

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE &amp; HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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## CONTENTS.

## EDITORIAL:—

421—Illustration. 422—Editorial Notes: Farm Building Plans; A Lesson from the Antipodes; "Canada's Glory"; "Miss Baker" and the Hackneys; Ministry of Agriculture in Denmark; Notes of Interest on Experimental Work. 423—New Brunswick International Exhibition, Held at St. John, N. B.—Crops of 1895; A Sweepstakes Pair—Illustrated; Nova Scotia Exhibitions. 424—Work at the Dominion Experimental Farm; Moderation in Swine Feeding.

## STOCK:—

421—New Brunswick Breeding Stock; A Judge's Suggestion to Exhibitors of Dairy Cattle. 425—Parliament and the Farmer; How to Buy a Horse. 426—The Australian Tick Plague; Regulations Respecting the Importation and Exportation of Horses; Our Scottish Letter.

## FARM:—

427—Mr. W. C. Edwards' New Dairy Barns—Illustrated; The Care of Harness. 428—Commercial Fertilizers; Handling the Turnip Crop.

## DAIRY:—

428—Branding Canadian Dairy Products; Dairy Tests at Local Shows. 429—Australian Butter; Food Preservatives.

## GARDEN AND ORCHARD:—

429—The Farmer's Fruit Garden.

## THE HELPING HAND:—

430—Handy Farm Contrivances and Methods; A Home-made Potato Sprayer.

## APIARY:—

430—Wintering Bees—Illustrated; The World's Wheat Crop.

## POULTRY:—

431—Winter Management of Poultry; Raising Ducks. 432—The Perches.

## VETERINARY:—

432—Micro-organisms and Disease; How to Treat Wounds.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—

433—Miscellaneous: Peas and Oats Silage; Prickly Sow Thistle (*Sonchus asper*); Diseased Grapes.

## LIVE STOCK MARKETS:—

433—Montreal Markets; Toronto Markets; Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

## FAMILY CIRCLE:—434.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER:—434.

## THE QUIET HOUR:—435.

## UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT:—436.

GOSSIP:—437—A Good Suggestion; etc.; 439—Montreal Provincial Exhibition Prize List; etc.; 441, 442—Canada Centra (Ottawa) Exhibition Prize List.

## BOOK TABLE:—437.

## NOTICES:—440.

## ADVERTISEMENTS:—436 to 444.

WANTED.—Good reliable agents in every township, to obtain new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Send for sample copy and terms to agents.

## Parliament and the Farmer.

IMPORTANT ACTION TAKEN IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS—COLD STORAGE FOR PERISHABLE PRODUCTS—DEVELOPING THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Early in the session of the Canadian Parliament just closed at Ottawa, an informal meeting of members, of both political stripes, was held to discuss the condition of Canadian farming and recommend plans for its improvement. The subject was then referred to a sub-committee to report back subsequently, which they did in an exhaustive document. One clause dealt with Tariff Reform, but, as might be expected, this opened up a hopeless controversy, and, wisely, we think, was dropped by consent, and a unanimous agreement was reached on other important subjects. This report was brought before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization, which, in its final report to the House of Commons, incorporated the suggestions made along with others. One of the principal recommendations was the establishment of cold storage transport for butter, cheese, meats, fruit, poultry, eggs, and other perishable food products, so that they may be landed in Britain in an undeteriorated condition and receive proper recognition there. The Government was recommended to place a sufficient sum in the Estimates for this purpose, it being hoped that the service would soon become self-sustaining. The report was adopted in its entirety by the House, appropriations being duly voted without dissent. Hon. Mr. Foster, ex-Finance Minister, complimented the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher), after the latter had outlined the cold storage plans arranged, upon his frank and businesslike statement.

In looking over the main Estimates we find the three following items, an explanation of which will interest our readers throughout Canada, particularly those engaged in the dairy industry:—

82.—Dairying service..... \$30,000 00

83.—To enable Dairy Commissioner to promote dairying interests by advances for making cheese and butter within the Provinces, the proceeds of sale of products from such advances to be replaced to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund..... 25,000 00

84.—To enable the Dairy Commissioner to promote the dairying interests of Canada by making provision for the placing of fresh made creamery butter and cheese on the British markets in regular shipments without deterioration in quality, and for securing recognition of quality there..... 20,000 00

The item of \$30,000, for "dairying service," is one to provide for the expenses of the dairying service throughout the Dominion. The salaries and expenses of the Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner's office are paid from it; salaries and traveling expenses of all the traveling instructors are paid from it, and the expense of carrying on dairy work such as that of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and the N.-W. T. dairy stations.

Item No. 83 (\$25,000), "to enable the Dairy Commissioner (Prof. Robertson) to promote the dairy interests by advances, etc.," is, as we understand it, a vote in the nature of a credit to enable him to make payments at the end of every month to patrons for milk and cream supplied to the different dairy stations. The whole of the amount advanced is refunded to the credit of the Receiver-General from the proceeds of the products from these dairy stations when they are sold. It cannot be designated an actual expenditure, as it is all repaid every year.

Item No. 84 (\$20,000), "to enable the Dairy Commissioner, etc.," is the vote which is called the cold storage vote. It will be used (1) to make payments to the railway companies for giving weekly refrigerator car service. (The agreement with the railway companies is in substance that on approved routes the Government guarantees to make up the earnings of a refrigerator car each trip to a sum equal to two-thirds of a carload rate from the starting point to Montreal, plus the cost of icing. The car picks up lots of butter at all stations on the route, and the shippers of butter are charged the usual less-than-carload rates for such shipments. When the earnings of the car on these shipments come to as much or more than the amount guaranteed by the Government, then no payment is made by the Government to the railway companies.)

(2) The vote is also used to provide refrigerator compartments on board steamships.

In the Supplementary Estimates an item of \$15,000 is the N.-W. T. creameries vote, under which it is proposed to make loans to joint stock companies of farmers of sums sufficient to provide machinery and equipment for a creamery. The Government will take the management of these creameries for a few years, charging not less than four cents per pound of butter for manufacturing and marketing the butter. The Government will also make a charge of one cent per pound of butter to form a sinking fund for the repayment of the loan made to these companies. From time to time, shares in the joint stock company will be issued to the several patrons in proportion to the amounts which they have contributed, at the one cent per pound rate on their butter, to the loan fund.

The supplementary item for \$35,000, to enable the Dairy Commissioner to promote the dairying

interests by advances for milk and cream, etc., is of exactly the same nature as No. 83 in the main Estimates, to which we referred. It is in the nature of a credit, and will all be refunded to the Receiver-General from the proceeds of the sales.

The item in the Supplementary Estimates, of \$20,000, is in reality another cold storage vote. (1) It is proposed that an arrangement shall be made with the railway companies to give a regular service of refrigerator cars on many more lines than were provided for during the current year.

(2) It is proposed also to grant a bonus of \$100 per creamery to such creameries as provide adequate and efficient cold storage accommodation for the holding of their butter safely until it is shipped. It is estimated that if the icehouse and cold storage at the creamery have to be erected from the beginning, the cost to the proprietor at the creamery would be from \$400 to \$600. In many cases the cost of adapting the present icehouse and cold storage chambers to meet the requirements of the Government would not be more than \$200. It is proposed to pay a bonus of \$50 in 1897 to all factories complying with the requirements for providing cold storage accommodation, \$25 in 1898, and \$25 in 1899. As probably 200 creameries will take advantage of this in 1897, about \$10,000 will be taken in that way.

(3) It is proposed to give some help, as may be found most desirable, for the improvement and extension of the export trade in eggs.

(4) Before the next session of Parliament it is expected that the Minister of Agriculture will enter into contracts with steamship companies to provide refrigerator accommodation on several lines of steamships from Canadian ports weekly to Great Britain. The contracts will be subject to ratification by Parliament.

(5) It is also intended to enter into contracts or agreements with companies looking towards providing the necessary cold storage accommodation at several points of collection and shipment of perishable fruit products.

(6) It is also proposed to give some assistance towards the erection of district cold storage warehouses specially for fruit. Contracts will likely be entered into with individuals or companies who may agree to provide the necessary accommodation in these respects. This will all be subject to the ratification of Parliament.

(7) Part of the \$20,000 in the Supplementary Estimates will be taken in the making of investigations and inquiries into what might be called a campaign in Great Britain, informing the consumers there of the plans proposed by the Government for landing Canadian products in a better condition in their markets.

(8) The extra staff required to perform the clerical and other work of the branch in consequence of these undertakings by the Government will also be paid from this vote of \$20,000.

Carrying out the cold storage system fully may yet require further aid, but the action thus far taken indicates that these plans will be carried out in a vigorous, comprehensive, and careful way, so that we trust the producer will secure the benefits intended.

## How to Buy a Horse.

"If you want to buy a horse don't believe your own brother. Take no man's word for it," says an old horseman in *Horseshoer's Journal*. "Your eye is your market. Don't buy a horse in harness. Unhitch him and take everything off but his halter, and lead him around. If he has a corn or is stiff, or has any failing, you can see it. Let him go himself away, and if he walks right into anything you know he is blind. No matter how clear and bright his eyes are, he can't see any more than a bat. Back him, too."

"Some horses show their weaknesses or tricks in that way, when they don't in any other. But, be as smart as you can, you'll get caught sometimes. Even the expert get stuck. A horse may look ever so nice and go a great pace, and yet have fits. There isn't a man who could tell it until something happens. Or, he may have a weak back. Give him the whip and off he goes for a mile or two, then all of a sudden he stops on the road. After a rest he starts again, but he soon stops for good, and nothing but a derrick can start him. The weak points about a horse can better be discovered while standing than while moving. If he is sound, he will stand firmly and squarely on his limbs without moving them, with legs plumb and naturally poised; or, if the foot is taken from the ground, and the weight taken from it, disease may be suspected, or, at least, tenderness, which is the precursor of disease. If a horse stands with his feet spread apart or straddles with his hind legs, there is a weakness in his loins and the kidneys are disordered. Heavy pulling bends the knees. Bluish, milky cast eyes in horses indicate moon blindness or something else. A bad-tempered one keeps his ears thrown back; a stumbling horse has blemished knees. When the skin is rough and harsh and does not move easily to the touch, the horse is a heavy eater and digestion bad. Never buy a horse whose breathing organs are at all impaired. Place your ear at the heart, and if a wheezing sound is heard it is an indication of trouble."

An unfailling test of an easy milker is flat ends in the teats. Cows having flat-ended teats milk easy, the outlet being large; those having pointed ends to their teats milk hard, because the outlet is small, and much squeezing is done to force out the milk.