

Reciprocity.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The constant vigilance on behalf of the farmer, and genuine interest in his well-being, are in unmistakable evidence, as found in the editorials of "The Farmer's Advocate."

A week or so ago, your readers' attention was drawn to the folly of "Selling the Birthright" away from the land, which showed the lack of business judgment on the part of some Quebec farmers, to the advantage of the United States farmers.

On April 30th, 1905, "The Farmer's Advocate" advised an "Export tax on the farmer's raw material," the following quotation being taken from the editorial: "It is universally agreed that, of all forms of fiscal protection, export tax on raw material is the best." This had direct reference to the exporting of ashes to the extent of \$117,326.00 during 1903 to the United States. With regard to the shipping of bran and other feed by-products, the editorial said: "Is it not time the farmer had a schedule framed in his favor? And what better move is there than an export tax on fertility and feeding stuffs?" Again, on the subject of "Tariff Revision and the Farmer," the following: "Farmers, so far as we are aware, are not desirous of increased duties on the commodities they produce, their interest being confined chiefly to opposing the imposition of increased duties on articles they use." It will be readily seen that your warnings were timely, and the wisdom of your suggestions cannot be gainsaid, for which the farmer owes your paper much.

But, when the tariff flood-gates are raised, will not only our bran and other feed by-products, as well as the raw material, be rushed over to the United States mills and factories? Is there no danger that the splendid and enviable position of the Canadian farmer may be injured?

The farmers of Ontario have been coming to their own. They are well pleased with the present state of things, and they have their ear to the ground, and are wondering whether it will continue. Twenty years ago our surplus horses found a market in Dakota, but to-day the best market Ontario has ever known is found in our own land, the Western Provinces. Easily three times the price is being paid now as twenty years ago. What a pity if the Montana mustang or United States ranch horse would displace even a portion of our heritage. The hog market to-day is very satisfactory; the price paid for butter, eggs, poultry, etc., for the last few years has been highly remunerative. I noticed a shipment of eggs from Chicago caused a drop in Montreal market lately.

In conclusion, a word with regard to cattle: A splendid home market has been built up in Canada during the past few years, and the amount of export cattle has become relatively small. The Old Country is the market for all the surplus cattle of America; those of Canada and the United States find a competing market there. If we can rely on quotations, the States steer commands a cent more than his Canadian competitor. Then, if those same steers held their competing market in Chicago, the Canadian steer would still be one cent lower, plus expense of delivering at Chicago, making the present Toronto market a little better for the Canadian than the present Chicago market. I have questioned a great many farmers, and I have not met one single individual in favor of the proposed reciprocity compact.

Huron Co., Ont.

M. LOCKHART.

[There are certainly grounds for commending export duties on raw materials when finished products are barred by import duties from their natural markets. But, seeing that the export duties on raw materials have not been imposed, and are not soon likely to be, we cannot but welcome an agreement that will throw open the lucrative markets of the United States to Canadian agriculture. To object to the agreement because it did not provide for export duties on ashes and bran, would be like refusing to trade a cat for a steer. We are aware that some of our readers conscientiously oppose the reciprocity pact, and we respect their convictions, but we believe the great majority, who say little, are delighted with the agreement, and only hope it will pass, while many present opponents would be converted by a few years' trial.—Editor.]

Manitoba Experimental Farm Superintendent.

Jas. Murray, B. S. A., formerly of the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, but for the past four years Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, Man., has resigned that position to undertake the management of a 64,000-acre farming proposition west of Medicine Hat, for an English company. W. C. McKillican, B. S. A., representative of the Seed Branch at Calgary, has been appointed as his successor. Mr. Killican, who is a Glengarry farm-boy, graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1905.

Packers and Reciprocity.

The meat packers of Ontario and Quebec are opposed to reciprocity. In a memorial to the Government, which was agreed upon by the pork-packers' deputation at Ottawa, recently, they state the case as it appears to them.

They draw attention to the large sums of money invested in packing-houses, which have a capacity greatly exceeding the aggregate supply of hogs, and are deeply concerned as to the effect upon these investments of any change in tariff relations at present. The export, and also the domestic trade, in cured pork products, has increased greatly, and a continuance of this trade, they believe to be vital to both packer and farmer in Ontario and Quebec. Under reciprocity, they claim they would certainly lose the Western market for pork.

They point out that prices for hogs in Canada, while less variable than in the United States markets, have, on the average, been higher. Under reciprocity, however, when a period of prices in the United States, higher than the export basis warranted should prevail, Canadian hogs would be marketed in Buffalo and Detroit, and the packing-houses for the time closed. As the continuance of our export bacon trade depends upon a regular weekly output, interference with this would mean, in time, practical extinction of the packers' business. In such case, prices of hogs here would be governed solely by the average lower prices of the United States, and farmers, discouraged, would go out of the business of hog-raising.

The memorial ends with a denial of the impression that commonly prevails, that Canadian packers have combined to hold down the price of hogs and raise that of the cured product sold in this country.

By way of rider, it is sufficient to add that the proposed reciprocity bargain still leaves the packers a protection of 1½ cents a pound—surely sufficient margin to guard against the trade disturbances they fear.

Ontario Milk Act.

The Ontario Milk Act, embodying recommendations of the Ontario Milk Commission, relating to questions of municipal milk supply, has been introduced into the Ontario Legislature by Hon. Jas. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture. By it, the council of every municipality is authorized to pass by-laws regulating milk produced for sale within such municipality, as to

(a) The care of cows producing milk for sale for domestic consumption.

(b) The cleanliness, ventilation and sanitary conditions of the places in which cows are kept or milked, or in which milk is stored.

(c) The water supplied to cows.

(d) The care, cleansing and type of all utensils used in handling milk, whether by producers, carriers or vendors.

(e) The proper care, storage, transportation and distribution of milk by producers, carriers or vendors.

(f) The making of bacteriological tests as a guide to the wholesomeness of milk offered for sale.

(g) Such other matters regarding the production, care, transportation or sale of milk as the municipal council may consider necessary, such regulations to be approved in writing by the Minister of Agriculture.

Councils are authorized to enact by-laws regulating the granting of licenses to producers and vendors; and sale without license in municipalities where by-laws are in force is forbidden. The two subsections of clause 4, fixing standards of composition, seem rather conflicting, as subsection one, taken alone, would appear to forbid the sale of buttermilk or skim milk, while subsection two seems ambiguously to provide for the sale of such products. Whole milk sold for human consumption must contain 12 per cent. solids, of which 3 per cent. must be butter-fat. Municipal councils are empowered to appoint inspectors with broad power to inspect premises of licensed vendors, and prohibit the sale of milk which in their judgment is produced or handled contrary to the provisions of the act or any regulations thereunder.

Clause 6 prohibits the sale of milk from any cow which, upon physical examination by a certified veterinarian, shall be declared to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder or milk glands, or whose milk, upon bacteriological or microscopical analysis is shown to contain tubercle bacilli, or which is known to be suffering from splenic fever or anthrax, or any other general or local disease which is liable to render milk from such a cow a menace to the public health. In case of doubt, the milk from a suspected cow must not be sold until a permit has been granted by the municipal Board of Health. No person suffering from or exposed to diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, erysipelas, small pox, anthrax, or any infectious skin disease, shall assist in production, handling or vending of milk. The council of every municipality is authorized to establish and maintain, or assist in the establishment and maintenance of, milk depots, in order to furnish a special supply

of milk for infants. A standard is prescribed for certified milk, also for pasteurization, and provision is made for fines of from one to fifty dollars for violation of any provisions or regulations under the act.

Regarding certified milk, it is provided that no milk shall be sold as certified until a certificate setting forth that the necessary conditions have been complied with is obtained from time to time from the Medical Health Officer, or from an incorporated society of medical practitioners.

Want More Reciprocity.

The second annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture was held at Regina February 10th, representatives from the Grain-growers' Associations of the three Western Provinces being present. Among resolutions adopted were the following:

That we acknowledge the forward step of the Federal Government in proposing to appoint an elevator commission, but affirm that Government operation is necessary.

That the Government be asked to establish a meat-chilling and export system, with abattoirs, under Government control.

That the Council, while regretting that the reciprocity arrangements did not provide for further relief from the taxation on consumers levied by the customs duties, expresses its opinion that free trade in farm products would be very beneficial to the farmers of Canada, and would strongly urge the Parliament of Canada to ratify the agreement, and would continue to urge Parliament at this session to extend the British preference 50 per cent., and also that agricultural implements be placed on the free list.

Officers elected were: Pres., Jas. Bower; Vice-Pres., R. C. Henders; Sec., E. C. Drury.

Saskatchewan Grain-growers.

The membership of the Saskatchewan Grain-growers' Association doubled in the year 1910. There are upwards of 700 life members, who have paid the ten-dollar fee required; and when, to the large sum thus paid in, is added the general membership funds, it will be seen that the Association is strong financially. At the annual convention, held early this month, the main subject of discussion was the measure introduced into the Provincial Legislature by Premier Scott, called "An Act to Incorporate the Grain-growers' Elevator Company, of Saskatchewan." For some such measure the grain-growers have been agitating for four or five years. This act provides that farmers' elevators may be established at any shipping point in the Province where stock equal to the cost of the elevator is subscribed, of which 15 per cent. must be paid up, and where the said stock-holders represent a proportion of not less than 2,000 acres for each 10,000 bushels capacity of the elevator asked for. That done, the Government will loan to the local company 85 per cent. of the cost of the elevator, to be secured by mortgage on the elevator, and repayable in twenty annual installments. The directors of the elevator company, who will manage the concern, will be elected by the shareholders, and will have power to acquire or build elevators where deemed advisable, and may deal in grain, as well as handle it.

Better-farming Special.

PLACES AND DATES.

List of places to be visited on the Michigan Central Lines by Agricultural Demonstration and Instruction Train. The train will reach each place at the hour indicated, and instruction will begin at once, lasting from an hour and a half to two hours at each place.

Feb. 28th.—Essex, 8.30; Comber, 10.30; Leamington, 1.00; Fletcher, 3.30.

March 1st.—Charing Cross, 8.30; Ridgeway, 10.35; Rodney, 1.00; Dutton, 3.00.

March 2nd.—Muncey, 8.30; Melbourne, 10.25; Walker's, 1.00; Alvinston, 3.00.

March 3rd.—Inwood, 8.30; Oil Springs, 10.35; Petrolia, 1.00; Brigden, 3.10.

March 7th.—Kingsmill, 8.30; Springfield, 10.25; Brownsville, 1.00; Tillsonburg, 3.00.

March 8th.—Hawtre, 8.30; Wyndham, 10.25; Waterford, 1.00; Villa Nova, 3.00.

March 9th.—Hagersville, 8.30; Cayuga, 10.25; Canfield, 1.00; Attercliffe, 3.00.

March 10th.—Perry, 8.30; Welland, 10.25; St. David's, 1.00; Niagara-on-the-Lake, 3.00.

Grange organization work is being pushed with considerable success. At a meeting held for that purpose in Wellington County, Ont., with about 25 farmers in attendance, a resolution expressing "approval of the Government re freer trade relations with the United States" was passed.

A bill has been introduced in the Ontario Legislature by Mr. Eilber, amending the act respecting traction engines on highways, to the effect that no traction engine shall enter upon or cross a bridge drawing behind it any tender, separator, machinery or vehicle.