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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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Two things are to be feared from a permanent The first is that industries system of protection. will be maintained that are not suited to the country, and that will be a perpetual burden upon it, just because the tax protection enables them to levy on other industries; and, second, by their diversion of men and money from other and more profitable channels. The second is the formation of combines to enhance prices, either by restricting production to less than the needs of the home market, or by fixing a price for the home market higher than that of the export trade. There is reason to believe that all these things exist in Canada at the present time, and that the whole burden of the system falls on agriculture, and so heavily that this industry cannot hold its own. A tax higher than all other taxes combined, paid for the benefit of other industries. may have a good deal to do with our decreasing farm population, with the low profits of farming, with the problem of farm labor, and with many of our other difficulties. It is my hope to explain this more fully in future.

E. C. DRURY.

Renaissance of Maritime Agriculture.

The renaissance of Maritime agriculture is reflected, even as it is promoted and encouraged, by the annual reports of the Secretary of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, which come to us year after year, promptly issued, brim-full of information, and breathing the spirit of progress and hopefulness which animates the agricultural community of Nova Scotia since the inauguration of the Agricultural College at Truro. All things considered, it is about the most refreshing official document which finds its way to our desk.

Following up the idea instituted last year, when a feature of the annual report was a symposium of articles on the sheep industry, dairy ing is similarly treated in the 1908 report just to hand. The subject is discussed in all important phases, from breeding, selection and feeding, to manufacture and marketing of the product The importance of the subject lies not alone in the present extent of the dairy business, but in its possibilities, as well. Prof. Cumming, the Secretary of Agriculture, and Principal of the Agricultural College, estimates that, out of a total of 14,433,000 acres in Nova Scotia, about 5,000,-000 are occupied by farmers, on which were kept, in 1901, 313,174 horned cattle-i. e., one to every 16 acres, while Denmark boasts one to every or 4 acres. Of the total horned stock in the Province, 138,817 were cows, producing an estimated total of 416,451,000 pounds of milk, valued at \$4,164,510. With the average production of 3,000 pounds per cow doubled, as might well be attained, and the number quadrupled, the value of the dairy products of the Province could be raised to \$30,000,000; or, counting the hogs that could be raised on the by-products, a total well up to \$50.000,000. Denmark, with only two-thirds the area, and similar climatic and soil conditions, is yearly exporting upwards of \$100,000,000 worth of dairy products and pork.

The value of dairying as a means of maintaining soil fertility is impressed by a calculation that, while it would cost a farmer \$6.68 to buy commercial fertilizer the equivalent of the fertility in a ton of timothy hay, on the other hand, when this is fed to dairy cows, and the skim milk, in turn, to calves, the amount of fertilizing elements sold off the farm would not exceed ten per cent. of the above amount. Of course, this does not take account of wastage in manure, or cost of handling. So much for economics and possibilities. According to the Secretary's report, a considerable advance in private dairying was made in the Province last year, though the output of the factories did not materially change, there being manufactured in these about 13,600 pounds more butter and 16,037 pounds less cheese than during 1907. Condensories at Truro and Antigonishe reported an increased business. Altogether, there were manufactured into butter, cheese and condensed milk about 2,000,000 pounds more milk than in 1907. Among the 167 Agricultural Societies, Superintendent Fuller reports a demand for first-class dairy sires, notably Ayrshires, and a tendency to substitute Shorthorn bulls with special-purpose With an awakening interest in dairy sires. dairying, with more systematic use of pure-bred dairy sires of authenticated producing ancestry, with good markets, excellent climatic conditions, and with an increasing realization of the economic advantage of the dairy business, there would seem to be prospects for steady and extended growth.

benefit from inoculation of alfalfa in about 50 per cent. of cases where tested. The thirty-two model orchards established in various counties, under the Act of 1901, are for the most part doing well.

Intention is announced, in the report of the Principal of the Agricultural College, to develop nursery plantations, especially for the more important classes of forest trees. It is purposed to set aside some two or three acres on which to grow commercial varieties of trees for study and demonstration. It has also been decided to undertake agricultural experiments, which hitherto have rather been left to the Dominion Experimental Branch Farm, at Nappan.

The Agricultural College is proving of large service in both its regular and short courses, a feature of the work in January, 1909, being a short course for ladies in horticulture, dairying, seed selection, poultry-raising, and domestic science, with a few demonstrations in judging horses and cattle. Eighteen ladies were regularly enrolled, while at some classes as many as thirty were present.

That the work of the agricultural College can never prove as effective and far-reaching as it ought, unless directly related to the common school work of the country, has been recognized by arranging, in affiliation with the staff of the Normal School, a summer course especially intended for teachers, so that after three, two, or in some cases one vacation season a teacher may qualify himself or herself for a rural-science diploma which carries with it the right to a special Government grant.

realized by farmers. Great interest has been taken in field-crop competitions. This feature has been recognized as a valuable means of locating good seed both for seedsman and farmer. The benefit of the Seed Control Act in assisting the agriculturist to procure only good clean seed is appreciated. The net result has been increased yields and superior quality.

The output of cheese factories and creameries also showed a decline. This is credited to the introduction of cream separators increasing home dairying; to increased supplies of milk required in cities and towns, and to a scarcity of succulent food for the cows, owing to the severe drouth. Farmers are advised to supplement their pasturage with vetches, corn, or peas and oats. This practice is reported as growing in favor in the leading dairy sections. Root crops were an excellent crop, but mangels are said to be too scarce in dairy districts.

Horse-raising seems to be increasing in popularity. Pure-bred sires, Clydesdale and Percheron, are common. The Government, also, has purchased 18 Thoroughbred stallions in Kentucky. Cattle are not receiving the attention they should. Undue faith is placed in commercial fertilizers, as compared with manure from stock-raising. A few agricultural societies are doing a laudable work in introducing pure-bred stock.

Experiments conducted at Sussex show that alfalfa can be grown with encouraging results. The report advises nitro-culture treatment of the seed. Prospective growers are warned against sowing it on poor land. In order, first of all, to inoculate the soil, it is recommended that a

thin sowing of thoroughly-treated alfalfa be used, with general seeding of grass and clover.

No additional illustration or chards were set out during 1908. Dead trees were replaced in all except the orchard of Madawaska County, where the loss was so great each year that it has been considered unfit for orchard purposes.

Thirty students took advantage of the Government's offer to pay transportation charges to and from the Agricultural Colleges at Truro, N. S.; Guelph, Ontario, and Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P. Q.

An agricultural commission, comprising Hon. D. V. Landry, of Fredericton; Geo.



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Of other features, a word in passing. A year of exceptionally bounteous crops was blessed with a high range of prices for all products except hay, which thus offered less temptation to sell it off the farm. Many evidences of stock improvement have been noticed as a result of previous importations by the Government of pure-bred horses, sheep and cattle. Experiments indicated marked

Merry Matchmaker.

Thoroughbred stallion. Winner of Premium, Hunter Show, London, Eng., 1909.

Space forbids more extended reference in this article to the splendid work being carried on in the interest, not only of Nova Scotia, but of Maritime, agriculture. Suffice to say that the report under consideration registers another milestone in the record of Maritime agricultural progress, and what has been done is but an index of what we may expect.

N. B. Agriculture Report.

The annual report on agriculture in the Province of New Brunswick, for 1908, states that conditions in general have been about normal, and that increased attention to educational work is having a marked effect on methods adopted. Unusual weather conditions resulted in late-sown grains being superior to early sowing. This is explained by the fact that the spring was late and cold. In early June, when most of the crop was nicely above ground, a drouth set in that lasted until near the middle of July. The consequence was short straw and small heads. In wheat, the average yield for the last 11 years has been 18.4 bushels. Last year it was 16.6. Oats averaged, for 11 years, 29.1 bushels, but in 1908 only 28.1. Barley stood 23.1 bushels for 11 years' average, and 22.2 for last year. Buckwheat averaged 21.7 bushels during the last 11 years, and 23.4 in 1908. Potatoes showed an average of 130 bushels for 11 years, and 167.8 last year. Turnips yielded 420.7 bushels average for 11 years, and 513.9 in 1908.

The importance of seed selection is being

E. Fisher, of Chatham, and W. W. Hubbard, of Burton, is investigating agri-

Space forbids more extended reference in this culture, immigration and colonization conditions ticle to the splendid work being carried on in and possibilities. A complete form of inquiry has interest, not only of Nova Scotia, but of been sent to a correspondent in each school district.

Full reports are given of work done by Agricultural Societies and Farmers' Institutes. The proceedings of the Fruit-growers' Association convention and the Maritime Winter Fair also embody valuable information for agriculturists in Eastern Canada.

HORSES.

Getting the Harness Ready.

Harness should be cleaned once a year, at least, and the spring, before heavy work begins, is as good a time as any for putting it into shape. It needs to be cleaned, oiled and repaired, broken traces mended, torn parts sewn up, last year's deposit of dirt washed out, and the leather oiled, to maintain its softness, elasticity and wearing qualities.

To properly clean and oil harness, proceed as follows: Take the harness apart, and place the parts in a tub of lukewarm water, with a handful of washing soda in it. Let it soak about 20 minutes, and then scrub each piece with an ordinary scrubbing brush on a board. When the leather is nearly dry, apply neat's-foot oil. Allow to hang in a moderate temperature until again dry, and then give a second dressing with oil. When dry, put together, and then, if thought advisable, for appearance sake, apply some of the harness dressings to give gloss and blackness.