

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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lows" to accomplish that end. But whether such action would be for the good of the country, as some believe, is another question.

Every business transaction of purchase and sale is, or at least is believed to be, beneficial to both buyer and seller. One or other of the parties may be mistaken, and so what to him seems an advantage, may be the reverse, but no one either buys or sells unless he thinks it is profitable for him to do so. In the vast majority of bargains made, the buyer and the seller are, in reality, as well as expectation, both gainers. When a Canadian knowingly buys American goods in preference to those produced in his own country, it is not usually because he is revengeful or stupid, but simply because it happens to be more profitable for him to do so. Likewise, when an American imports goods from Canada, paying the exorbitant duties thereon, he is not acting from love or loyalty to his Government, but views the transaction from the financial side alone. If he could, in his opinion, get equal value at a lower price at home, he is not fool enough to send abroad for what he wants.

International trade is made up of deals between individuals. The nation's benefit from commerce and trade is but the sum of benefits coming to individuals of that nation. If it can be discovered how any trade legislation affects the interests of individuals of a nation, it can be certainly known how the nation as a whole is affected by it.

Canadians are well aware of the calamitous effect on their incomes of the McKinley tariff—some of the older ones will remember the dreadful stagnation that for a time followed the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty—but they are not so well aware that our tariff against American goods is levied almost altogether at our expense. Commerce, trade, is beneficent; "It blesses him that gives and him that takes." The mighty current of its blessed tide, which, unhindered, would flow back and forth across the international line, has been partially or wholly obstructed by laws devised in the interests of the few against the many. There may in certain circumstances be reasons sufficient for the imposition of tariff duties. The

fostering of infant industries—no sarcasm is intended, though a thirty-six-year-old infant is not meant; it should have been weaned long ago—the provision of diversified employment in a new country, or an offset against the factors of personality and trade prejudice, which cut such a wide swath in commerce, to the special disadvantage of producers in a small country; the collection of Governmental revenue, may warrant such action. But let us not be deceived into thinking that it is beneficial, except for such purposes. Trade obstruction, however necessary it may be in the national interest, is wasteful and destructive. Such loss as would certainly be occasioned by the raising of the tariff against U. S. pork and pork products from two to four cents per pound, though done ostensibly in the interests of the great farming fraternity, would result, in all probability, only in enabling pork-packers to prey to a still greater extent upon the consuming public, to which class the farmer himself belongs, and in lessening the revenue received on imports. It would be public folly of the huge sort.

Practice the Profession of Peace.

Canada has got on peaceably and well without a navy, and without much of an army by minding her own business. True, we have had the protection of Britain's fleet, but true, also, we have never come in conflict with our neighbors except as the indirect consequences of connection with a European power. Do we want to spend twenty million dollars on a navy, at the risk of inflaming the bellicose passions of our people, and diverting their individual aspirations from the path of peaceable, humanitarian and industrial development they have been pursuing? Europe is engaged in a mad race of armaments. Canada's contribution would be more likely to whet than to stem that tense competition of warlike expenditure. The best and most effective influence this country can exert in favor of peace is to abstain from militarism and the show of it, exerting that telling moral force of opinion and example which counts in international, as in individual affairs. What is the use of holding peace conferences and preaching peace, if no one practices it, and what countries are in a better position to practice the profession of peace than Canada and the United States?

"Farm Weeds," Second Edition.

A second edition of "Farm Weeds of Canada" has just been issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The first edition of this book was distributed free to public institutions, including rural schools. The new, revised edition is in book form, strongly bound in cloth, and the expense involved in its issue precludes it from those publications of the Department that are printed for general distribution, free of charge. It is now available to the farmers of Canada (single copies only) at the office of the Superintendent of Stationery, Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, for one dollar. It has been published to meet the demand from farmers and others who desire the book for their personal use.

The revised edition contains seventy-six plates of weeds and weed seeds, illustrated in their natural color. This is twenty more than appeared in the first edition. In regard to the number of weeds described, the new edition, as might be expected, surpasses the first, there being about 750, as compared with 580. Not many farmers have the unhappiness of being personally acquainted with so many weeds as are mentioned, but their experience is in one respect similar—they know a great many more than they did a few years ago. In this treatise, as in the first, each of the more troublesome weeds is discussed in the following manner: Name (English and Latin), Introduction, Description, The Seed, Time of Flowering, Propagation, Occurrence, Injury, and Remedy.

One sentence in the introduction is worthy of being learned by heart: "There is no weed known which cannot be eradicated by constant attention, if the nature of its growth be understood."

Some of the pages, where a space would otherwise occur, are filled up with extracts from quaint old English writers, as, for instance, the following from John Fitzherberts, *Boke of Husbandry*, 1523:

"In the later ende of May is tyme to wede thy corne. There be divers maner of wedes, as thystles, kedlokes (charlock), dockes, coele, darn-olde, gouldes, and dog fenell. The thystle is an yll wede, and there be other wedes, as dee nettylles, dodder, and suche other that doo moche harme."

And this from Shakespeare—Richard II., Act III.:

"The whole land
Is full of weeds; her fairest flowers choked up;
Her fruit trees all unprun'd, her hedges ruin'd.
Her knots disorder'd, and her wholesome herbs
Swarming with caterpillars."

We heartily welcome "Farm Weeds of Canada," revised edition, and recommend each reader to procure a copy for himself, for it is cheap at the price. So, may the doleful description by Shakespeare, of the condition of England, never apply to Canada.

Agriculture in the Old World and New.

James J. Hill, railway magnate of the Northwestern States, and Will Crooks, M. P., leader of the British Labor Party, differ widely in their estimates of the needs of agriculture in their respective countries, but each is pretty nearly right in his conclusions. Mr. Hill asserts that American farmers are indifferent cultivators of too large an area of land, while Mr. Crooks says the British agriculturists, or would-be agriculturists, cannot get enough land to cultivate decently. Hill figures that if American farming methods do not change, the United States will be importing wheat within the next ten years, and Crooks thinks Great Britain's seventy-seven million acres of land would grow all the wheat needed by the British Isles, if the people would clear it of game preserves, and get busy growing wheat on it.

The day is coming when the United States will cease to be a wheat-exporting country—at least, to any extent—and there will probably be a day when some of the British masses will move away from the six-hundred thousand acres on which they are now employed in industrial pursuits, and spread over the shooting preserves of the landed aristocracy. When they do, the Britisher will not need to be awake at nights evolving schemes to stave off a bread famine, and the American farmer by that time will have probably found a more profitable product than wheat to export. Either that, or he will have all the market he requires at home.

Notes from Ireland.

CLEAN LAND AND PURE SEED.

Modern history would support the statement that Ireland has been one of the most extensively legislated countries under the sun, though the extent to which we have benefited thereby is largely a matter of opinion. It is gratifying, however, to announce that there are prospects of some very practical measures being enacted, bearing directly upon agricultural interests in the Emerald Isle. One of these is already well through its Parliamentary course, and aims at a double purpose, viz., (1) the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds, and (2) the provision for Governmental testing of agricultural seeds sold to farmers. That there should be any necessity at all for such an enactment, is a matter for regret, but that it is urgently required is only too clearly apparent. When agriculture reaches a Utopian stage, we may dispense with regulations to stir up the negligent farmer and checkmate the unscrupulous shopkeeper, but under present circumstances, the sooner every man who will not act voluntarily is made to do his duty to his country, the better.

The new bill will enable the Department of Agriculture, with the consent of the County Council, to make an order declaring that, in any individual county, all plants of the species ragwort, charlock, coltsfoot, thistle and dock are noxious weeds. That done, full authority is given to officers of the Department to enter all lands for inspection as to the presence of such weeds, and where they are found, the occupier is to be served with a notice requiring him to cut or destroy them within a specified time. Failure to do so will render the occupier liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 for the first offence, and £10 for subsequent offences.

The second part of the bill, dealing with seeds, gives power to representatives of the Department to enter the store of any seed-seller to examine his stocks, and take samples for testing as to purity and germination. It also entitles the Department to publish, as they think fit, the results of such tests, and the names and addresses of the persons who were selling the seeds, as well as the