

The Commercial

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TO EXPORT FRESH MEATS.

It seems quite probable that during the coming year a large slaughtering and shipping business in dressed meats will be established in Winnipeg. Prof. Robertson some time ago outlined a plan for the establishment of an export trade in dressed meats. His plan is to establish cold storage and slaughtering establishments at two or three points, including Montreal, Winnipeg and probably a point in the western range country. Retail shops would be opened in Great Britain, in order to introduce the sale of Canadian fresh meats. Prof. Robertson's plan was outlined fully in The Commercial some time ago. Recently it was reported that the government had decided to put this plan into force during the present year. It is now announced that the live stock exporting firm of Gordon & Ironside contemplate going into the dressed meat export trade. This firm has done a large business for years in exporting live stock from Manitoba and the Territories, and during late years they have been the largest exporters of live stock in Canada. They are no doubt thoroughly familiar with the live stock export trade in all its branches, and they have accordingly gained much experience which will be useful to them in entering the dressed meat trade.

The establishment of an export dressed meat trade should prove a grand thing for Manitoba and the Territories. The Commercial has for years advocated the shipment of dressed meats in preference to exporting live stock, and this journal has long been of the opinion that sooner or later the dressed meat trade would to a considerable extent at least supplant the export live stock trade. The expense of exporting live stock is very great, besides which there is the heavy shrinkage in condition of the cattle in shipping them long distances. There is also the humanitarian view of the matter. Some have gone so far as to advocate the total prohibition of the live stock export trade, on account of the unavoidable hardships which the animals are obliged to suffer. The difficulties of shipping our western range cattle is increased by their wild nature. These wild cattle fail in condition more rapidly in confinement than domestic cattle.

It is a big enterprise to undertake to establish this trade. It means the construction of an extensive and costly cold storage and slaughtering plant, and the construction of refrigerator cars, especially designed for the business. To meet the requirements of the trade, we would require an establishment at Winnipeg capable of handling about 1,000 head of cattle each week. There will be, no doubt, considerable risk in undertaking an enterprise of such magnitude, requiring such a large outlay of capital, and though it may prove unprofitable at the outset, we believe that eventually the advantages of exporting dressed meats, instead of live stock, will be fully demonstrated.

Already quite an important pork packing industry has been built up at Winnipeg, and it has proved of great advantage to the farmers of this country, providing them with a ready home market for their hogs. Since the establishment of this industry, the farmers have been giving more attention to the raising of hogs, and this has been a source of much profit to them. The establishment here of a slaughtering and export business in fresh meats, would be a further encouragement to the farmers to go more extensively into mixed farming, and this it is generally admitted would be greatly to their benefit.

Other industries would follow on the establishment of a large slaughtering business here. The large quantity of hides made available should encourage the establishment of a tannery here, and this in turn would provide the raw material for shoe and leather working establishments. The canning of meats, the manufacture of glue, fertilizers, etc., would also perhaps be made profitable by the abundant supply of raw materials for such industries. Altogether the outlook for the future prosperity of this country is materially brightened by the prospect of securing the early establishment of this fresh meat export trade, and it is to be hoped that our expectations in this matter will be fully realized.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR GILROY'S resolution in favor of the proposed fast Atlantic service, regarding which notice of motion was given at a meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade, was withdrawn after a brief discussion at the last meeting of the board. It was evident that a strong opposition had developed against the adoption of this resolution, and it is very doubtful if it could have been carried, if it had been pressed to a vote.

AT the recent annual dinner of the Winnipeg board of trade, Mr. Bole referred to the absurd statements made in Dominion trade returns, regarding the exports from Manitoba. This is a matter which The Commercial has called attention to once or twice in the past. For the year with which Mr. Bole dealt, the statistics showed that Manitoba had exported one dozen of eggs, four pounds of cheese, 1,000 pounds of butter, etc. These statements are of course simply ridiculous, and they would prove very misleading to those who do not understand the situation. The statistics as they refer to the whole Dominion, are no doubt at least approximately correct, but when an attempt is made to show exports and imports by provinces, they are all wrong. Manitoba is an inland province, and our exports and imports are entered mostly through ports in the other provinces. Thus Montreal and other ports in the Eastern provinces would be credited with the bulk of our trade. Under these circumstances it seems very absurd to try to show to what proportion the various provinces share in the export and import trade. Statistics are worse than useless unless they are approximately correct, because if they are not correct they are misleading. It

would be a more sensible plan to give the figures in the aggregate, as they refer to the country as a whole, and not undertake to show the trade by provinces at all, when it only results in such ridiculous misstatements.

THE policy of the Dominion Government regarding dairying in the Territories, will undoubtedly prove a wonderful assistance in the development of the dairy industry in that quarter, and the development of this industry means wealth to the country. The government has taken hold of this question in a practical way; and with the resources and experience at the command of the dairy commissioner, failure is practicably impossible. The fact that the government will operate the creameries in the interest of the patrons, until they are thoroughly established, means that first-class factories will be established in every case, and every factory will be provided with all that is necessary, including cold storage, to secure the manufacture and marketing of a first-class article. The establishment of creameries throughout the territories will give the farmers something more than grain raising to depend upon. The development of the dairy industry will not only prove a source of wealth in itself, but it will tend to encourage the raising of hogs and other live stock. This means that the farmers will have several sources of revenue to depend upon. We will have mixed farming instead of only grain growing. Thus the farmers will always have some sources of revenue, in the most unfavorable years. We talk much about encouraging immigration, but the establishment of the dairy industry in the Territories under such favorable auspices, is one of the best things which has ever been undertaken in the interest of immigration.

THE COMMERCIAL can assure the Moosomin Spectator that we have looked into the quarantine question very carefully, and have the most conclusive evidence to prove that the quarantine restrictions were a great hindrance to immigration from the south. In the case of settlers coming in with cattle, their cows would be about the only source of revenue to them the first season, but the quarantine not only deprived them of the use of their cows, but practically ruined the cows at the same time. The Commercial has been shown considerable correspondence between parties here and prospective immigrants from the south, wherein the quarantine was mentioned as the principal difficulty in the way of moving to Canada.

ACCORDING to reports from Washington, there would appear to be little hope of securing a more liberal trade arrangement with the U. S. While our commissioners have been received in a friendly manner, they seem to have been given very little encouragement so far as freer trade relationship between the two countries is concerned. It is reported that the only probable outcome of the visit of our ministers to Washington, will be the appointment of a commission, to meet a similar commission appointed by the United States, to consider trade relations