

FARM AND HOME

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Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

AFFAIRS OF THE DAY.

The whole Dominion has been worked up into a condition of military enthusiasm by the government's decision to send a Canadian contingent to the Transvaal to fight under the English flag against the Boers. The contingent will be composed of eight companies of 125 men each or 1000 men in all, and will be under the command of Col Otter of Toronto, who played a prominent part in the putting down of the north-west rebellion some years ago. The enrollment of the men to form part of the contingent is now proceeding in the chief cities of the Dominion, from Halifax to Victoria, and by the time this issue of F & H appears, the contingent will have left on board the Allan line Sardinian from Quebec for Cape Town. The voyage to the cape is expected to take about a month and the Canadians expect to arrive in time to see active service.

There has been some controversy over the advisability of sending a Canadian contingent to the cape, and a question promises to become the subject of political controversy. A section of the population led by Mr Tarte, minister of public works, contends that no such policy should have been adopted before the sanction of parliament was obtained, and Mr Bourassa, a leading French-Canadian member of parliament, has resigned his seat in parliament as a protest against the government's course. But the general feeling of the country warmly commends the action that has been taken. In fact, there are those who think that enough has not been done and that the government should bear the whole cost of the contingent instead of simply the cost of equipment and transportation of the men. The sending of the contingent to the Transvaal is a memorable event, as it is the first occasion on which a distinctly Canadian troop has been sent to take part in the foreign wars of the mother country. It is a distinct step in the direction of imperial federation.

The Canadian premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was given an enthusiastic reception in Chicago during his recent visit to take part in the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of the new government building. The Canadian premier in his speeches made a strong plea for closer relations between Canada and the states, and everywhere his presence evoked the greatest enthusiasm. Sir Wilfrid with his distinguished presence and graceful oratory is at his best on such occasions.

An event of considerable importance in political circles is the change in the premiership of the province of Ontario. Mr Hardy, who has been premier since the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat has been succeeded by Mr G. W. Ross, for many years the capable minister of public instruction. Mr Ross has formed a new government and announced that he will inaugurate a progressive policy looking to the province's development. It is understood that Mr Hardy will be elevated to the bench at an early date.

The political parties are active preparing for the fray. Both Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the

government, and Sir Charles Tupper, the leader of the conservative party, have been lately addressing public meetings in Ont and they will continue their political tours until the close of the year, visiting the different parts of the Dominion.

Mgr Falconco, the Pope's delegate, has arrived in Canada and has been given an enthusiastic reception by the Roman Catholic portion of the population. He has taken up his residence at Ottawa, which will be his headquarters during his stay in Canada. There is some uncertainty as to the real object of his mission to Canada, but Mgr Falconco himself states that his position will be similar to that of the apostolic delegate at Washington. It

A LEADER AMONG CANADIANS.

HONORABLE EXPERIENCE OF ONE OF ONTARIO'S FARMER YEOMEN.

THOROUGHLY loyal to the British people and government in every way, Jabel Robinson of West Elgin Co is one of the brightest and most substantial farmers of Ontario. Born at Linslade, Buckinghamshire, in 1831, he was apprenticed to a carpenter and joiner near home, learned the trade and in '52 moved to Kingston, Surrey. He married a daughter of the late Joseph Barnwell of Woburn Beds.



This Comfortable Ontario Farm Home

is typical of those of the province. The ample barn and stack, also shown, are the complement of nearly every home, and both are presided over by sturdy sons of toil, of which Jabel Robinson, shown above, may well be taken as an example. This beautiful cottage home is in the middle of a 500 a farm.

It is a curious fact that while Mgr Falconco, who is an Italian, speaks excellent English, he speaks very indifferent French, which is the language of the vast majority of the Catholic people of Canada.

It is now expected that the Dominion parliament will be called to meet early in Jan and that the general election will follow soon after. This is in line with what has already been foreshadowed in Farm and Home.

Lady Aberdeen, who is kindly remembered as the wife of one of the most popular governors-general of Canada, is on a visit to the Dominion in whose welfare she takes great interest.

Leading English buyers have told me that if we can maintain the excellent standard now reached in our butter making there is an unlimited market for it over there.—[Sidney Fisher.

Having a natural taste for agriculture and a strong desire to own a home for his family, he left England in 1856 with the view of taking up land in one of the western states. With his wife and one child he landed in New York, but owing to the unpleasant feeling that seemed to exist at that time against the British, he decided to seek a home in Canada. Settling in the village of St Thomas, nine miles from Lake Erie, which has since become a prosperous city, he engaged in house building and the lumber business.

Having a family of seven children, he purchased 200 a of land in the adjoining town of Southwold and moved there in '71. The farm, fences and buildings were in a very bad state, but the farm is now pretty thoroughly underdrained and considered one of the best in the county. The handsome residence and large barn, of which lectures are shown herewith, are typical of the homes of Ont. The houses are nearly all of hard

pressed, whitish brick, cottage style, cozy and comfortable. Brother Robinson's house is perhaps better than the general average. Of recent years, barn buildings have been raised and new ones built on a thick stone wall, so the cellars are large, warm and comfortable as stables. Ontario's barns are necessarily large, as the soil is very productive and enormous crops of grain, hay, peas and oats and root crops are generally raised. The barn illustrated above stands 100 yds in rear of Brother Robinson's house and is a new barn and first-class in every particular. The old barn is nearly as large, and besides several smaller barns and sheds are necessary to hold the produce from Mr Robinson's fertile acres.

Brother Robinson is a faithful, persevering member of the grange, and his home grange, Apple Grove No 166, is one of the 1000 or more granges organized in Canada that have never become dormant. From the first as a Patron Brother Robinson has been active and influential. He was master of the Dominion grange during 1883-4 and was again elected master last Feb. He has attended five sessions of the national grange as delegate from the Dominion grange. While decidedly British, he has warm sympathies with the people of the U.S. He has two sons settled in lucrative businesses in the states, one having founded the Robinson, veterinary college and hospital at Washington, D.C. Brother Robinson spends his entire time on the farm and his 400 a are in a high state of cultivation. He also has a good number of high-grade cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry. Two charming daughters are married to two of the best of Canada's sons, and their cozy farms and homes, near to their father, are models in many ways. F & H hopes at a not far distant day to print the plans of the barn of one son-in-law, John Fletcher, which is a model in more ways than one.

The speeches of Dominion Commissioner Robertson and Deputy Minister James of Ont were two of the best received at the great farmers' national congress, Boston, Mass, last month. The farmers of the states are equally as anxious as their Canadian brethren for the teaching of the elementary science of agri in the public schools. Many delegates present had read the minister's new text-book on the subject and therefore greeted him most cordially. The remarks of Prof Robertson carried the congress by storm, he being given a vote of thanks and elected an honorary member. Speaking for the Dominion of agriculture, he brought expressions of good will from his government and the Canadian farmers. Our popular minister gave a clear-cut statement of what government consists of, how it should help all the people, and how in Canada in particular it helped farmers. There appeared to be a general feeling among the delegates that in some respects our Canadian government is doing more for agriculture than is the government in the states.

The average of analyses of Canadian soils by Prof Shutt of the Dominion experiment farm show the following analyses: Nitrogen .25 of 1 per cent, phosphoric acid .18, potash .59 and lime .66. This means that an acre of soil 1 ft deep would contain nitrogen 760 lbs, phosphoric acid 540, potash 11,700 and lime 19,800. Were these all available to plants, there would be enough nitrogen for 150 average crops of cereals, phosphoric acid for 250 and potash for 750.