treating the complaint after it has gained a foothold."

The Dog Barked.

—Visitor (just arrived): "Does your dog bark when suspicious characters call, Wiggle?"

Wiggle: "Yes. Listen, he's barking now."

A Reminiscence.

Lucy—What a noble thing it must be to give employment to five hundred hands, as your father does. He should be very happy.

Tom—Not half so happy as I have been while employing only two hands—and one of them was not mine. But, then, they were in the same muff—and it was a good night for sleighing.

TIT-BITS.

Taking His Breath Away.

Miss Simper—Arn't things much cheaper than they were last year?

Calloway— Yes, indeed. I only pay one half as much for my neckties. The difference is so great that now (smiling) I could easily afford to get married.

Miss Simper—Oh, Mr. Calloway, this is so sudden!

Hardly to be Wondered At.

Gussie de Biledshirt—Weally, Miss Maud I cawnt see how it is that these people who stay undah watah so long can hold ther bweath. Would you believe it, I cawnt hold my bweath moah than hawf a minute.

Miss Rightintheneck (handing him a clove)—I am surprised that you can hold it at all without the assistance of a curb bit.

In Clover.

"She is very beautiful, I understand?"

"Heavenly."

"And her father?"

"One of the most genial men in the world."

"And her mother?"

"A delightful lady."

"And her chaperone?"

"Out of sight!"

He Could Not See Himself.

Lord Fitznoodle (who is doing the territories and is clothed in the very latest for traveling)—Aha! what have we here? Well, my pretty prairie flower.

Pretty Prairie Flower—Huh! If you think I'm a conundrum I just wish you could see yerself.

Society Note.

Floor Manager—The press is always welcom; but, me deah fellah, hawven't you got another coat?

Reporter for the Morning Hooter—Yes, I'v got another coat.

"Ah, why didn't you put it on?"

"Because it isn't as good as the one I've got on."

A Mean Trick.

A pop-eyed darkey rushed into the express office and asked, excitedly:

"Is dar any express package here for Major Jones?"

"Have you got an order?"

"No, sah."

"You can't get anything out of this office without an order."

The colored gentleman went two miles and back on the double-quick. Once more he stood before the desk, panting and blowing and fanning himself with his hat.

"Heah am de order, sah."

Express agent to clerk—"Any package here for Major Jones?"

"No."

Comparisons are Odious.

The Old Beau (rocking little Anna on his knee for Aunt Susan's sake)—I suppose that is what you like, Anna?

Anna—Yes, it's very nice. But I rode on a real donkey in the park yesterday—I mean one with four legs, you know.

It Was On His Mind.

"I want to ask you a question, Katy," he said, shortly before taking his departure. "It has been on my mind all the evening, but I—I—"

"Well, what, Mr. Dingdong?" asked Katy, encouragingly, her heart throbbing with expectancy. "Speak right out."

"Well, Katy, will you be—I wanted to ask if you would be kind enough to find out if the dog is chained to-night."

Too Late.

The ceremony which made two young people, whose whole appearance was unmistakably rural, man and wife had just been finished when a middle-aged man appeared on the scene. The bride murmured "Par!" and then cast her glance toward the floor. Too young man shifted his weight from one foot to the other, and exclaimed in a way that would have seemed quite hearty if his voice had not faltered so:

"Evenin' to ye neighbor; evenin'!"

By this time the girl had recovered her balance, and smoothing a lock of reddish hair from her temple with the palm of her hand, she said:

"I'd like fur to know whut brings you all these here miles, interestin' with other folks, when the Lord knows there's nuff hoin' an' things to do to keep any man busy, if he's got ord'n'ry ambition."

Without noticing her comment the old man turned to the bridegroom and said:

"I'm too late, ain't I?"

"Ef you mean that we're married, there ain't no doubt but what ye air," replied the youth, who was also recovering firmness. "An' I mus' say," he went on with a smile at his own sarcasm, "as how we hain't got you to thank for help much, neither."

Her father pulled his untrimmed, grizzled beard, and looking steadily to the sky through the open door on his right, said slowly and in a monotone:

Jim Swithers, I bin a neighbor o' your'n ever sence you was born, hain't I?"

"Yes, ye have."

"An' I allus spoke of ye as likely young man. Your father an' me was the best kind of fren's, an' allus acted as if I had your welfare at heart. Lended ye money and everything; didn't I?"

"Yes."

"An' I done my best to keep ye from marryin' this gal, didn't I?"

"You did, sure."

"Why?" and he made a rhetorical pause. "'Cause I knowed her. I brung her up, an' it was all me mother an' the rest of the fam'ly could do to manage her."

The girl tossed her head and sniffed.

"And I tell you," the old man went on, "that without no one to help you but yourself, you've got a mighty big contract on your hands. I'd uv saved you if I could, and now, things bein' as they air, I'll stand by you best I kin."

He extended his hand to the young man, and after the grim semblance of congratulations the party passed down the street toward the depot.

EATEN BY A CIRCUS PANTHER.

The Horrible Fate Said to Have Befallen a Girl.

A despatch from Milan, Tenn., says:—The news of the horrible death of Miss Millie McCoy has been received here. Miss McCoy and two girl friends, Mary Fly and Myra Johns, this morning left home on a blackberry hunt. They proceeded to the woods about six miles away, where the fruit was found in abundance. The vines and foliage were very thick, and, in a lonely place near Obion River, Miss McCoy wandered off from the others some hundred yards to a place where the fruit grew in profusion.

Suddenly a wild scream rang but. The girls were terrified beyond measure, not knowing what kind of a wild animal was in the vicinity. Again the terrifying shriek sounded and the two girls together sank down behind some bushes. Miss McCoy started toward them at a rapid walk, when a panther appeared directly behind her. The frightened girl screamed and started to run, but she could not escape. The beast seized her and she was torn to pieces. In many places the flesh was literally stripped from the bones.

The other girls, seeing the animal attack their friend, ran screaming from the scene, never stopping until they reached home, when a party of men organized and, with shotguns, hurriedly went to the scene of the attack. The panther was still at the body and was shot by the hunters. The beast measured seven feet seven inches from tip to tip. It had escaped from a circus.

A Rare And Costly Metal.

Didymium, says *Iron*, is the rarest metal in the world, and its present market price, if one may thus term the quotation of an article that never appears on the market, is £900 per lb. The next costliest metal is barium, an element belonging to the alkaline earth group; its value is £750. Berylium, or glucinum, a metallic substance found in the beautiful beryl, is quoted at £675. Yttrium, a rare metal of the boron-aluminium group, so called because first noticed at Ytterby, in Sweden, is stated to be worth at present £450 per lb. Niobium, or columbium, a name suggestive of the American origin of the metal, it having been first discovered in Connecticut, is valued to-day at £400 per lb. The price of rhodium, an extremely hard and brittle substance, which owes its name to the rose-red colour of certain of its solutions, is also £400. Vanadium, at one time considered the rarest of metallic elements, has been reduced in price to £375, at which value there will no doubt be many eager buyers. Iridium, a very heavy metal of the platinum group, so named from the iridescence of some of its solutions, and well known in connection with its use for the points of gold pens, may be bought to day at approximately £140 per lb. The present price of platinum, the better known tinwhite, ductile, but very infusible metal, is on a par with that of gold—viz., about £70 per lb; but generally its value fluctuates between its more popular brothers, gold and silver.

Shocking Suicide in a Bear-Pit.

A terrible suicide is reported from Frankfort-on-Main. A servant girl who had lost her situation climbed last night over the railings of the Zoological Gardens, undressed herself, and let herself down by a rope which she had brought with her into the bear-pit. The Polar bear awoke, sprang at her, seized her by the head, and lifted her up. The poor girl in her agony screamed out, and the keepers hurried up and tried to drive off the bear with poles. The girl begged them to shoot the animal, but the keepers could not make up their minds to this, fearing to shoot the poor girl, and hoping to get her out alive. In the meanwhile the bear began his awful meal, and tore the flesh from his victim's face and breast. The keepers at last succeeded in driving the beast away from the dreadfully-mutilated body, which was then hauled up. The girl on a former occasion told one of the keepers that she would throw herself into the lion's cage, but her remark was taken for a joke.

Great Forest Fire in England.

A great fire has taken place in the Delamere Forest, near Northwich. It broke out in some brushwood not far from the Cheshire Lines Railway, and soon spread rapidly. Immense tongues of flames shot high into the air, clouds of dense smoke enveloped the surrounding country, and the conflagration attracted large numbers of people, who endeavored to arrest the progress of the fire by cutting an avenue through the wood. They finally succeeded, but not before an area of 100 acres, thickly covered with brushwood and trees, principally Scotch fir and larch, was devastated. The embers are still smouldering, and men are on the spot to prevent a fresh outbreak. The property belong to Lord Delamere. The residence of the Hon. Mr. Cholmondeley at Abbott's Moss narrowly escaped destruction

A Two-Strike.

The out-door household work in summer such as that of the summer-kitchen, washing and ironing is a sort of makeshift with many mishaps like burns and scalds. But Mr. Jno. Heinemann, Middle Amana, Iowa U. S. A., has found the true remedy. He says: "I scalded my leg with boiling water, and had a sprained ankle at the same time. One bottle of St. Jacobs Oil promptly cured both." That doubles its value easily, and shows its great usefulness.

Sundry belated British Columbian vessels have just started for Behring Sea, and are credited with the intention of getting as many sealskins as possible there before being formally notified by the cruisers to leave the forbidden waters. It is doubtful whether they will run any such risk. They go with knowledge of the *modus vivendi* agreement and the Imperial order in Council based upon it. In any case they would find United States revenue cutters already on the spot and authorizd to serve the notice. What they are most likely to do is to hunt for seals outside Behring Sea, where in fact, a very large part of all the Victoria catch of last year was taken. With a guarantee from the Imperial Government to reimburse British Columbian vessels for losses resulting from the execution of the *modus vivendi* agreement, these vessels are very well covered whether they are successful or not; but it would hardly appear wise for vessels leaving Victoria now to venture into Behring Sea and expect indemnity for being ordered out.

Scrofula

Is the most ancient and most general of all diseases. Scarcely a family is entirely free from it, while thousands everywhere are its suffering slaves. Hood's Sarsaparilla has remarkable success in curing every form of scrofula. The most severe and painful running sores, swellings in the neck, or goitre, humor in the eyes, causing partial or total blindness, and every other form of blood disease have yielded to the powerful effects of this medicine. Try it.

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Oblong Tea.

"We want," said the lady of the house to the housemaid, who had announced the arrival of the grocer, "one pound of oolong tea."

"Oblong, you mean, ma'am," said the maid.

"No, I don't; I mean oolong."

"I always thought it was oblong."

"No, it's oolong. O-o, oo, l-o-n-g, long, oolong."

"All right, ma'am; oolong. Is there anything else?"

Effect of the Weather.

"Maude," said Clarence to his sister, "it is undoubtedly an incontrovertible fact that——"

"Clarence," said his sister, "why will you persist in using such long words?"

"Maude," said Clarence, "at the time of the year when the days are long and the weathe is hot, it is natural to expect that words should expand somewhat; you can't help it."

"August Flower"

'I inherit some tendency to Dyspepsia from my mother. I suffered two years in this way; consulted a number of doctors. They did me no good. I then used your August Flower and it was just two days when I felt great relief. I soon got so that I could sleep and eat, and I felt that I was well. That was three years ago, and I am still first-class. I am never without a bottle, and if I feel constipated the least particle a dose or two of August Flower does the work. The beauty of the medicine is, that you can stop the use of it without any bad effects on the system. While I was sick I felt everything it seemed to me a man could feel. I was of all men most miserable. I can say, in conclusion, that I believe August Flower will cure anyone of indigestion, if taken with judgment.- A. M. Weed, 229 Bellefontaine St., Indianapolis, Ind."

Relieved in Two Days.

Constipation Life of Misery

A Tasmanian Tragedy.

A terrible tragedy has happened at Richmond (Tasmania). Mrs. A. J. Ogilvie, wife of a well-to-do and respected farmer, went into a field to gather mushrooms. Not returning a search was made, when her dead body was found hanging to a willow in the river, her head having been half blown off by a gunshot. There were signs that the body was dragged 20 yards. A man was arrested for the murder. Locally there is great indignation over the affair, the deceased lady being very highly respected and on most affectionate terms with her husband and family.

He—"Do you go to communion at Dr. Dainty's church?" She (with pardonable pride)—"Oh, yes, I've communicated there for a number of years."

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