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all on board. As these mines are controlled from the shore, and should have been disconnected while the vessel was at work, there was no excuse for the incomprehensible carelessness which led to her destruction. A later report, said to be confirmed, is that the Russian cruiser Boyarin has been blown up in a similar manner, with a loss of 197 men and officers. Not the least factor in these disasters is the fact that the map showing the latest changes in the location of the harbor mines was lost with the Yenisei.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Of all newspapers in the world, 68 in every 100 are printed in the English language.

A telephone line is to be established between White Horse and Dawson, Yukon Territory.

Energetic measures will be taken for the prevention of forest fires in the lumbering districts of the Ottawa River.

Now is the time to test your seeds. Plant corn, etc., in boxes, and find out what proportion will germinate.

An Oxford Co. reader reports giving his hogs some soft coal to eat once a week, which they relish, and with good effect.

The Dairy School, Kingston, Ont., is crowded beyond its capacity, and will have to be enlarged to meet the increasing demands upon it.

We understand that the position left vacant at the Kingston Dairy School by the resignation of Mr. W. J. Carson, B. S. A., to go to Wisconsin, will not necessarily be filled before the opening of the fall term.

The barrelmakers continue to be in trouble over shortage in the supply of barrel staves. Millers, fruit-exporters and others are much hampered in their business by the consequent scarcity of barrels.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, immigrants continue to come into Canada. Five hundred Europeans, en route for the Northwest, recently disembarked from the Lake Champlain and the Ionian.

Ice blocks are causing much trouble in the Northumberland Straits between P. E. I. and the mainland. For the first time in many years, Shelburne Harbor, N. S., is frozen solid.

In Germany, an electrical apparatus for the purification of milk by ozone is used. The ozone, which is forced through the milk, is said to kill all micro-organisms contained in it.

The unusual depth of snow in many parts of Canada is giving rise to grave fears that a sudden thaw in the spring may cause disastrous floods. Most especial anxiety is felt concerning the valley of the Fraser River, British Columbia.

Flour, horse feed and similar cargo are not yet classed as contraband of war; hence, large shipments of Manitoba flour, and consignments of barley, which had been stopped and held pending instructions, are now on the way to Japan.

Roentgen rays are now being used in the search for pearls. Formerly, the oysters had to be killed in order to find out if pearls were secreted in the shells. Now the rays do discovering, and the oysters are returned uninjured to the pearl-bearing beds. What Roentgen rays and radium can't do isn't worth doing.

The ice on Lake Superior this season is the heaviest that has been known for many years. The lake is frozen to a great thickness to a distance of sixty miles from Port Arthur and Fort William, and, unless ice-breaking ships are employed, it is feared that navigation will not be opened until June.

Dr. F. R. Seager's residence at Brigden, Ont., has been wrecked by the explosion of the acetylene gas plant, and the family had a narrow escape. This is the third serious accident in Ontario within two months because of acetylene gas. It would seem that it is high time for acetylene gas burners to adopt some other system of lighting, which will not be a continual menace to property and life.

To produce eggs in winter, hens need warm, well-ventilated houses, and warm food for their morning meal, consisting of a mixture such as bran, oatmeal, corn meal, scraps from the table, etc. Succulent food, such as cabbage, hung where they can barely reach it, is one of the best things I know of for winter use. A good supply of meat and bone-meal is also desirable. At about 4 p. m. we give them all they will eat of cracked corn, oats and wheat, scattered in litter, so they will have to scratch for it.—W. Webber, in "Homestead."

It is expected that 2,500 colonists, who will arrive next spring, en route to the Britannia Colony, Saskatchewan, will go down the Saskatchewan River from Edmonton, taking supplies of lumber and provisions with them.

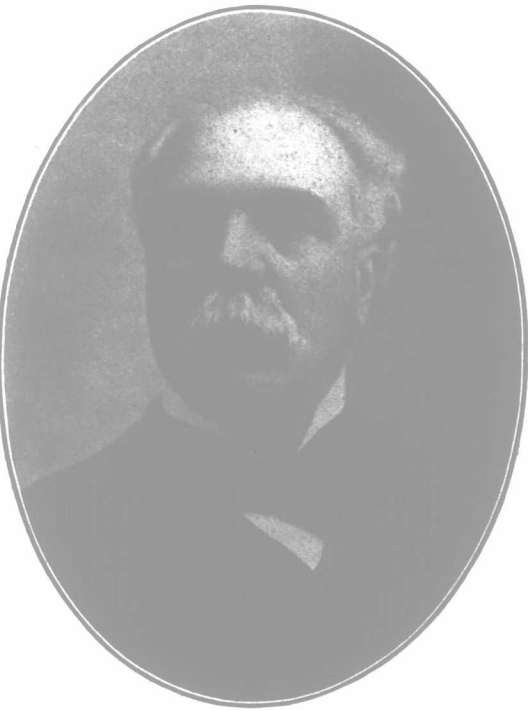
One of Winnipeg's aldermen has suddenly bubbled over in regard to the advantages of manufacturing sugar from beets in Manitoba. He, perhaps, does not know that the labor problem is a serious item to the farmers of this country at present, and it would be worse to those who would attempt to grow beets for sugar manufacture.

Mr. Guy E. Mitchell, of the Scientific American, tells of a method of making a "cheap, durable and respectable paint," in which skim milk or buttermilk is the chief ingredient. The method of preparing it is as follows: Stir into a gallon of milk about three pounds of Portland cement, and add sufficient Venetian red, or other color paint powder, to give a good color. While putting the paint on stir very often to keep the cement mixed with the milk. Six hours after application this paint will be hard and weatherproof. Whole milk is even better than skim milk for this paint, which is said to look well after twenty years' exposure to storm and sun.

It is stated in commercial circles that the dumping of American goods in Canada at a sacrifice, which was feared as a result of depression in the United States, has already begun. The officers of the Customs Department, in consequence, are keeping a sharp lookout upon importations from the U. S.

Owing to the necessary curtailment of exports of silk and tea from Japan, on account of the war, the price of these commodities is likely to be materially advanced. It is said that holders of Japan tea are already asking from one cent to two cents per pound more than before the outbreak of hostilities.

It is said that the Customs Division, to whom the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury handed over the question of the classification of frogs' legs, set about solving the problem in a very practical manner by eating them prepared in various ways. One reported that those he had eaten were veal; a second declared that those he had experimented with were ducks' legs, while a third was equally sure they most closely resembled chickens' legs. As the question was decided, two to one, that frogs' legs belonged to birds rather than to



Hon. M. E. Bernier.

Member of the Canadian Railway Commission.

calves, the classification of the pedal extremities of the croaking Amphibian became finally crystallized into the laws of the land as "dressed poultry."

A movement to improve the morale of the fall fair is afoot, one great feature of the proposed innovations being to do away with the fakes and trashy side-shows, and substitute for them educational features in keeping with the advance of modern agriculture. This step points to a "consummation devoutly to be wished." To the majority of farm people, trashiness does not appeal. That educative teaching at fairs will be a popular feature has been abundantly proved in parts of the Northwest, where a weed department—in which various weed pests are shown, their nature explained, and methods of eradication given by experts in the subject—has proved to be a drawing card, this section of the fair being always crowded by farmers eager for information. It is suggested also that tents, in which domestic science may be taught, be provided for the women. By all means, let our fall fairs be marked by such features, and let the directors see to it that no stone be left unturned which will facilitate the encouragement of such advanced lines throughout our Provinces.

U. S. Farm Animals.

The Acting Statistician of the Department of Agriculture has completed his estimate of the number and value of farm animals in the United States on January 1st, 1904, by separate States:

Farm animals.	Number.	Average price per head.	Value.
Horses	16,736,059	\$67.93	\$1,136,940,298
Mules	2,757,916	78.88	217,532,832
Milch cows	17,419,817	29.21	508,841,489
Other cattle	43,629,498	16.32	712,178,134
Sheep	51,630,144	2.59	133,530,099
Swine	47,009,367	6.15	289,224,627

Hon. M. E. Bernier.

In recent issues of the "Farmer's Advocate," we have published engravings and sketches of Hon. A. G. Blair (Chairman), and Dr. Jas. Mills, of the newly-organized Canadian Railway Commission. It gives us pleasure to present herewith a portrait, from a recent photograph, of Hon. Michel E. Bernier, of St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., the other member, who was born in September, 1841, son of Etienne Bernier and Julie Lussier, farmers. He was brought up on the farm, until the age of twenty. Previous to that he had pursued his studies at the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe, and, at the age of twenty, began the study of law, and was received notary, without ceasing to be connected with agricultural interests. In fact, after the death of his father, which occurred in 1882, he became the possessor of the farm where he was born, and sold it later to acquire a larger one in the same parish of St. Hyacinthe, close to the city. Upon his farm, which has an area of two hundred and fifty acres, he continues to live, devoting his time to mixed culture and raising stock for dairy purposes. His herd is composed of Ayrshire cattle, out of which there are thirty to forty milch cows. He has been president of the Agricultural Society for from twelve to fifteen years, and his best endeavors have always been in the direction of improving the land by new methods, and principally by rearing cattle for dairy purposes. From his herd many animals have been distributed to improve the herds of the district. He was also instrumental in inducing farmers to utilize improved agricultural implements. In the meantime, as a notary and a public man, he has always closely watched the relations between the railway corporations and farmers' interests, having given his assistance, both in money and labor, in order to secure the construction of a railway passing through several counties in the Richelieu Valley, acknowledged to be one of the best in the Province of Quebec. In his political life, he has always tried to be of some use to his fellow countrymen, and we doubt not will endeavor faithfully to fulfil the duties of his new position to the best of his ability. In a former issue, we referred to the efficient manner in which Hon. Mr. Bernier discharged his duties as Minister of Inland Revenue in the Dominion Government.

Oxford Again.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—While reading Mr. Lee's letter to the "Farmer's Advocate" relative to my communication regarding what I saw in the County of Kent, there was brought forcibly to my mind a story which was told of a certain knight, in the time of the crusade to the Holy Land, who, after returning to his native country, was telling a group of warriors his impressions of a certain pyramid which he had seen in the land of Egypt. Another valiant knight, who claimed that he had also seen the pyramid in question, contradicted him, and firmly declared that the pyramid was quite different from what he represented it to be. Of course, in those days, there was no other way of settling the difficulty than by a duel with swords. After they were both badly wounded, they concluded that it might be better to make another journey to Egypt, so that they could together see the pyramid, and when they got there and walked around the building, they found out that they were both right, that the pyramid had a very different appearance on the one side from what it had on the other, and that each had, on the previous occasion, only seen one side of the building. Now, what I propose to do is this. On my next visit to the county of Kent, I will take much pleasure in calling on Mr. Lee, and if he will accompany me, I will show him dozens of farms just as described by me in the "Advocate," and it will afford me very great pleasure to be shown the fine bank barns he speaks of. And I would also give him a very kind invitation to visit the county of Oxford, and, if the roads are not blocked, I would take great pleasure in showing him some of our farms. And then we could compare notes as to how much we had been away from home, and what we had been able to see when away, because I have met people who have travelled a good deal and have seen very little. A farmer in Scotland, who prided himself on his shrewdness, got what he thought was a great bargain of a pick and shovel from a tramp navy who was passing. On showing his purchase to his foreman next day, he asked: "Didn't I get a bargain?" "My sir," the foreman replied, "these are your own tools, which that tramp picked up from the ditch, where we had been working." My object in writing my impressions of what I saw in the county of Kent was not to criticise or find fault, but mainly to show a better way. Those who have the fine bank barns and comfortable quarters for their stock do not require any help or advice, and the other class would make money for themselves by providing good shelter for their animals. Looking forward with pleasure to my next visit to the fine county of Kent, and with best wishes for the grand old "Advocate," and kind regards to Mr. Lee, I remain,

Yours truly,
MICHEL E. BERNIER.

[Note.—A second letter, of protest, has reached us from "J. V. M.," another worthy Kent County reader, who admits that the average of Kent County buildings may not equal those of Oxford, but points out that, while the larger portion of Oxford was actually tillable land, the major portion of Kent was virgin forest and a wilderness of water. Many Oxford farmers, he says, began well-to-do, on already improved