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### EDITORIAL.

#### Status and Work of the Dominion Fruit Division.

Notwithstanding the strenuous protest of the fruit-growers, Hon. Sydney Fisher has announced his decision to place the Chief of the Fruit Division under the Dairy Commissioner in the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The reasons assigned are administrative ones. The original purpose in creating the Fruit Division was to enforce the Fruit Marks Act. In addition, it was charged with supervision of the packing and transportation of fruit, particularly in cold storage and cool chambers, and marketing. This brought it into connection with the cold storage and marketing divisions, which, having been organized principally to facilitate the transportation and promote the sale of dairy products, were in charge of Mr. Ruddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, under the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying. Subsequently, when Mr. Ruddick was appointed Dairy Commissioner, the work of the Cold Storage and Extension of Markets Division was continued under him, and owing to his close relation with the work of the Fruit Division, it was deemed advisable to place the work of the latter also in his charge.

From present indications, the fruit-growers will scarcely be satisfied with this arrangement. Among them is a general feeling that the Minister fails to appreciate the importance of the fruit business and its possibilities in Canada, and does not understand the urgent need for extension of the educational, investigative and co-operative work which it seems necessary that the Federal Department should be in a position to carry on. Mr. Fisher's reasons for including the Fruit in the same branch as the Cold Storage Division seem to imply that the former should confine its efforts mainly to inspection and marketing questions. To those interested, it is not clear why the Fruit Division should be more concerned in cold storage than the Poultry Division, which has been put under the Live-stock Commissioner. The fruit men think the extent, promise and needs of their business warrant very much increased attention at Ottawa, and a representative official, such as the present efficient chief has proved himself to be, who shall have the necessary authority to deal with their problems as exigencies demand. They consider the Minister takes a circumscribed view of the requirements of this branch of the service. Fruit-growing is a coming business in Canada, and we are satisfied that if the Hon. Mr. Fisher will personally acquaint himself more fully with its real needs and problems, he cannot but realize the desirability of what has been proposed.

#### Why Not Exempt Woodland from Taxation?

A trip through Western Ontario at this season convinces one that forestry agitation has not begun a moment too soon. To such an extent has the country been denuded that winds from the Great Lakes sweep across the land, and it is a question whether the Ontario climate, originally most favored, has not become more disagreeable than that of the prairies, while the effects of exposure on crop production are becoming evident to every observer. Yet, deforestation, stimulated by high prices for wood and timber, goes on apace. More and more land is being cleared, while the scattered wood-lots, sadly thinned, and underbrushed by stock, are not only losing their effect as a protection, but fast succumbing to the climatic rigor

which the unbroken forest used to modify. It is generally conceded that, for the well-being of crops and animal life, about twenty per cent. of the land of a country should be wooded, and it is a question whether the farmers of Canada would not produce nearly as much crop, at considerably greater profit than is now derived, if a quarter of the total area were reserved to protect the remaining three-fourths. In many sections, the proportion remaining is less than fifteen per cent., and in some cases less than ten, and that, too, along the headwaters of our most destructively erosive rivers. Something must be done to stay the ravages of the axe in the old-settled districts. It is true, the public is being gradually awakened, a forestry nursery has been established, and a forestry school proposed at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and will doubtless have a great influence, but further and more immediate steps are necessary. We believe it is perfectly sound logic that it will pay a farmer to keep part of his farm in bush, but if we wait till the majority are persuaded to action the next generation will inherit a bleak country. It will be a long time before the public sufficiently apprises the effect of forest upon health and crops, as the benefits of each man's wood-lot are spread over the neighborhood. It is clear that in the deforested counties everyone who keeps a good thick piece of bush is conferring a material benefit upon the community at large, and if, as many still believe, the direct returns from woodland are not equal to the net value of the crops from an equal cultivated area, it would be no injustice to bonus the man who thus maintains a neighborhood protection. As an easy means of substantially encouraging tree-planting or at least preserving existing areas, why not pass a law empowering municipalities to exempt from taxation all unpastured woodland? The plan seems feasible, is justifiable, and free from serious difficulties. It might not be acted upon extensively at first, but would doubtless have some effect, and would, at least, be a recognition of the communal principle involved. Here is a piece of practical forestry legislation which should commend itself in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island. It would be an excellent forward move for the new Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Ontario.

#### Every Man a Stallion Judge.

It is not necessary to remind our readers of the advantages of raising a colt or two every year. The horse-breeding industry is buoyant with the promises of the future. Horses are wanted, but in this insistent demand lies the chief danger to the breeder and to the average character of our stock. Such a demand as exists at present is always likely to call into requisition stallions of very inferior merit, horses that, under more normal conditions, and where everyone was trying to get only the best his circumstances would permit, would not be used at all as sires. It is against the use of such horses we wish to caution our readers. Breed only to a sound, clean-actioned horse, one up to weight, and with as much character as can be had. Never for a moment consider breeding to an unsound or awkward-gaited horse because there is a demand for any kind of an animal that will do draft work. The results may mean annoyance for years, or an immediate cash loss equal to more than the difference in service fee between a cross-roads scrub and an International winner. In horse-breeding, one should have one eye on the future and both eyes on the stallion supply in

his district. The mare may drop a filly that it is desired to keep, and this filly, in time, may be the progenitor of a long string of good drafty, sound, hardy work horses, or of an equal number that constantly develop some trouble as a consequence of hereditary tendencies.

Spring stallion shows would afford an excellent opportunity for breeders to become posted on the stallions available in a district, and to get some idea of their comparative values. Where these have not materialized breeders have to use their judgment and observation a little more assiduously, if they would select the best sire for their purpose. Nor should one wait until the stallioners have announced their routes before he begins to size up the stallion supply, for then seeding will have begun, and little time is available for such a purpose. Now, during the early spring is the time to investigate, and make arrangements. Where possible, take note of the colts in the district, look the horse over carefully, see how he feeds, and how he appears on ordinary fare, without extra fitting, talk the matter over with a few neighbors; it may be that arrangements may be made to have a very superior horse from a distance travel in the district, if sufficient support is assured. Before the season opens have plans laid. Take into consideration the type of mares on hand for breeding, and do not make stallion patronage a matter of personal consideration for a neighbor, unless he has what is wanted. Be sure the pedigree is authentic, and recorded in reliable books.

#### Stallion Pedigrees and Customs Regulations.

If anything was needed to give point and reason for a revision of the Canadian customs regulations, as to what was or was not to be considered pure-bred stock, such is afforded by the Kilkenny melee, in which the promoters of draft breeds of French horses in the United States have been engaged.

A short time ago we received a cartoon, accompanied by a pamphlet, deriding the following U. S. horse records associations: The American Clydesdale, the American Percheron Horse Breeders and Importers, the Percheron Registry, and the French Draft. Now comes a pamphlet headed, "Should the National French Draft Horse Association consolidate with any of the three American Percheron Associations, and if so, which one?" This latest pamphlet certainly pulls aside the veil, and we would suggest that until the consolidation of the associations take place and a U. S. Federal Government stamp be affixed to each and every certificate of pedigree, as a guarantee that such are authentic, all horses enrolled in the associations named above should be considered by the Canadian customs authorities as grades, and that duty be collected upon them. They should be required to produce certificates of registration in duly authorized Canadian records.

We suggest such a move because by means of this the farmers of Canada can be protected against the possible purchase of horses with bogus pedigrees and inferior breeding. In the French Draft pamphlet the statement is made that one record, dubbed a Percheron bubble, is owned and controlled by a firm of horse importers and breeders.

The breeding of draft horses is becoming more and more engaged in by the Canadian farmers, consequently the field is every day becoming more inviting to the seller of stallions.

We believe that the future of the Canadian horse industry depends quite largely upon the quality of the blood introduced, and that no