

EDITORIAL.

The Agricultural Elector and His Representative.

The relation of a legislator to his constituents is one that has received less consideration than its importance warrants. With one Provincial election recently over, and a Federal election looming up in the distance, a few words on this topic will certainly be timely. Periodically, the complaint is made that the parliamentary candidate makes his appearance on a hand-shaking tour immediately prior to an election, manifesting great interest in the affairs of the people; but the campaign over, very little more is seen of him until four or five years roll around, and the votes of the electors are again wanted. That the defeated candidate should subside is only natural, but it is the successful individual that we have in mind just now. Some noteworthy exceptions there are to this rule, but unfortunately they are only exceptions. Too many members of legislative bodies act as though they represented only the party, the local party machine or themselves, instead of the constituency at large. One case recurs to mind where a legislator endeavored to justify certain votes, for which he had been taken to task in his constituency, by saying that he had been sent down to support the leader of his party, and that support was given through thick and thin. What a humiliating spectacle! Here was an individual with intelligence and knowledge transformed into a mere jumping jack, bobbing up whenever the party string was pulled. That political partyism is to disappear we do not expect, though if the history of the past teaches anything, it teaches that some great reforms have originated outside of existing parties, the policies of which have been modified or transformed through the influence of new organizations arising from time to time and public discussion. It has been insinuated that the mere "voting machine" attitude above referred to is due to the fear that the chances for fat offices for themselves or their friends would be spoiled by getting over party traces in a spirit of independence; but we credit our public men as a class, or those who aspire to public life, with better principle than that. We also believe that the good sense of Canadians will approve a spirit of manly independence on the part of parliamentary representatives, who ought to keep in constant touch with the people they represent, and whose interests they are specially authorized to promote. Instead of appearing on the party platform once in four or five years, they should, at least every year, when the party spirit is not aroused, consult with the people, irrespective of their political views, and in public meetings fairly and fully present the questions of the day. The educational effect, both on the member and upon his constituents, would be most wholesome. It has been shown in the past also that the members who stand by the true interests of their constituents will be sustained when the time for a renewal of confidence comes round, even though they have trod on party corns in the interval. By thus developing a spirit of frankness and fairness, and promoting a more dispassionate and intelligent consideration of various questions affecting the public weal, we are satisfied that the tax-paying elector, and the country generally, would reap great gain, while much of the bad odor that now attaches the word "politics" would be removed.

Mr. R. Raleigh, of North Carolina, announces in the "Progressive South" the presence of a new potato pest. Thousands of them have suddenly appeared. They do not eat the leaves, but puncture the growing tip, causing the plant to wither and die. This insect has formerly fed on thistles, but has lately attacked potatoes. It has been found in Florida.

Prof. E. H. Farrington, Agricultural Chemist of the Illinois Experimental Station, Champaign, has been elected to the chair of Associate Professor of Dairy Husbandry in the University of Wisconsin. Professor Henry and Dr. Babcock, who have previously divided this work between them, will now be relieved of this work, and Dr. Babcock will resume his chosen work dairy chemistry. Professor Farrington has for some time been associated with many of the late improvements in dairy science, having introduced the use of the alkaline tablets for measuring the acidity of cream to ascertain the proper ripeness for churning. Professor Farrington has also had charge of several State fair dairy tests, and was chemist of the Columbian dairy test.

Practical Education for Farmers' Daughters.

The Minnesota State University has wisely commenced a summer session for farmers' daughters. Dairying and domestic economy are the subjects taught. The session opened on June 5th with about sixty pupils in attendance. The school is for the exclusive benefit of girls. An opportunity is given their brothers in the winter months. Our own Dairy School at Guelph, which has had two very prosperous sessions, has not made the distinction that marks Minnesota's new departure in educating the sexes separately, but they are not the first to give the rural female population an opportunity to acquire a scientific knowledge of dairying. The Guelph Dairy School has had several ladies in attendance at both sessions, and their numbers are expected to increase as the years roll round.

The Minnesota School is giving not only due attention to all the various branches of dairying, but domestic economy is also receiving careful attention. A half dozen ranges are set up in their drill hall, and they will cook as long as the liberality of the State will furnish them with the necessary supplies. First, they will give attention to preparing meats, then vegetables and soups, and finally bread and pastries will be given a good deal of attention. It has been made a rule that no pupil will be allowed to leave the school without having learned to make bread of the proper color and density. These girls are not going to stop simply with a knowledge of cooking and buttermaking, but will also receive instruction in botany, chemistry and hygiene, such as will be of practical application to their household work. The care of small fruits and plants, food adulteration and insect pests, as well as ventilation and drainage, will be ably discussed. There is one important branch of domestic economy which apparently is being left out of the curriculum of that institution, namely, laundry work. No doubt this department will receive due attention before many summer sessions have passed.

We commend the Minnesota people on their new departure. It is certainly a stride in the right direction. We hope to see our own Province introducing a session for farmers' daughters at the new dairy building at Guelph. They now have the opportunity of attending the winter session, but while that is being embraced by a few young women, we have no doubt but a session, with domestic economy added to the list of studies, would be of very great utility.

Canada at the "Royal."

In its report of the recent 55th annual exhibition at Cambridge, in connection with the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Mark Lane Express has the following:—

An interesting exhibit is that made by the High Commissioner for Canada on behalf of the Dominion Government, at stand No. 1. The exhibit includes specimens of grain, in the straw and in bulk, in great variety, part of them being from the experimental farms established by the Canadian Department of Agriculture at different points between Quebec and British Columbia, and a fine collection has also been sent by the Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario from the Government Farm at Guelph. The districts to which so much attention has been drawn during the past few years, and more especially through the agency of the reports of the British tenant farmers' delegates in 1890 and 1893, namely, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, are strongly represented by magnificent specimens of grains and grasses. The photographs at this stand are numerous and striking, views being given of farm scenes, homesteads and ranches, and there are also some remarkable views of mountain and forest scenery. A unique collection of minerals, sent over by the Minister of the Interior, the Hon. T. M. Daly, is very suggestive of the wealth of the country in this department. The specimens of elk, deer and buffalo heads, and the stuffed salmon, trout and lake white fish will attract the attention of sportsmen. There are many other things of special and general interest to agriculturists and to business men, and to all concerned in the progress of the Empire, of which this colony forms an important part.

The office of road inquiry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is issuing for the use of the press of the country a series of articles on road improvement, describing and comparing methods tried in various sections.

By mulching and by stirring the surface, much can be done to retain soil moisture. Some men say they cannot see how water will run up hill, but if capillary attraction is not broken by one or other of the above methods, very much surface evaporation will take place during July and August, leaving the soil far too dry.

The Russian Wheat Fields.

Recent advices received from Russia indicate that the burning question of the day there is: "What are we to do with the coming plentiful harvest?" Should the crop be reaped and garnered in, or would it not be wiser to turn sheep and cattle into the grain fields and thus lessen the quantity of the produce? It seems well-nigh incredible that a people who two years ago were in the throes of a famine, and who publicly offered up prayers to Heaven for an abundant harvest, should be now concerting measures for the purpose of counteracting the effects of the wished-for abundance. But it is none the less true; and stranger still, the agricultural press, in reply to the question: "Should the corn be reaped?" have deliberately given it as their opinion that for numerous districts it would be advisable to say "No." One landlord, who owns a large estate near Odessa, foreseeing the fall of prices, purchased 1,000 sheep and turned them into his fields of wheat, with satisfactory results.

The Odessa Norosti, an agricultural paper, has had published in Great Britain a series of articles to show that to gather in the harvest this year would be throwing good money after bad, for it can only be done at a heavy loss to the farmers. A "pood" of barley (36 lbs.), when it reaches the port, costs the producer 36j copecks, whereas the market price is at present 34 copecks, or about 27j cents per 36 lbs., and is bound to become less as soon as the abundance of this year's harvest is generally known.

Soiling During Drouths.

No doubt last season's experience taught a great many farmers, in the Western part of Ontario especially, that pasture alone is not to be depended on for dairy stock. Notwithstanding this, there will be men this year whose cows will seriously fall away in milk during the next two months. Now, just think of the folly of allowing such a state of affairs to exist. The present loss of milk is not the most serious by any means, for many of the cows will fall away in condition, and the milk flow will be so much decreased that if they ever return to their full capacity it will be by expensive feeding and a loss of time. It is not an uncommon answer to receive from a slack farmer, when asked why he has not made necessary arrangements to successfully face a drouth, that he "cannot do everything that should be done on a farm, and wages are far too high to make it profitable to hire another man." We admit that agricultural labor is higher just now than the times will warrant, but as for the other part of the answer, we have something to say. It is agreed that dairying is by far the most profitable part of general agriculture at the present time; therefore, we would say by all means do not neglect the part that pays. There may be some jobs which can be left without detriment, but the feeding of dairy cows is not one of these. There may be some fence-corners that cannot be mown for lack of time, but why not invite a poor man in the neighborhood who keeps a cow to come and mow the corners for what he can get out of them. We do not advocate slovenliness, nor neglect of any part of farm work, but by all means consider what work should be left and what done. It is certainly quite late now to prepare to meet this year's drouth, if it should come, but still, rape may be sown even yet to furnish fall feed, and, according to the experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College, rape fed in the stable did not give to milk an objectional flavor. But the time to think of this work was in the spring, so do not allow another spring to go past without sowing a succession of soiling crops for the cows to aid the pasture. There is no danger of losing anything by it, even though there is a superabundance of pasture—something we hardly ever see—for any of the fodder crops will cure for winter feeding, and the surplus hay will command a fair price some time during the year.

Do not neglect securing early copies of agricultural fair prize lists, and lay plans for making successful exhibits this season.

See that the rush of harvest work does not interfere with the supplementary feeding of cows in case of drouth, and with milking at regular hours.

London (Eng.) Live Stock Journal: "The import trade in cattle from the United States and from Canada will henceforth be conducted under the same regulations, viz., slaughter at the ports of landing."

It is a great mistake to allow grain crops to over-ripen before cutting. Wheat loses weight, shells, and is hard to handle. Oats suffer the same losses as well as losing feeding value in the straw. Barley becomes crinkled down and discolored.

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