

so I know that I have fresh eggs for hatching; that makes a difference in eggs.

Would like to know, first, can it be possible the germs of white diarrhea are still in my incubator? Have always kept it perfectly clean; no one could tell it from a new one, as I covered the floor of the nursery chamber with burlap and chaff before chicks got there, and have washed it out with carbolic-acid solution. One leading make of incubator uses sand-tray for moisture. Can any reader tell about moisture from sand—when it is put in, and how often renewed or damped? I do like incubator and brooder chicks; they are so nice and clean, and it is much easier attending them than a lot of cross hens, and then having them killing each other's chicks, or dragging them through wet grass, and hiding under barns, to feed skunks.

Queen's Co., N. B.

A. MacD.

## THE FARM BULLETIN.

### Agricultural Temiskaming.

In order to correct the erroneous impression entertained by some that mining is the one great hub on which that part of New Ontario known as Temiskaming revolves, and to set forth its more-abiding farm achievements and possibilities, the Board of Trade of that district have issued a handsome and comprehensive descriptive brochure, illustrated by a wealth of photogravures. The descriptive articles are written by practical men resident in the country, who know by experience whereof they speak, and the engravings of the magnificent fields of grain and other crops back up their assertions. An indication is also given of the remarkable progress of such towns as

Liskeard, Halesbury, Englehart, Charlton, and Cochrane, affording, with the railway and other pioneering work going on in the country, a keen market for all the products of the fertile soil, at fancy prices. The Herald newspaper, of Liskeard, undertook the responsibility of preparing this booklet, and, as might be expected, has "done itself proud." Copies may be obtained by writing T. Magladery, Secretary of the Board of Trade, Liskeard, Temiskaming, Ont., and all who desire to know about the country should promptly secure them.

The Free Press is talking up a horse show for London, Ont. Center of a celebrated breeding district, the Forest City should be the home of an excellent annual event. Horse shows are increasingly popular, and deservedly so.

## What is the Matter with Ontario Agriculture?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

Hon. J. S. Duff,

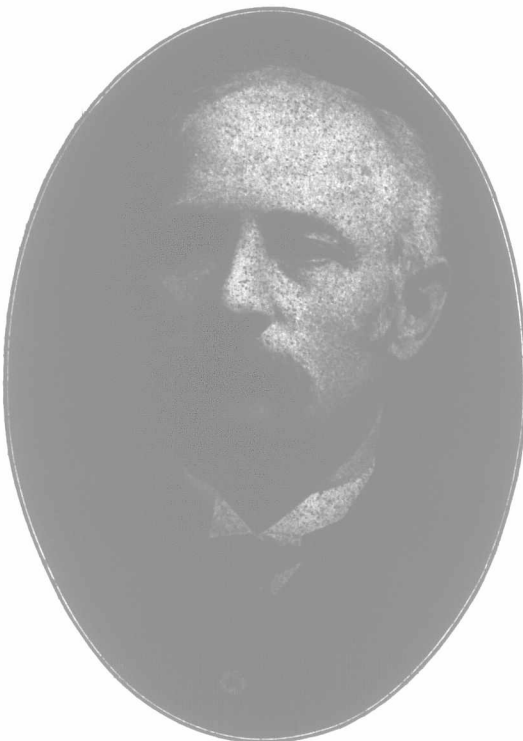
Minister of Agriculture for Ontario,  
Toronto.

Dear Sir,—Why are food products at extreme prices in Canada and the United States? Both countries (Canada, in particular) are advertised the world over as being possessed of boundless acreage of cheap lands. Agriculturists from Europe are urged to come to Canada, where land can be had at a minimum price. They are advised that the cost of raising farm products is so moderate that older countries, with high-priced lands, cannot successfully compete. Notwithstanding these statements, congested Europe is now being supplied, or is supplying itself, with many lines of staple food products at prices below present values in Canada and the United States. At different times during the past year, imports from Europe into these two American communities have only been stopped by the high tariff against such importations. Eggs, butter, poultry, bacon, beef, are being sold in continental cities and in Great Britain, at prices in some instances equal, and in others lower than are current on this continent.

It is strange that there should be so much confusion as to the cause of the extreme prices of these food products on the American continent. There may be warrant for sharp differences of opinion as to the causes which have led to lessened production in Canada and the United States, or as to where the chief emphasis should be placed for the disinclination of farmers to produce greater supplies, but there can be no intelligent difference of opinion as to the fact itself. There is but one cause: Present production gives an insufficient supply to meet present demand.

It is singular that journalists who so readily write with authority concerning food products, and officials in departments of agriculture, from the Minister down, have so signally failed to understand the character and causes for the increased demand which has so overtaken the available supplies. There has been no serious effort to understand the enlarged demand occasioned by the higher standard of living commonly established the world over, or that widely extended markets have been opened to the producers of Canada and the United States, through the enterprise of manufacturers and distributing merchants, who have brought to the problem fine courage and high intelligence. Their efforts have been made possible through controlled temperature in storages at points of production, through improved transportation facilities, through controlled temperature in refrigerated cars, and in refrigerated chambers on ships, and through controlled temperature in storage houses at consuming centers, where perishable products are carried for even distribution over longer periods.

It should occasion you surprise that Ministers in charge, for the most part officials associated with Departments of Agriculture in the various Provinces in Canada, who, it might be assumed, would feel under obligation to secure a closer acquaintance with prevailing conditions, have failed to appreciate the significance of the remarkable enlargement in the domestic demand which has arisen during recent years in Canada for staple food products, or to know that the chief producer, the Ontario farmer, has not only not planned to meet this demand with increased supplies, but has actually decreased the production of every line of food products for which the demand calls. It is apparent that you have not understood that this added demand has been chiefly supplied by products from the Provinces of Ontario. You have permitted, you are now permitting, thousands of young Ontario farmers, the cream of our agricultural people, to leave their own Province for the West, while, by so doing, you indicate you are not cognizant of the advantages of continued residence in this Province if



Hon. James S. Duff.

Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.



J. W. Flavelle.

full advantage is taken of the opportunities which open in response to intelligent effort.

New Ontario, with its mining development, has created a body of consumers who every day take quantities of meats, butter, eggs, which reach a volume of surprising proportions, considering the recent character of the development. The enlarged towns and cities in this and other Provinces have greatly increased the body of consumers who daily require the same products. The added consumption of milk and cream in these larger towns and cities constitutes a new and heavy drain upon the available supplies in their immediate vicinity. There is an army of men, all consumers, employed in railway construction, from St. John, in the East, to Prince Rupert, in the West. These men are in camps on the Transcontinental Railway, on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, on the Canadian Northern Railway, on the Canadian Pacific branch lines, and on others.

running into startling figures, and the consumption daily of meat and other products assumes proportions which have received little attention. In the West there is an inflowing tide of immigration which last year amounted to 150,000, which this year is estimated at 250,000, and which, during the last five years, has created a great body of new consumers requiring meats, butter, eggs and poultry for daily consumption. Moreover, it is peculiar to this Western immigration that those who go on the land follow the line of least resistance, and for the earlier years of their occupation give their attention chiefly to the raising of grain crops, and little or no attention to dairying, to the raising of poultry, or to the feeding of stock. An important percentage of them, therefore, continue to be buyers of meat products, buyers of eggs and butter, not producers. There has been the development of mining and lumber camps, and large cities in British Columbia, which have established another body of consumers, demanding the same products as are required by those upon the prairies, or in railway camps, or in New Ontario, or in the enlarged towns and cities in the West.

A few examples will indicate somewhat the volume of this new demand. In 1904, officers of your Department supervised the shipment of two cars of mixed tender fruits from the Niagara Peninsula to Winnipeg. The Department assumed the commercial hazard of the venture. From these initial shipments, the trade has developed until, during the year 1909, upwards of 500 carloads of tender fruits were forwarded from the Niagara Peninsula to that city. Last fall, one firm in a town in Ontario took orders in the Prairie Provinces and in British Columbia for 40 carloads of poultry, in all, 1,300,000 pounds. They were sold at prices which netted the shipper 16 cents per pound on board cars in Ontario. This shipper was only one among many in this Province buying supplies for the same market. The demand so exhausted supplies, and created such fiercely competitive conditions to secure the available stock, that by Christmas prices were forced to almost a prohibitive point. The lesson which this incident gave to newspaper writers in this Province was indicated in their advice to the public to visit their displeasure upon the wicked retailers who charged such extravagant prices, and who, in return, said, "Not the retailer, but the wicked wholesaler, is to blame."

Recently, in a visit made to the East, a wholesale dealer from Victoria, B. C., made purchases of 23 carloads of eggs (19,350 cases of 30 dozen each), at a price approximating 21 cents per dozen f.o.b. cars in Ontario, shipment during the fall and winter months. Winnipeg merchants, during this last week, have been inquiring for 20 carloads of eggs for shipment this fall. Other wholesale merchants in Winnipeg, in Calgary, in Vancouver, in Victoria, have trade calling for similar supplies. During the past six months, over 200 carloads of pork products have been purchased for shipment to Winnipeg and the West between the date of purchase and the middle of September. This is, for the most part, all new trade, and the development of the last few years, and increasing greatly each season in volume. This demand at present has to be met chiefly by products raised from the farms in the Province of Ontario. I suggest that it is worth while for you, as Minister of Agriculture, to seek to understand the possibilities of this new trade which is being offered to the farmers of Ontario.

How have the farmers of Ontario responded to this added demand? They have responded by producing a lessened number of milk cows, a lessened number of beef cattle, a lessened number of sheep and lambs, a lessened number of hogs, a lessened quantity of butter, a lessened quantity of cheese, a lessened quantity of poultry and eggs. Even in a small matter like honey, they have kept a lessened number of bees. What has been the result? The export of eggs has ceased. The export of butter has practically ceased. The export of bacon has been cut in two. The export