

With the competition there is to secure a place in the world's great food markets, the country or section of country that cannot get the advantage of cheap transportation in getting its products to that market will not be able to successfully compete with countries which have these advantages.

Canada is a large and growing country, and one thing more than anything else that it needs and to which every Government should lend its energies to secure is cheap transportation in getting its products into the world's markets. In this regard we are at an immense disadvantage as compared with our competitors in the great republic to the south of us. As we have pointed out more than once in these columns the producer in the United States has such an advantage in the way of cheap transportation as compared with his Northern competitor that, if the only profit he made were the difference in the ocean and railway freights charged in getting his products to the European markets, he could make money by his vocation. As we have frequently stated, the difference in freight rates in shipping cattle from the Western States to Great Britain as compared with those from Ontario points is \$6 per head, which means a good profit to the producer. We understand that this difference is due to the ocean freight rates. But it matters little where the difficulty is—the Ontario farmer has to pay the difference by taking that much less for his cattle.

New Legislation as it Affects the Agriculturist

Generally speaking the farmer exhibits comparatively little interest in the legislation enacted at either Houses of Parliament affecting his own business. This attitude, however, is not observed by other classes of the community. As soon as there is the least inkling of legislation affecting their interests we find the merchant, the banker, the large corporation, and, in fact, every other element in the country but the agriculturist on the alert lest anything should be done that would be likely to injure their business. And if it should happen that any legislation is broached that imposes a slight tax or some other obligation on any one of these classes, the Government is beset by deputations galore, and every effort made to check such legislation or to have it modified to suit their ideas. But not so with agriculturists as a class. They, seemingly, are totally unconcerned as to what is being done in our legislative halls, either for their benefit or to their detriment. This should not be. Every farmer should feel that he has a special and particular interest in every item of legislation that directly or indirectly affects his calling.

The session of the Ontario Legislature, which closed last week, has not been very fruitful in new legislation affecting the farmers' interests. There are, however, a few measures which are worthy of special mention. An act respecting cheese and butter manufacturing associations, among other things, provides for the removal of old trustees and the appointment of others in their place at any general meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose. This makes clear a clause in the old act about which there has heretofore been very much doubt.

A more important measure affecting the dairy industry, however, is that relating to the organization of cheese and butter exchanges. Almost since the beginning of the cheese industry in Canada there have been in operation, more particularly in Ontario, local cheese markets or dairy boards of trade, where the representatives of the factories and the buyers met to sell and buy the output of the factories. These exchanges or boards of trade have been operated under no special law, and have had no authority for enforcing their rules and regulations, or compelling those who became members to obey them. A special act has therefore been passed at the session just closed whereby such exchanges can be incorporated, and can make their rules and regulations binding upon the members. Persons interested in the working of these exchanges in the past

from other than purely selfish motives, will heartily endorse this new legislation. Year after year these dairy boards of trade have met and adopted rules and regulations to govern the buying and selling of the cheese and butter offered by their members, but as they had no power to enforce them, rules were largely a dead letter, and made the operations of the exchanges a kind of farce. Provision is also made whereby all disputes arising between the members of the exchanges shall be decided by arbitration in manner directed by the rules of the exchange, and the decision so made shall be binding and conclusive on all parties, and shall not be subject to appeal. This law will put the working of these exchanges on a better basis, and will, we think, inflict no hardship on either the buyer or seller in enabling the rules and regulations to be enforced.

Another piece of legislation of importance to the farmer was that introduced by the Hon. John Dryden in his amendment to the San José Scale Act. The important part of the amendment is that relating to the fumigation of all nursery stock by hydrocyanic acid gas before it is allowed to leave the nursery or offered for sale. This may seem something like a hardship upon the nurserymen, but when we consider the interests of the thousands of fruit growers in the country who are every year buying trees, it is natural to conclude that the few should suffer in order that the many may be benefited. But this regulation does not impose any great expense upon the nurseryman if he has proper arrangements for fumigating, while it insures every one who buys a tree from having his orchard injured by this most destructive and persistent pest. In fact, this regulation should stimulate the buying of more trees by the farmers, as many of them heretofore have been somewhat afraid to venture for fear of the pest, and in this way the nurseries may be able to dispose of more stock than they otherwise would. The remainder of the bill relating to the inspection and destruction of affected stock is something that the average farmer is not particularly interested in.

Another amendment of some interest to the farmer was that brought in by the Minister of Education, providing for the giving of instruction in agriculture in the public and other schools by qualified persons engaged for this purpose by the municipalities and of which we made mention a few weeks ago. The announcement made by the Minister in one of his addresses to the Legislature is, however, of much more importance than this amendment. His announcement, and which we trust he will carry into effect at an early date, is that of making the teaching of agriculture in the public schools compulsory or of making it a compulsory subject in the departmental examinations. This is what we have been contending for for some time back, and we feel sure that, if the teaching of agriculture, at least in the rural schools, is made part of the regular duties of the teacher, it will do more than anything else to stimulate an interest in the farm and the farmer's calling among the rising generation. At any rate we shall maintain this view till it has been proven after several years of fair trial that the system is a failure.

There is not much change in the general appropriations for agriculture for the current year. The total appropriation for 1899 independent of the supplementary estimates is \$204,217 as compared with \$202,919 in 1898. Of this amount \$152,950 is for carrying on the work of the Agricultural Department, grants to agricultural societies, live stock, dairy, and other associations, dairy schools, pioneer farm, etc., as compared with \$150,650 in 1898 and \$51,267 for the agricultural college, including farm, experimental and dairy school work, as against \$52,269 last year.

The Best in the Dominion

BAY VIEW, P.E.I., March 11th, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose my subscription to FARMING for one year from April next. I am well satisfied with your paper, and consider it the best agricultural journal in the Dominion.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR SIMPSON.