

butor—and are making him the victim of a hospitality that his modest soul will shrink from. In a letter received from him shortly after arrival he seemed to be perturbed about the coal strike but as he has apparently settled the strike we expect that he will return home in time to furnish his usual article next month.

SIR—

Your reference to the Industrial Monopoly movement in your last issue was most timely. Our Province is now facing a crisis which compels consideration by every thoughtful citizen. It would be desirable to have both more capital and more ability directed along all lines that tend to develop our country, provided the cost is not too great, but we shall guard our liberties with jealous care.

The Dairy movement has been an almost unqualified success since we adopted the co-operative plan: it was a failure until then, whereas we can now look back upon millions of money distributed broadcast for value received, while it has given employment to an army of busy workers, and (what is perhaps its best feature) it has developed or rather drawn out a business ability which is a constant source of surprise to all who had accepted the slander that the farmer's brains are chiefly in his feet.

On two occasions, some years ago, large representative meetings of farmers were held in Summerside in order to consider and if possible organize a Farmers' Co-operative Packing Company, in order that our enormous output of raw material might be manufactured here and shipped in best marketable form. On both occasions the conventions adjourned without definite action, as it was impossible to secure a competent management which would command unqualified confidence. Two years ago Mr. F. W. Hodson brought a wealthy English provision dealer to our Maritime Stock-Breeders Convention in Charlottetown, who offered to back us up with all the necessary capital and handle the entire output, if we would organize a farmers' Co-operative Packing Company along approved lines. Farmers were gaining confidence in themselves, and there was considerable correspondence before this matter dropped, but there was no competent leader, and our hands were already full with private enterprise.

Now the matter is again astir, and will not down. We must either trust a Trust to manage our packing business at their own charges (which we know will not be small) or we may launch a co-operative joint-stock company in which five-thousand farmers are offered shares at ten dollars each, giving us a voice in the management as well as a share in the profits, which we would then be more disposed to see round out a good lump sum year after year. The Company making the proposal is well and favourably known from one end of the Island to the other. Mr. Fraser is one of our 'Successful Islanders abroad.' They have purchased largely here, paying market prices, and often setting the pace for other buyers; they are prospering already, and no doubt a Co-operative company including the producers, under equally capable management would do even better, other things being equal.

Here is an opportunity for us to do our own business, and, personally, I am satisfied that we cannot afford to let the opportunity slip, and place ourselves at the mercy of a large monopoly which would first crush out all competitors and then fix their own prices while producers might writhe on the gridiron.

JEREMIAH S. CLARK.