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HELP FOR ST. JOHN'S.

The great heart of the Canadian people has been stirred and opened by the calamity at St. John's. Already much-needed help has been sent forward. The City of Halifax was the first to testify its practical sympathy by despatching promptly a full cargo of provisions. Montreal has started with liberal private contributions, and the Board of Trade there will act with the City Council and a public meeting of citizens to extend such aid as will be creditable to the commercial metropolis of Canada, and be of substantial service to the unfortunate sufferers. Every town in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will hold meetings for a similar purpose. The Dominion Government has sent forward a vessel load of provisions. Toronto has already done handsomely in raising private subscriptions, and the Board of Trade has moved for a municipal donation. The London City Council at a special meeting yesterday afternoon resolved to despatch a quantity of provisions at once, at a cost of \$500. This action will, we feel sure, be endorsed by all classes of citizens. The G. T. R. and C. P. R. companies have generously offered to transport over their lines, free of charge, all contributed supplies which are sent to the St. John's sufferers. No doubt the Atlantic cities of the United States will also lend a helping hand, and the British Government will do as was done after the great fire of 1846, and make a liberal grant. But the combined munificence of all these forces will suffice but to replace a moiety of the loss. In one night the city was swept of its stores, dwellings and wealth-earning properties to the extent of \$20,000,000, on which there is insurance for only \$3,000,000. The fruits of the life's labor of hundreds and thousands of persons are gone, and those left in total destitution are at least five thousand in number. They have been of everything bereft. Those only who are familiar with the place can picture in their minds the scene of perfect desolation which is now presented. It is as if this beautiful city of ours were burnt over from the Thames eastward to Park avenue, northward to Dufferin avenue, and southward to Bathurst. The equivalent of this area and the important commerce contained within it, is laid in ashes. The homeless people encamped on the upper slopes are looking down upon the ruin of their fine old city, their pale faces telling of a blank despair that may be relieved in part by hope that springs from the help from over seas.

IMPROVING HORSES AS A NATIONAL POLICY.

The Austrian Government is spending a large sum of money annually improving the horses of the country, and the great stud farms maintained for this purpose at Mezohegyes and Radantz are described in an interesting manner in the Nineteenth Century. At the first named farm, says the writer, which is equipped with the latest improved conveniences of all kinds, are about 2,800 horses, 2,700 working bullocks, 12,000 sheep, 7,000 pigs and 28 straw-threshing machines. Nearly 10,000 men, women and children are employed, 2,400 of this number coming from the north of Hungary for the summer work and returning to their homes in winter. In all the Imperial studs the horses are under military control. There is a regular staff of officers, veterinary surgeons and soldiers, 237 in all, under the commandant at Mezohegyes, who is responsible to the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture.

The object of the stud, to improve the breed of horses in the country, has been so far fulfilled since its establishment in 1785 as to make even the Austrian hack horses renowned for good breeding and looks. All the best animals bred in the stud are kept for stud purposes, and there is a regular drafting each year, so that the stud is kept up to the highest state of perfection. Also, each year 300 of the best colts in the country are purchased from the big land-owners and others, the best being kept as sires and the others sold as geldings. The stations at Mezohegyes may be divided into four classes, as follows:—Those for stud purposes, 19 in number; those let out to private proprietors, who pay from 300 to 800 florins, or from \$108 to \$288 per year; those stationed at military stations throughout the country and let out at fees, varying from two to five florins, 72 cents to \$1.80, and those sold to the communes or municipalities. The young horses not kept for the stud are sold at auction in Buda-Pesth, at four and one-half years

old. They are trained to ride and drive, and are guaranteed sound; if any defect should exist, the full particulars are given by the auctioneer. Every animal in the stud is branded with two marks and a number, which show its sire and its dam's breeding. This government brand is much valued in Hungary. The Mezohegyes horses bring an average of about 860 florins, or \$310, at auction in Buda-Pesth. Some of the sires in this stud are thoroughbred English, some half-bred, others of various breeds and mixtures. The mares are Anglo-Arabian, Anglo-Norman, and so on. The Radantz stud has 1,350 horses, including some English thoroughbred stallions and pure bred Arabs. In the entire country, 2,000 Radantz stallions are stationed, with service fees of 36 cents to 72 cents.

GROWING TOO MUCH WHEAT.

If supply and demand be taken as the only infallible rule for the guidance of the price of any commodity the reason that wheat is so cheap at the present time is because the supply is greater than the demand, or that there is too much wheat grown, and there is no indication that the quantity will be materially lessened. Although the wheat crop of Canada and the United States may not be equal to that of 1891, it is far larger than it was ten years ago, when a series of large crops for those times prevailed. This shows that the country is growing, and despite complaints of farmers about cheap wheat, the crop still continues to be a favorite, and presumably pays in the sections where most largely grown.

Besides, this cereal has by no means reached its limit or its maximum production. Mr. Edward Atkinson in the Forum says:—"If you will send from England and Scotland intelligent and industrious men to occupy that portion of Texas by which it exceeds Germany in area, comprising a patch larger than Great Britain, we will presently return to you from that now uncultivated territory the present cotton crop of the United States (then four million bales) and the present wheat crop of the United States (then 250 million bushels). We will support all the people who make these crops on what we do not export; and if you are not satisfied we will also feed cattle upon the winter wheat, in order to keep it below the first joint until after the danger from frost, and we will then send you a large amount of wheat from that product." He further says:—"In the Mountain Region of Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Tennessee, South-western Virginia, and the mountains of the Carolinas and Georgia, a square could be laid off nearly as large as France and twice as large as Great Britain, possessing potential in agriculture equal to either, timber and minerals, especially iron, equal to both combined. This area has, as yet, only begun to be worked."

This same writer is authority for saying that the wheat crop of America, cultivated by unscientific methods of agriculture, is grown on two per cent. of the area of the country. Taking the large areas of uncultivated lands in our own North-west, in India, Africa, the South American Republics and other countries, it is safe to say that wheat production has by no means yet obtained its utmost limit, and we may expect to see it remain low unless large areas go out of cultivation. There is no doubt with the present price there are places where the wheat crop ought to be abandoned and that is through the several older districts in Ontario. Farmers keep on growing it from old habit, because they have the machinery to harvest it with very little labor.

In the west and north-west wheat still pays at low prices. Unless crops fall America will continue to supply England with a great quantity of surplus food, as it has long done, and probably to a greater extent than ever. But on the older lands of Ontario and the Eastern States, if a farmer boasts his crop of 20, 30 or 40 acres of wheat each season, it is evidence that he has more land than he knows how to make the best use of. Except for the advantage it gives on clover seeding, wheat growing tends to what is now poor and still poorer farming. It did not thrive to fifty years ago. Then wheat paid even farmers here in Ontario whose lands were adapted to it.

Now he can only grow it in alternation with other crops, and mainly for the advantage it gives for a good clover seeding. If there was a decrease in the wheat crop in places where it did not pay, it would enable those who can grow it to get better prices, and encourage them to better systems of farming, so as to maintain the fertility of the soil, which successive wheat crops readily lessen.

TIMBER LANDS IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

London Industries says that "according to an official report it is computed that there are more than 2,000 square miles of valuable timber lands principally producing pine in Newfoundland. The timber supply of Canada, which, but a few years ago, was considered as almost inexhaustible, has, by reason of forest fires and indiscriminate cutting, begun to show signs of depletion, and Canadian lumber firms have already turned their attention to Newfoundland."

Colorado is usually thought of only as a mining State, but with the success and spread of irrigation she is pushing to the front as a fruit-producing State. A very large crop of the most luscious water-melons in the country is raised in Colorado, and the product is of such importance that Watermelon Day is a special holiday all over the eastern portion of the State; the Governor usually attends the festivities at the watermelon growing centre, and excursionists attend in thousands. This year Colorado has produced 2,200,000 quarts of strawberries.

DAIRY REPORTS.

The annual report of the Dairywomen's and Creameries' Associations of this Province, for 1891 is at hand bristling of "butter fat," and "just the cheese."

Mr. John Geary, of London Township, President of the Western Dairywomen's Association, in speaking of the financial position of the association, said:—

"During the past year four inspectors have been at work inspecting the factories and testing the milk supplied, wherever their services have been called for, and the dairy school has been carried on, presided over by Professor Bell. These things have to be paid for. Besides these we have had the experiments, and I may say they are very valuable experiments, carried on by both the Dominion and Ontario Governments. The Ontario Government, of course, has given the Association a money grant, besides carrying on the experiments I have referred to. The Dominion Government also has expended a large amount of money. I believe I am right in saying that Professor Sutherland's grant was \$25,000 to be expended in the work he has carried on. I have been told that it was impossible to get the farmers to support an institution intended altogether for their own good and for the carrying on of their own business. Now, I am a farmer myself, and I do not believe that story. I believe that if the matter has properly been before the farmers and the dairywomen of this country they would subscribe liberally to provide fun for the work we have undertaken to do. Now, the number of factories within the jurisdiction of the Western Dairywomen's Association is about 300. I can make out, about 300. Of these 300, I am sorry to say, only 132 applied for or received the services of these inspectors this summer. That is not as it ought to be. But take as a basis of figures to work upon this fact, that there are about three hundred factories. As near as I can figure it, the average number of patrons supporting each of these factories is about 70, that is, there are between 21,000 and 25,000 patrons who are sending their milk to these factories each year."

Amongst a mass of information published in the reports of public meetings held throughout the province we find as follows:—

"At the Mount Elgin creamery nearly every patron is feeding turnips. We ask them to feed the turnips after milking at night, and not to feed too heavily, and we have had no trouble to speak of with the flavor."

"Milk in certain conditions has a great deal to do with the color. Milk that is a little sour or acid will not make a bright, colored cheese. You will get a facing color."

"By experiments at the Wisconsin Station it was found that one hundred pounds of sweet whey was worth a very few cents as a promoter of flesh and health in calves, but sour whey was not worth anything."

"Out of the total domestic exports the agricultural products form 41.6 per cent. in Canada and 24.3 per cent. in the United States, but the dairy exports are 27.4 per cent. of the total agricultural exports in Canada and only 2.1 per cent. in the United States."

"The United States have increased their exports from 445,500 pounds for the decade 1881-70, to a total of 1,041,500,000 pounds for the decade 1881-90, and in addition the Canadian export trade has been almost entirely developed, until now it amounts to nearly 100,000,000 pounds annually, or the annual export now from North America is nearly four times what it was in 1868. We need have little fear then of overdoing the cheese exportation, providing a high standard of quality is maintained."

"A Jersey grade cow bought and brought home, not having been milked for 18 hours, gave 25½ pounds of milk, containing 1.8 per cent. of butter fat. In the evening she gave nine pounds, and it contained 10.4 per cent. of fat. The milk first taken was made into butter, and it became rancid in about two days. This well shows the effect of a feverish condition of the animal upon quality of milk and also of butter."

"A winter butter maker who was feeding ensilage and brewer's grains said that 'if six cows he had but two that went dry any part of the year. He got more milk by milking continuously than by allowing the usual season of rest, and more by feeding twice a day than when he fed three times. He could keep a cow more cheaply in the barn than in the pasture. She will spoil in a month four times as much pasture as she eats."

"In the case of milk sent to the city which had been chilled at home the cream would arise in the can to as great an extent as it would in the country not over two hours. There would just as much rise as if the milk were taken right from the cow. The cream seems to rise much quicker when it has been standing some time."

"The butter value of milk at St. Albans Creamery in Vermont last year was, in June, 56 cents for the lowest and 81 cents for the highest; in July, 55 to 86 cents; in August, 62 to 95 cents; in September, 77 to 131 cents, and in October, 92 to 135 cents, a variation of 61 cents per hundred pounds between the best and the poor."

"In 1881 Canada exported in round numbers 49,350,000 pounds of cheese; in 1890, 62,000,000. In 1881 Canada exported 17,649,491 pounds of butter, and in 1890 1,951,585 pounds. In 1881 the United States exported about 148,000,000 pounds of cheese, but in 1890 only a little over 95,000,000 pounds. In 1881 they exported 91,560,000 pounds of butter, and in 1890 less than 29,000,000 pounds."

"In selling a ton of hay from the farm you sell 85 times as much fertility from the soil as you would sell in a ton of butter, and the hay may sell for \$10 and the butter for \$450."

One effect of the cheap rates to the East on account of the Christian Endeavor and National Education conventions has been the wiping out of the summer tourist business for the season. Owing to the demonization that exists the low rates made for these events are available for everybody, and as a matter of fact the general public is travelling on them to a greater extent than the parties for whom they were originally intended. The final units of the tickets are far enough to enable anybody to go and spend ten weeks at the seaside. The rates are considerably lower than the regular summer tourist rates.

An African, with the additional nerve force imparted by the kola nut, can endure from 10 to 100 hours' fatigue, the half of which would kill the laborer foolish enough to attempt it without using the invigorating little nut. Where it takes eight Brazilian negroes to carry a load with difficulty, four American porters carry it cheerfully along, singing "as if each muscular exertion was exhilarating joy."

CURRENT TOPICS.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's recovery has been wonderfully rapid. It is not a month since he was brought from the south of France completely prostrated, and now it is announced that he will take part in the Leeds festival. The popular composer will now finish the almost completed score for the new Savoy opera.

In Turkey, if a man falls asleep in the neighborhood of a poppy-field, and the wind blow from the field towards him, he becomes narcotized, and would die if the country people, who are well acquainted with the circumstances, did not bring him to a well or stream and empty pitcher after pitcher of water on his face and body.

At Meningen, in Thuringia, when Karl Oepfershensen and his affianced arrived at the parish church to get married, the bride adorned with myrtle and orange blossoms, the person refused to marry the couple unless the bride removed what he termed heathen tomfoolery, meaning the myrtle and orange blossoms. This the bride refused to do, where upon the irritated clergyman violently tore away the myrtle and orange blossoms, and then performed the ceremony. The incident made such a deep impression on the mind of the woman that she has since been in hysterics, and it is feared, will go insane.

The Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, will begin the session of 1892-93 on Wednesday, October 19, and continue until the end of March. This institution is now firmly established, and forms undoubtedly the finest college building for veterinary purposes in America, and good authorities give it as their opinion that few even of the great European colleges can furnish more suitable facilities to their students than are afforded by this College. Prof. Andrew Smith, F. R. C. V. S., is the Principal, who will supply all the necessary information regarding the College.

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