

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

DR. SAUNDERS' SUCCESSOR

The announcement that Dr. Wm. Saunders of Ottawa, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, is shortly to retire, is one of more than usual importance. During the many years in which he has held the position of director, Dr. Saunders has seen a wonderful development of the work of the Experimental Farms conducted by the Dominion Government throughout Canada. The success they have achieved is due largely to his capable management. He has well earned the right to retire.

In view of the high standard of the work of the Experimental Farms, it is a matter of vital importance that Dr. Saunders' successor shall be a man of marked ability, and in close touch with agriculture. It was always a handicap to Dr. Saunders that he had not had a more thorough

practical training in agricultural practice. The new director, whoever he may be, should not be lacking in this respect. There is only one logical successor to Dr. Saunders, and that is Mr. J. H. Grisdale, the Dominion Agriculturist. Aside altogether from the excellent work Mr. Grisdale has accomplished in connection with the agricultural work of the Experimental Farms, which alone entitles him to the appointment, Mr. Grisdale is recognized as probably the greatest all-round practical authority on agriculture that we have in Canada. His ability as a judge of all classes of live stock is so generally recognized that his services as a judge have frequently been in demand, not only in Canada, but at the large expositions in the United States as well.

In addition, Mr. Grisdale is a master of the practice of agriculture. He was born and brought up on the farm, and until recently owned a farm of his own. He is the only effective speaker in French, as well as in English, on the staff of the Experimental Farm. His experience as a speaker at farmers' meetings in the French Districts of Quebec has given him a close knowledge of the agricultural problems of that Province. It is to be hoped that neither political nor any other influence will be allowed to play a part in this appointment, and that Mr. Grisdale will receive the promotion to which he is justly entitled.

OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Opponents of free trade in natural products with the United States are very persistent in their contention that the proposed trade agreement will divert trade to north and south lines and result in the ruin of our transcontinental railways. While some bankers, manufacturers, and opposition journalists have been bewailing the fate of our railways, our Canadian railwaymen themselves are predicting a prosperous future for their roads. The stock market, which is always the first to feel any adverse influence, shows C.P.R. stock several points higher than it was when the agreement was first announced; it continues steadily to go upwards.

Only two leading railway men have pronounced themselves as being opposed to reciprocity. Sir Wm. Van Horne, ex-president of the C.P.R., of the agreement. But just here let it be known that Mr. G. M. Bosworth, Vice-President of the C.P.R., states emphatically that Sir Wm. Van Horne does not speak for the Canadian Pacific Railway! He also states that the C.P.R. will continue "to do business on the old stand," and that they have no fear of the competition of any other road on the continent. Sir Wm. McKenzie, of the Canadian Northern fame, at first pronounced unfavorably on reciprocity; since he has taken time to think it over, however, he is inclined to view the agreement more favorably.

Whose opinion as to the effects of

the proposed reciprocity agreement on our transportation systems should we regard as most important—that of bankers, manufacturers, and journalists, or that of our railway kings, the men who have their money directly invested in these systems? While our railway men, with their interests at stake, express their confidence in their ability to "do business on the old stand," our ordinary mortals need not worry about the future of our transportation systems.

NO OVER-PRODUCTION OF EGGS

Consequent on the recent drop in prices, enquiry has been made by producers as to there being an over-production of eggs. Recent declines in prices were caused not by an over-production. Immense quantities of cold storage stock, which were dumped on to the market, were responsible; this stock had been held for two years for an advance in price. Notwithstanding the immense quantities of cold storage stocks marketed in the last few weeks, the egg market is now again steady; such a slump was recently experienced may not occur again for years.

Almost every country in the world is consuming more eggs than ever before, and that without an accompanying increase in production. Great Britain, one of the largest importers of eggs, is now receiving eggs from all countries, with the exception of Russia, in smaller quantities than heretofore. Importations into Germany have increased 50 per cent. in the last 11 years. The United States is not exporting anything like the quantity of eggs she formerly did; while we Canadians, who once had an export egg trade of promising proportions, are now importers of eggs.

Our consuming population is ever increasing, and the consumption of eggs per capita is increasing enormously as the value of eggs becomes more appreciated. We need not fear over-production. There is a large and growing market for all the eggs that we can produce for many years to come.

NEEDED FORESTRY LEGISLATION

The members of a number of county councils in Ontario counties interested in schemes of reforestation, and in preserving the forest growth on waste areas within their bounds for the future benefit of their municipalities, have been in the dark as to whether or not they have the right to acquire these lands for the county and hold and manage them for the future benefits they will certainly return under proper management. Counties and municipalities have required special legislation to enable them to manage forestry properties.

A bill introduced last week in the Legislature by the Hon. J. S. Duff provides for county reforestation systems. It gives the county councils, as may be learned from the full text of the bill elsewhere in this issue, the right to acquire lands by lease or purchase for the purpose of planting trees, together with power to issue

debentures up to \$25,000 a year to cover the amount expended.

Through this measure the several counties in the province, which of late have been intensely interested in the question of placing their waste-forest areas under their own control, may now take steps to carry out their forestry projects, which give promise of such splendid returns in years to come, to their ratepayers.

It is well that the Legislature has dealt with this matter in its present session. Private speculators have been interesting themselves in many of our waste forest areas of late. Delay in providing the legislation would have been all to the advantage of these speculators. Waste forest areas should be kept for the benefit of the people. Only as counties take over and manage the waste land within their bounds will there likely be any definite action taken seeking to preserve and manage these for the future benefit of the ratepayers.

CROPS THAT ARE DEPENDABLE

Alfalfa is no more an experiment. In many parts of Canada, and now generally throughout many of the States, it is becoming widely grown and is bringing prosperity in its train. On farms, dotted here and there, over Ontario, alfalfa is being grown successfully. Thus it is being proved that the crop is adapted to our soils. Its feeding value is known to closely approximate wheat bran. Since bran now sells from \$20 to \$25 a ton, and we may secure from four to five tons of alfalfa hay per acre, sometimes more, the wonder is that alfalfa is not more generally grown and in larger acreages on the farms whereon it is known to be a great "money" crop.

The question before us farmers now is not "can we grow the crop?" Will it pay?" Rather is it, "Can we afford not to grow alfalfa?" For years Farm and Dairy has been giving its readers the benefit of the experience of men who have grown alfalfa successfully. Having gained, by ripe practical experience with alfalfa, great faith in the money making, mortgage-lifting possibilities of this crop we again have sought for our readers the best information in regard to alfalfa and herewith we announce a special series of practical articles on this subject, the first of which is published elsewhere this week. In succeeding articles full cultural directions for alfalfa will be given.

Let us be resolved that alfalfa is a crop we all should grow and grow it in abundance. We ought also to grow these two crops, as Wing says, are by far the most profitable of any, and do most conserve the fertility of the soil, do best nourish all manner of farm animals, do most surely build the fortunes of the farmer.

Deeply buried in suitable soil the alfalfa roots know nothing of the vicissitudes of winter; as certainly they put out green as leaves upon the oaks in spring, and drouths that wither up ordinary meadows have little effect upon them. Wheat, oats,

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potatoes, dried other affected by the weather in dry, rich of the winter planted uprated, most force it, and heat pass it, and undisturbed

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