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Make the Punishment Fit the Crime

AMONG the recommendations of the recent fruit conference at Ottawa was one that the fine imposed for infraction of the Fruit Marks Act should be largely increased. There is certainly room for some improvement in this direction and it might be advisable to do away with the fine altogether after a second or third offence and substitute imprisonment instead. As the law now stands fraudulent practices in apple packing are punishable by fines, whether it be the first or tenth offence. A person so dishonest as to perpetrate a fraud in the packing of fruit is not deterred from the act by the prospect of a fine, so long as he can make a profit on the transaction over and above the fine, as many of them do. We understand that some packers in a certain section east of here held a meeting last fall and decided to pay a fine, as they found they could do so and make money by branding inferior fruit XXX. Giving publicity to the trial and conviction is not much of a deterrent in such cases, so long as the convicted party is determined to be dishonest. The remedy is imprisonment without the option of a fine after the second or third offence. If a person realizes that a term in prison awaits him if he continues in his fraudulent practices, he will consider well his ways before going that far. It is impossible for the inspector to examine every barrel a packer ships in a season, and, consequently, he can send forward a lot of fraudulent fruit and be detected in only a comparatively small number of shipments. Because of this, a minimum or maximum fine per barrel does not count for much, whereas a lump sum commensurate with the offence committed and imprisonment for the second or third offence would prove a positive deterrent in most cases. If punishment is to be meted out to fraudulent packers, let it be sufficient to be effective in putting a stop to the fraud.

The Annual Spring Exodus

The annual spring exodus from Ontario to the West has been as large as ever this season. It is probable that it will be continued every year till the arable lands of the prairie provinces are all taken up. It is a question, however, whether the majority of those who leave old Ontario and cast in their lot with the settler of the West will better their condition very materially. When one takes into consideration the sacrifices that are being made in regard to home comforts, social privileges, and the

education and training of the children it is doubtful if anything in the way of money consideration will make up for them. There are, undoubtedly, advantages for the beginners in agriculture to be had in the West which Ontario cannot give, and not much fault can be found with the young man or the renter going where he can get a farm of his own at small cost. It is different with the owner of a comfortable home and farm in Ontario. If he takes the fullest advantages of all the opportunities afforded at home for prosecuting his calling successfully, we question whether he can better himself very much by going west. This is not said in any disparagement of the West, as we believe thoroughly in its great future. But there are other parts of the Dominion to be considered, and there is really no need for building up one portion at the expense of the other, especially when the individual concerned is not bettered very materially by the change. There are in some parts of Ontario today good farms turned over for grazing purposes, with good houses and buildings unoccupied, and going to ruin, just because their former owners got the Western fever. These unoccupied places give the country a desolate appearance, and detract from the once beautiful rural Ontario. This should not be. These farms are capable of producing more than mere summer grazing. In capable hands they can be made to yield a profitable return in mixed farming, and at the same time provide comfortable homes for the farmer and his family.

Let the Ontario farmer consider these things carefully. Don't give up the old farm unless there is a more solid reason for doing so than the desire to get a slice of the free lands of the West.

A Separate Horse Breeders' Association

One of the most important features of the recent legislation concerning agricultural associations introduced by the Hon. Mr. Monteith is that affecting the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association. This association has been in existence for about ten years. Originally it was intended to be confined strictly to breeders, but of late years other organizations, confined chiefly to Toronto, such as the Harness, Hunter and Saddle Society, the Open Air Horse Association, etc., have sought and obtained representation on its board of directors. In fact, the representation from these secondary societies has been so large the past year or two that the majority of the

directorates have been citizens of Toronto, with no direct interest in the breeding of horses whatever. When presidents of baseball clubs and managers of theatres are made officers of a breeders' organization a change cannot come any too soon. The provision made, therefore, for a separate organization for breeders, which will be the medium through which government grants will pass, will be heartily welcomed by horse breeders generally throughout Ontario.

Horse breeders have no quarrel with the members of these secondary societies. They are doing good work in their particular line, but when they attempt to place it on an equality with that of the breeder they are getting beyond their sphere. A draft horse team association has as much right to recognition in the way of public funds as a harness or saddle society. The work of the breeder is at the bottom of it all. Good hunters or good harness horses cannot be produced unless there is at the beginning good breeding stock. By aiding the breeder, the government is, indirectly at any rate, aiding every other horse interest in the country. The provision for a separate breeders' association is, therefore, a wise one. If the other elements of the present association wish to organize for the purpose of conducting the spring horse show, they will receive every assistance from breeders and others in making it a success. The two elements, however, cannot be made to work successfully in one organization under the act, and a division of power is both wise and timely.

The Live Stock Commissionership

Though a couple of months will probably elapse before any announcement will be made as to who the successor of Live Stock Commissioner Hodson will be, we learn upon very good authority that the appointment is likely to go to the present Assistant Commissioner, Mr. J. B. Spencer. If this report be correct the Minister of Agriculture will secure a painstaking and capable official and one in close touch with what is in the best interests of the live stock industry of the Dominion.

Mr. Spencer has several qualifications that fit him for the work. He has had a year's training under Mr. Hodson. He is a graduate of some years' standing of the Ontario Agricultural College. He has had several years' experience in agricultural newspaper work, and has learned to weigh things well before taking final action. He is well and favorably known to the