

AGRICULTURAL.

Ben Burlap's Barn.

Ben Burlap bragged about his barn with every man he sees. He said it was the finest barn that any barn could be. "The work is full of barns; but still I cankerlate. There ain't no barn like Burlap's barn, an' haint been up to date."

An' when yer saw a wild-eyed man who raised considerable rumpus. An' 'raved an' flopped his arms aroun' to all parts of the compass. An' switched his whiskers in the wind an' spun a half-day yarn. You'd know it was Ben Burlap, sure, expounding on his barn.

An' I went down to see his barn, he hung on so like sin. One day I tol' my wife I guessed I'd go and take it in. "Truz jest ez good ez Ben hed said, ez fine ez it could be. It beat all barns I ever see, or ever 'speak to see."

When I come out sez I to Ben, "What's that small buildin' there. That kinder wobbly lookin' thing, that tumble-down affair? It looks so rickety an' weak 'taint fit to hold a mouse." "Oh, ye," sez Ben, "It's full er mice; that an' haint my house."

—[Sam Walter Foss.]

Value of Poultry as a Farm Product.

(By A. G. Gilbert, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.)

First of all—why is poultry of great importance to a farmer? I answer, because from the time of the first investment, it yields him a quick return. You will admit that the farmer requires something to make money out of quickly. The best step you can take to benefit the farmer is to place in his hands an industry that will yield him a quick return. While I attempt to show you that the poultry interest is one of great importance, I do not wish to be understood as depreciating any other department of farm work. Let me ask your consideration then of the following points: If you take small fruits, it will be three years before any return is obtained; seven to ten years for an apple orchard to yield a return; two to three years for a heater to give milk in paying quantities, while it requires half, or nearly a whole generation for a forest to mature. On the other hand, the farmer who goes into raising poultry may have his cockerels ready for the market in three or four months, from time of setting the eggs; the pullets—which are the young hens—ought to begin to lay in five or six months, and thus within one short season from time of investment, he has his return for his money—a return of what is always marketable and commands a good price. There are other reasons why poultry are valuable to the farmer, and some of them may be summed up as follows:—

What would otherwise be wasted, or in other words what would probably be thrown away, can be turned into poultry and eggs and a valuable manure. The worth of the manure alone will go a long way to pay for the feed of the hens.

It is an occupation in which the farmer's wife or daughter can engage in and leave the farmer free to attend to other departments.

During the winter season the farmer as a rule has plenty of time on his hands and it is at that period that eggs are scarce and bring high prices.

While it may take considerable capital and labor at a business on a large scale, it can be made a valuable adjunct to the farm with little cost.

While there are large quantities of skimmed or sour milk, no better fattening diet can be found for the chickens intended for market, nor a better food as an egg producer.

In stating this much I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the field is an undeveloped one, and one to which the farmer has never given the attention it deserves. It is equally certain that he has not looked at its value from the different stand-points I have just mentioned. He has long looked upon his poultry department as a sort of a thing that could take its chances. His hens are supposed to look after themselves in the winter. In the great majority of cases they are not comfortably housed, nor are they properly fed. As a result the farmer gets no return at a time when his poultry should pay him well. Ask a farmer if he expects to get a crop from a frozen field, and he says, no. Ask him if he leaves his crops out in the field until they are frozen and he will resent the insinuation as an insult to his intelligence. Yet he allows his laying stock to be almost frozen and that at a time when he ought to, and would receive 50 cents a dozen for his eggs, from good customers. As to the money in poultry, some men will make more profit than others. One man will be more adapted to poultry than another, just as some are more adapted to the raising of small fruits, while some would find a greater revenue in horses and cattle.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

I will give you some figures and I do not think you will find any exaggeration, for I take the lowest values. Say a hen lays 100 eggs in a year and they sell for one cent each, you have \$1.00; 10 chickens hatched out at 10 cents each, \$1.00; body of the hen to eat or sell, 25 cents—a total of \$2.25. The cost of the hen per year I put down at from 60 cents, to 75 cents, the profit being \$1.50. The manure I let go to pay for time and trouble of taking care of the hen. Now the time is rather limited, and I have numerous notes; indeed it would be unreasonable for me to expect you to give me time to go over the experimental work of four or five years.

COMPARATIVE MERITS OF BREEDS.

I would say, however, in a few words that we have found the Plymouth Rock to be the best all-round fowl we have yet tried. We have found the White Leghorn to lay the most eggs and we have so far made no cross as a market fowl to come up to the Plymouth Rock. I have had development in the Plymouth Rock of one pound and one and a quarter pounds per month. That has been by forced feeding, but with no material that the farmer has not got on his farm.

REARING FOWL FOR THE MARKET.

This brings me to the subject of how best to make a valuable market chicken. The farmer, as a rule, do not know the fact that the future fowl is either made or impaired in the first five weeks of its existence. A chicken that is stunted during that period will never make a large fowl, for the reason that it is during that period the feathers are being grown and it requires

extra nourishment to supply the demand on the system for feathers, bone and muscle and growing frames generally. The fact, I am sure you will bear me out in saying, is known by comparatively few farmers.

There is another fact which the farmers do not realize and that is the keeping of their hens until they are too old. After two years there is no money in a hen. Why? Because after that age she moults so late that before she begins to lay she will have eaten up all future profit. Some breeds such as the Leghorns may be kept for three years, because they are peculiarly egg producers.—[Special Dominion Gov't. Bulletin.]

Should Farmers Work.

The farmers work too much with their hands and too little with their heads, says Mr. Philip Snyder in Country Gentlemen. They begin their lives without intellectual training, and that narrowness prompts dislike of change or innovation. Their system of work is traditional, not progressive or scientific. They have no taste for investigation—in fact, rather hate it, and despise the man who does like it. They work and think in ruts.

They work hard with their hands, give themselves up to it, think of little else, and while so doing, the rest of the world slips by them and beats them in the race for wealth and distinction.

It does not matter that they grow the crops which feed the world—they are competitors with each other, and have no organization (at least that has yet been effective) by which to compel any terms from the people.

Now, work is important, and every farmer should know how to work with his hands in order to appreciate properly the work of his men, and sometimes to teach them; but that he cannot succeed without engaging regularly in hand labor is arrant nonsense.

The man who deserves the name of a farmer is at least a grade higher than any mere laborer. The farmer exercises his mind in the conduct of his business—and all farmers are business men in a sense—but the laborer's business is to obey orders and do specified work. Ordinarily his work is only routine, and requires little mental exercise.

The foreman of all "gangs" of laborers is always supposed to have more mind and culture than any of his men, and when he is found to have a great deal more mind and executive ability, he is sometimes made superintendent or general manager, and then perhaps he does not work at all—with his hands—and gets a big salary for it! But, according to some people, since he has stopped working with his men the business he superintends must speedily come to grief!

Feeding Hogs.

Prof. J. W. Roberts in an address before a meeting of dairymen said: I have studied the hog a good deal. I used to feed a great many—six hundred a year—and I was not a prodigal son either. They are worthy of observation in regard to general demeanor. I went down one Monday morning to the hog yards. The man whose business it was to look after them had allowed an alcoholic fermentation to act in their whey. In this case it was quite pronounced, and I watched seventy drunken hogs for a time. 'Twas a study in animal husbandry and moral philosophy combined. There was the "funny hog" which would tickle the others and run along and laugh; and there was the "fighting hog," that would show his tusks and snarl; and the "sluggish hog" that would lie in the mud on the ground and grunt. I concluded that it was foolish even for a pig to let his appetite get the better of his judgment and will.

In feeding hogs the man who feeds them well will succeed with them. You must remember that the hog has a preference for being clean. Last year in a great many pens one side of each was kept clean for a week; afterwards the pigs themselves kept that clean for their bed. One week's education did it, and if the hog gets a good chance and a good example, he is all right. Every farmer with one hundred acres ought to feed 20 to 100 hogs. The common way of constructing the floors of the pens is unsuitable. If they slope backward from the trough, they will be kept wet. That means sickly hogs that do not thrive well. I prefer to make the floor slant towards the trough. Twice the profit can be made when the animals lie dry all the while; and besides that, their health is much better. Then the feeding trough should have its holding capacity in length and not in depth. It pays to have them fed with good, clean feed; which means the difference between profit and loss. They will take the waste from the table. It does not do, as is usually the case, to have it put in a tub or barrel which is never emptied or cleaned. That becomes poison. It ferments and sours and makes bad blood. With the sow and young pigs taking it, the consequence is they die before they are ten days old. Every animal should get clean food, and even little pigs have the right to be well born. Hogs fed on clean food should gain at least one pound for every four and a half pounds of grain used; a man can tell whether it is paying to keep them or put his labor to other sources of profit. If any man feeds his hogs too long, it costs more than he can make out of them.

Seeing in the Dark.

Considerable discussion is going on with regard to a new discovery in the way of spectacles which, it is asserted, will enable their wearers to see in the dark. With these remarkable glasses set upon the nose the lonely matron or venerable spinster will be enabled to find her favorite black tabby on the darkest night without the aid of an electric light, and even the darkest kind of cellar can be robbed of its terrors. They will be found extremely useful for nervous young ladies in their search for burglars under the bed, and if they can't see them it will be so much the better. They will also be very handy for the blind man soliciting alms on the street as they will enable him to see who drops a button instead of a nickel in his hat and pray for them accordingly. They will help to supply a long felt want when the lights are turned down in the theatre and people are taking silent observation of the young man and his best girl in the next seat. In fact it is hardly possible to enumerate the many advantages which such a discovery will bring and the beauty of it is that everybody can use them.

CENSUS BULLETIN NO. 18,

Dealing With the Occupations of the People.

The Dominion Statistician Gives Some Interesting Information in regard to the Numbers Employed in the Various Pursuits.

The Department of Agriculture has issued Census Bulletin No. 18, which deals with the occupations of the public.

Great difficulty exists in connection with the returns of the people by occupations. In the first place many persons have more than one occupation. Thus fishermen are also in many instances farmers as well. If they consider farming the more important vocation they will so answer the enumerator's question, "What is your occupation?"

In the second place, many women and children are employed for part of a day in industrial establishments, and are, therefore, returned in connection with these establishments. When the enumerators make the enquiry at the home of the people they are told that the wife or daughter attends to home duties, and that the children go to school, such being the fact.

From these causes there can be no precise agreement between the statement of occupations under the various heads into which they are sub-divided and other statements, as, for instance, between fisherman as given in the returns of the Department of Fisheries and as given in the census returns, or between the census returns of employes in industrial establishments and persons employed in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits in the table giving occupations.

The English rule has been followed in compiling occupations. It is as follows: "Persons returned as engaged in more than one occupation are to be referred to the one that appears to be of most importance, or, if there is no apparent difference in this respect, to the one first given by the person in his or her return." In some cases special rules have been followed. The endeavor has been to follow the plan of 1881 as fully as possible, so as to serve in best way all purposes of comparison.

THE INCREASE OVER 1881.

The persons who gave their occupations to the enumerators in 1891 number 1,659,355, against 1,390,604 in 1881, an increase of 19.3 per cent.; as population increased 12 per cent., there has been a greater proportionate increase in persons occupied than in the population.

In analyzing the occupation, the statistician divides them into six classes: Class 1, those engaged in agricultural, mining and fishing industries. This class includes the primary producers. Class 2 includes the distributors, viz.: Those engaged in trade and transportation. Class 3 includes the modifiers, or those engaged in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits. Class 4 includes persons engaged in domestic and personal service. Class 5 relates to those engaged in professional vocations; and class 6 includes all who while not engaged in gainful pursuits are engaged in preparing to do so, or have retired or from choice perform work for sweet charity's sake as nuns.

CLASSIFICATION.

Class 1 constitutes 47.6 per cent. of the total persons giving their occupations.

Class 2, which includes 11.2 per cent. of those giving their occupations, gives an idea of the number of those engaged in buying and selling goods and in transporting them.

There are 13,928 sailors, 525 pilots, 1,743 longshoremen and stevedores, and 757 boatmen, to manage our vessels, of all sizes and descriptions. The management of transportation requires 23,532 railway employes and 2,175 foremen and overseers of transport. Besides these there are 17,409 expressmen, teamsters and draymen, assisted by 1,079 porters. Then there are 64,251 persons, clerks, telegraph and telephone operators, accountants and bookkeepers, salesmen and women, auctioneers, typewriters, etc.

Fifteen hundred and eight wholesale merchants and importers and shippers take charge of the large operations of trade, and, in addition, the special transfer of wines and liquors by wholesale is done by 294 wholesale liquor dealers.

The transfer of real estate is attended to by 924 agents. Commission agents number 2,543. There are 6,571 persons whose business is not further specified than by the general term agents. Money brokers, bankers and bank officials number 2,174.

The retail business was in the hands of 40,714 persons.

Dividing the occupations by provinces, and making comparisons with 1881 the figures show the following results for 1891: British Columbia a gain of 132 persons with occupations in every 1,000 of the population; Manitoba, a gain of 14 persons in each 1,000; New Brunswick, a gain of 10 persons in each 1,000; Nova Scotia, a gain of 34 persons in each 1,000; Ontario, a gain of 33 persons in each 1,000; Prince Edward Island, a gain of 21 persons in each 1,000; Quebec, a gain of 10 persons in each 1,000. And for all Canada a gain of 24 persons in each 1,000.

THE FARMERS.

In discussing the farming class Mr. Johnson shows that the number of farmers and farmers' sons engaged in farming was 656,712 by the census of 1881, and 649,506 by the census of 1891, a decrease of 7,206. The increases, which amount to 28,836, are in British Columbia, Manitoba and the Northwest. The other provinces show a decrease of 36,042.

Contemporaneously with this decrease there has been an increase in the amount of land improved by over 6,500,000 acres.

The statistician remarks as follows: The general principle to be deduced from the decrease in the number of farmers in the older provinces—accompanied as it is with the increase in the population of the cities and increase in the number of farmers in the newer provinces—is that increased means of communication of all kinds have enabled people readily to go to the more remote parts of the Dominion, and by practically increasing the area of food supply have made possible an agglomeration of the people in cities and towns, and have also enabled thousands to provide themselves with small holdings on the outskirts of cities and towns.

THE MINING CLASS.

shows an increase of 6,876 over 1881. This more than doubles the mining class for 1891 as compared with 1881. Considering this

class by provinces, it is found that while Nova Scotia and British Columbia in 1881 had 84½ per cent. of the miners, they have 79 per cent. in 1891, showing that the other provinces have developed their mineral wealth in greater proportional rate than the two great mining provinces of the Dominion. The province of Quebec has made the largest proportionate gain, having 1,534 in 1891, against 391 in 1881. Ontario has gone up from 493 to 1,034. There are 73,417 persons engaged in mining in Canada.

OTHER CLASSES.

The fishing class has increased by over 18 per cent., though Quebec shows a decrease in the number of its fishermen.

The professional class shows an increase of 25 per cent. in the 10 years.

The commercial class shows an increase of about 49 per cent.

THE SEXES.

The returns of 1891 show that, divided according to sexes, there were 1,444,407 males and 214,948 females comprised in the 1,659,355 persons whose sexes were given. No attempt was made in the census of 1881 to obtain a general classification of the occupations of women. Comparisons are therefore impossible. In 1891 the returns show that about 13 per cent. of the total number of persons whose occupations were given were women. The proportions, of course, vary in the different classes. In class 1 women are 1.6 per cent. of the total in the class. In class 2 they are 6 per cent.; in class 3 they are 20 per cent.; in class 4 they are 37 per cent.; in class 5, 29 per cent.; and in class 6, 36 per cent.

In class 1 there were 11,590 women carrying on the business of farming; 193 were fishermen; 48 were apiculturists; 76 were florists and gardeners; and 23 were stock raisers.

In connection with trade and transportation there were 11,193 women, more than one-half of whom are in Ontario. In all Canada there are 1,313 women engaged as bookkeepers, 4,409 as saleswomen, 850 as typewriters, 817 as telegraph and telephone operators, 755 as grocers, 922 as clerks and copyists.

In class 3, mechanical and manufacturing pursuits, 62,464 women and girls were returned from the homes of Canada as engaged in these pursuits. This is nearly 15,000 fewer than were returned in the returns from the industrial establishments themselves. The difference probably represents the number of women and girls who only work occasionally in the industrial establishments of the land, and who would thus be considered from the point of view of the industries as part of the industrial force of the country, while from their own point of view they would consider their home work as the more important, and return themselves to the enumerators in accordance therewith. The actual force of females engaged in this class would be 77,390, of which 62,464 are the actual every day working contingent, the juveniles of which go to school part of the day or year and go to the industrial establishment the remainder of the time, while the adult portion attend partly to home and family duties and partly to the direct work of bread-winning.

In class 4, domestic and personal service, as naturally would be anticipated, the proportion of females is the greatest of any, namely, 37 per cent.; of the 91,419 females connected with this class of occupations, 77,614 are servants.

In class 5 there are 18,316 females, of whom 14,803 are teachers; nearly 68 in every 100 teachers are females. In addition there are 2,326 female teachers of music and 341 female artists and teachers of art, and 58 authors, lecturers and literary persons of the gentler sex. Seven hundred and sixty-five women returned themselves as Government officials and 35 as journalists.

THE RECORD BY PROVINCES.

Taking the record by provinces, it is found that in British Columbia out of every 1,000 females over 10 years old, 122 had definite occupations assigned them; in Manitoba there were 96 in every 1,000; in New Brunswick, 118; in Nova Scotia, 137; in Ontario, 124; in Prince Edward Island, 100; in Quebec, 120, and in the Northwest territories, 48.

With respect to the employment of females under 15 years, the returns show that in British Columbia in every 10,000 girls under 15 years, 132 have definite occupations; in Manitoba, 46; New Brunswick, 63; Nova Scotia, 94; Ontario, 93; Prince Edward Island, 40, and in Quebec, 84. This contrasts with England and Wales, where 316 girls under 15 years of age out of every 10,000 girls under 15 years of age have definite occupations.

Of Ancient Origin.

Trousers appear to have been introduced into Rome at a comparatively late period, and as a part of the military uniform. They are worn by Roman soldiers represented on Trajan's column, as well as by barbarians. The Greeks have never adopted them. With their instinctive sense of beauty they had recognized that these are the only garments that cannot possibly be made graceful. A sleeve may become a part of the drapery of a figure, a trouser leg is more obstinate in its ugliness. If tight, it bags at the knees on the third wearing. Yet this is perhaps its least objectionable shape. If somewhat loose, it takes petty and meaningless folds. Some oriental nations have tried to disguise it as a skirt, but the result is not entirely satisfactory. If the trousers do not appear to give freedom to the leg, they have lost their principal merit. Compromise, which is the life of politics, is the death of art, which should always struggle after an ideal. So thought the Greeks when they entirely renounced for themselves the barbarous pantaloons.

The Best Claim to the Bed.

One night a judge, a military officer, and a minister all applied for a night's lodging at an inn, where there was but one spare bed, and the landlord was called upon to decide which had the best claim out of the three.

"I have lain fifteen years at the garrison at A—," said the officer.

"I have sat as judge twenty years at R—," said the judge.

"With your leave, gentlemen, I have stood twenty-five years in the ministry at M—," said the minister.

"That settles all dispute," said the landlord. "You Mr. Captain, have lain fifteen years; you, Mr. Judge, have sat twenty years, while this old gentleman has been standing for the last twenty-five years, so he certainly has the best right to the bed."

NOW FOR THE OLD ATLANTIC.

The Last Link in the World Encircling Line.

Negotiations Said to be in an Advanced State for the Much Talked of Fast Atlantic Line—The French Port of Call.

An Ottawa special says:—The sudden departure for England of President Van Horne of the C.P.R. is stated in certain quarters here to be in connection with that old story, the establishment of a fast Atlantic mail service between Great Britain and Halifax. This time, however, there is said to be almost an assurance that the thing will materialize. It is learned here that the Dominion Government has a promising offer under consideration from certain British capitalists to establish a fast service, and the chief hitch is that the Government wants a

CALL MADE AT A FRENCH PORT.

This offer has not yet been submitted to a full meeting of the Cabinet, but the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce have looked into the matter. In the absence of the latter, Hon. Mr. Bowell, to whose department this matter belongs, Hon. Mr. Foster is attending to it and is in correspondence with the parties concerned. Being spoken to on the subject Mr. Foster says that there is nothing at present that he can give to the public. There is, however, pretty good prospects that the Government will this time succeed in making negotiations for a fast line of steamers.

As far back as 1889 the Canadian Parliament authorized an annual expenditure of \$700,000 for the purpose of securing a weekly steamship service on the North Atlantic

BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA;

a monthly service on the North Pacific between Asia and Canada, and a service between Australia and Canada.

There was, in the first place, to be \$500,000 of the amount to be given for the Atlantic service. The China and Japan service was to receive \$75,000 and the Australian service \$125,000.

The China and Japan service is, as well known, established by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In regard to the Australian service a temporary contract has been entered into this summer between Mr. Huddard, of the new Canadian Australian line, and the Dominion Government, and Mr. Huddard is now in Britain arranging for an Imperial subsidy. The certainty of this line being permanently established is almost indubitable.

With regard to the Atlantic fast line, on more than one occasion negotiations were very nearly closed between the Dominion and British shipowners. The Andersons of Glasgow, it will be remembered, closed a contract with the Government; but afterwards withdrew from it on account of some drawback between themselves and the Canadian Pacific Railway over terminal facilities at Halifax.

The Dominion, however, has never lost sight of the matter and it is now said that the present negotiations are likely to end in the offer being accepted. It is understood that should the present offer be accepted, a Glasgow firm will in all likelihood be the principal owners. It would seem that the Union Jack is bound to own a first class circuit around the world.

Distress in England.

Judging from the following remarks of an English correspondent matters in the mother country are going from bad to worse: "Last week it seemed as if the story then to be told of the disaster of famine that was desolating whole broad countries of industrial England was as bad as anything possibly could be in the existing state of civilization. Moreover, there appeared to be hopeful streaks of light in the sky. But to-day we are on the threshold of the eleventh week of this unparalleled calamity, and not only are the heavens blacker than ever, but the distress is multiplying itself like a malignant outbreak of cholera after a rainfall. It is said now that fully 300,000 men, women and children in Lancashire alone are dependent from meal to meal on public charity, which would bring the whole army up to three-quarters of a million. The relief measures which are led by two Radical London papers at last are beginning to show signs of success, but they are still ridiculously incommensurate with the gravity of the awful crisis. A little more than \$30,000 only has been raised thus far in London, although several columns are devoted daily to strenuous appeals. Miss Willard's donation of her watch, Zola's gift of £2 and John Dillon's £1 get talked about; but of organized efforts to secure help from the non-advertising public there is a melancholy lack. Doubtless, however, these will come. The good order attending this vast social convulsion as a whole continues to be most remarkable feature of it. In all Lancashire, where 86,000 miners have been idle over two months, not 10 Police Court cases have arisen. At several points, where in an earlier panic bodies of extra police were drafted in, strange constables have been employed to cook and serve meals at improvised soup kitchens. At Leigh 40 police have been thus engaged, and they like it so much that they have no desire to return home. These amiable, and one might say affectionate, relations between the police and the public are very characteristic of the north of England. In Preston, for example, the police have now for four years had charge of raising the means for directing the poor children's annual treat, which this year involved 1,400 teas at Christmas, 15,000 free suppers during the winter, an excursion into the country last summer, besides much free clothing, shoes, etc. This record is not so bad. But if the whole north of England were made up of Prestons, its charities would still not cope with one side of this tremendous misfortune. It seems to be more and more clear in the end we shall find some big economic changes in England dating from this upheaval."

It Was His Ruin.

"What caused your downfall, my good man?" asked the ardent temperance worker.

"Stage realism, mum," replied the horrible example. "I was acting the drunkard in a temperance play, and the manager insisted on my using real whisky, mum."