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The Dominion Dairy and Horticultural Associations.

As announced in a previous issue, the annual meetings of these associations were held in Ottawa, Feb. 17th to 21st. The report of the proceedings reached our office too late to be published in our March issue. This number is again overcrowded with seasonable matter, so much so that we have been compelled to again leave several valuable articles over. The meetings before referred to were a great success. Very much credit is deserved by the gentlemen who proposed and carried them to so successful an issue. Influential delegates were present from every Province of the Dominion. The discussions were of national importance and were handled in the most practical manner. These associations are to meet yearly in Ottawa, the Dominion Government wisely furnishing the funds to defray expenses. The establishment and carrying on of these national associations is a wise measure, and will do more to promote and benefit agriculture than any act of the present or preceding government. The Hon. John Carling and His Excellency Lord Stanley, the Governor-General of Canada, addressed the meeting at considerable length. It is most gratifying to find gentlemen occupying the highest positions in the land thus lending a helping hand to agricultural progress. Manitoba and Assiniboia were well represented by practical men. Several members of the press were present from the older provinces. The press of the newer sections was represented by Nicholas Flood Davin, M. P. P., of Regina, Assa., and Mr. Thos. Weld, of Winnipeg, Man. In our next issue we will give further details.

Editorial.

The Barley Question.

Barley for many years has been one of our staple productions, and the export of this grain to the United States has added materially to our wealth. The trade has increased from the insignificant output of a value equal to \$5,569, in 1854, for all the Provinces combined, to \$7,175,579, in 1886, for Ontario alone, while the total of all other agricultural products grown on the farm, for the same year, amounted to \$10,477,400, while wheat alone has never exceeded \$6,000,000, except in 1887, for all the Provinces. This shows the importance this industry has been to our Canadian farmers. Our market for barley has heretofore been in the United States, but they have so increased their crops, and are making such strenuous efforts to grow the whole of what they require, and also propose putting an additional duty of ten to twenty per cent. on our barley, it seems as if that market would be closed to us.

The Hon. John Carling, the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, in view of the fact that the export is now as rapidly receding as it at one time increased, has sought for another outlet. Great Britain is the only other country that is importing barley, it is therefore necessary to find what she requires in that line. Her imports of barley have increased of late years until nearly fifty million bushels were imported in 1888, but Canada, instead of increasing this trade, is practically losing the little she had, for the reason that we have grown the six-rowed variety, which is only used for feed and distillery purposes, while if we could grow the varieties of barley required by the English maltster, we could find sale for all we could produce. Mr. William Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, sent out samples to the farmers of the different Provinces, and judging by the reports of these tests, some of the varieties have done remarkably well. The tests prove that the Chevalier barley is one that seems to suit our soil and climate. It has been grown in different localities in Ontario for more than 20 years, and has always been known as a heavy grain and good yielder, but the trouble has been it would not suit maltsters in Canada and the United States, for the same reason that six-rowed barley does not suit the English brewers—the two-rowed barley, being heavier, will not malt with the lighter six-rowed variety, as it takes a day or two longer to grow, and by that time the smaller grain begins to rot, which spoils the sample of malt. According to Mr. Wm. Saunders' recent report, there is no question as to our soil and climate growing a sample suitable for the English market. Guided by these facts, the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa has purchased 10,000

bushels of "Carter's Prize Prolific" barley, from the well-known seed establishment of James Carter & Co., of London, England, which will be distributed among the farmers of the Dominion, on the following conditions:— That they enclose \$4.00 to Prof. Wm. Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for which they will receive, freight paid, two bushels of this seed barley. The catalogue price of this barley, in England, is \$2.52 per bushel, but having been purchased in bulk it will be delivered at the applicant's nearest station at the above rate.

Knowledge that will Come in Time.

In a letter that came to this office, the writer, Mr. T. C. Patterson, well-known as a breeder of Shorthorns, and also an extensive importer and breeder of Shropshire sheep, commenting upon the article from the pen of Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., in the February issue, in his well-known humorous style, writes as follows:— "Bravo, well done, everything here is sold by the pound, but some are trying to introduce a better and wiser discrimination than *avoir du poids*. In England quality brings more in horses, butcher's cattle and in sheep. And I know two or three firms of butchers in Toronto who pay one cent per pound more for well-bred beef cattle, and their number will increase as their customers are better bred. It takes three generations to know good mutton, and good pork, and how to vote." There is no doubt that in the near future such will be the case all along our breeding lines. Those interested in their departments are fast learning that there are certain requirements without which their products will not meet a ready sale. From the different breeds of beef cattle, along the line of our mutton breeds of sheep, our pigs and poultry, if breeders do not *hew to the line* the rough products will have to take a second or third rate price, which is away off in point of profit, as it is here among these second and third rate productions that the great overplus is produced, which in a measure, bears down all with it. Take our meat markets all over this Province, badly bred, half-fed, and half-starved cattle are slaughtered by wholesale, and they are not only unprofitable to the producer, but the consumer also suffers. And other articles are added to the bill of fare which takes the place of our meat products, thereby injuring our home trade. The case is the same with our cheese for the home market. Grocers are in the habit of buying cheese that is off flavor, and therefore unfit to ship, because they get it at a reduced price, and for this reason cheese has not the consumption that it should have in our own country. And our butter through the negligence in making and carelessness in handling is in a measure neglected, much of it being utterly unfit for table and cooking purposes, while the good article has a ready sale at a paying price."