

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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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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PRICE OF FARM MACHINERY.

An article published in the Canadian Thresherman foreshows an early increase in the price of farm machinery, varying from 5 to possibly 15 per cent., because of the increase of raw material and labor. Detailed statements are given, showing the rise in various classes of iron and wood, ranging all the way from 20 to 100 per cent., during, say, the last ten years. It is also pointed out that the manufacturer is unable to buy his raw materials now on as favorable terms as formerly, but when he comes to sell the finished products, there are long credits and low rates of interest. Compared with what they were twenty years ago, implements have greatly decreased in cost by reason of competition, but now there is a general upward trend in the prices of nearly all commodities. The article also argues that, as a producer, the capacity of the farmer has increased, but let it be remembered that if, by reason of better knowledge and facilities, he can increase his output, his expenses are also increasing both in the home and on the farm. In order to overcome the labor shortage, he resorts to the use of labor-saving machinery in almost every department of farm work. With regard to the prospective increase in the cost of implements, it will not be inappropriate to advise again greater care in the use and housing of the plant in which so much of the farmer's capital is annually locked up, in order to prolong its period of effective service, and also the extension of the idea of co-operation among neighbors in the purchase and use of many of the more costly implements used in modern farming. By such practicable measures as these he will be enabled to keep down to reasonable limits his machinery bills, whether the proposed advance takes effect or otherwise. Just now good prices are being realized for most farm products and live stock, but how soon there may be a turn in the tide no one can safely conjecture, and it is therefore prudent to exercise caution in the spending department before the evil day comes, and so delay its advent.

A SUCCESSFUL IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The Imperial Conference in London, Eng., has been a great success, not so much for what it accomplished as for what it left undone. This is no disparagement at all of its utility. A periodical conference of Colonial Premiers with representatives of the Home Government makes for mutual understanding, and if, in the present instance, there were few misapprehensions to clear up or difficulties to remove, it is quite probable that the Conference will have proved useful in averting impending trouble from some unexpected quarter or other. Not knowing when or whence difficulty will arise, it behooves the Empire to keep in close touch each part with the others. This is precisely what has been accomplished.

The besetting danger of a Conference such as the one just held is the mischievous tendency on the part of some of the assembled representatives, and of their friends at home, of thinking they must do something to make a big spread to flap their wings and crow over. That such an eventuality was avoided, was due in large measure to the sagacious statesmanship of Canada's Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Upon the question of an Imperial Council his mind was definitely made up, his reasoning farsighted and clear. He realizes that formal representation on a permanent Imperial Council might, through indiscreet representatives, or more probably through the decision of the majority, drag Canada and other Colonies into entanglements which they would instinctively avoid if left free, as at present, to choose their own course; and, anyway, the Colonies are too busy minding their own business to interfere unnecessarily in world politics. Great Britain can count on our moral support and on our active help in time of need, whenever her cause commends itself to our judgment. That is enough at present. It is as close a union as is feasible. Britain keeps us with her by the very freedom she allows us. Attempt to forge links of formal union will destroy the harmony that now exists, cause friction, and create a sense of thralldom. True Imperialism is a spirit—not a form.

In line with this view is Canada's position on the question of preferential trade. The Dominion gave a preference to Great Britain primarily as a needed measure of tariff reform. Our tariff was too high. It imposed a needless burden upon our consumers. We concluded to lower it somewhat, and, instead of simply making a sweeping general reduction in our schedules, we cut the larger slice off imports from Britain—a move which, in many lines of goods, had the effect of compelling foreigners to meet British prices in our markets, and hence relieved our consumers and taxpayers to almost as great an extent in such cases as an all-round reduction would have done. Incidentally, the preference proved a special advantage to Great Britain, as it was desired it should do.

In Britain the case is different. It is doubtful whether she stands to gain by any change in fiscal policy. Any considerable tax on food imported to feed her people would be a handicap upon the whole British people, and must tend to increase the cost of living, hence the cost of manufacture and commerce. Such a tax would irrevocably raise the price of foodstuffs for a time at least, and Britain is not to be blamed for hesitating about laying the beginnings of what might eventually become a fantastic fiscal fabric. It may be argued that a slight tax on foreign foodstuffs would encourage food production in the Colonies to a greater degree than it would handicap manufacture in Britain, and that such encouragement of production in the Colonies is justifiable as a precaution in the event of war shutting off supplies from other countries. That is a question for Great Britain to decide, and while we would welcome such a conclusion, it is not for us to interfere or dogmatize concerning her affairs. The British preference has paid us directly by relieving our consumers and filling our national coffers, and also indirectly by advertising Canada in the Old Country, and creating there a favorable prejudice for our goods. It would ill become us, therefore, to insist on Britain upsetting her whole fiscal system in order to grant us a quid pro quo. Whatever course Britain may see fit to take in this matter, she may rest assured we are making no demands or threats.

What the Conference did of a positive character

was to decide in favor of meeting every four years, and ask that a special department of the Colonial Office, called a Secretariat, be appointed to prepare material for its consideration. A resolution was passed providing for the development, for the service of the Empire, of a general staff, drawn from the forces of the Empire, whose duty it will be to advise on defence and other military matters. Universal penny postage, cheaper cable rates, and Imperial naturalization, were discussed, to more or less definite purpose. Best of all, it looks as though a result of the Conference will be the inauguration of the long-looked-for fast Atlantic steamship service between Canada and Great Britain, also an improved Pacific service. In fact, the Conference did everything it could do that was necessary or wise, and refrained from doing that which would have entailed complications, embarrassment and friction, leading, quite conceivably, to rebellion, secession or disintegration. Our Imperial statesmen showed their wisdom by letting well enough alone.

TIMBER VALUES SOARING.

The man who fences off and cares for his woodlot may look forward to a far better revenue than would be obtained merely from firewood. Prices for timber of all kinds are soaring in a way that is really alarming to manufacturers. A table recently compiled, showing the average values of various kinds of raw material entering into the manufacture of agricultural implements, shows an increase in the price of pole stock of nearly 82 per cent. from 1896 to 1907. The figures by years are: 1896, \$22 per M.; 1897, \$23; 1898, \$23; 1904, \$31.50; 1905, \$35; 1906, \$37.50; 1907, \$40.

The National Hardwood Timber Association of the United States, at their recent session in Memphis, Tenn., adopted a report on the best available data, that "there are now standing in the United States approximately 1,475,000,000,000 feet of lumber, but 45,000,000,000 feet are being cut every year, at which rate the forests would last about 33 years." Including the consumption of wood for all purposes, and that destroyed by forest fires, it was estimated that over 75,000,000,000 feet of timber are consumed yearly, and that, in reality, there are but supplies standing of commercial timber for about 20 years. Forestry is the remedy.

HORSES.

CARE OF THE COLT'S FEET.

The condition of the colt's feet has much to do with his disposition. It is generally the case after being driven a few minutes on the hard road that the colts act sluggish and indifferent, or irritable and cranky, though generally the former. The trouble will usually be found in the feet. If he has not been shod, take the soreness out of his feet by turning him in the pasture on the cool moist ground (nature's remedy), or by standing him on moist earth in the stable. After a few days, shoe him with a set of nicely-fitted shoes, the weight to correspond with the strength of horn and size of foot. Drive the nails well in the toe of the fore feet, but farther back in the hind ones. Don't draw the nail down too tight the first time shoeing, for the feet are not used to it, and mind there is much in being used to anything. If the shoes cause fever, which can be told by feeling, soak the feet in tepid water, and stuff frequently with clay. Should this fail to reduce the fever, pull the shoes off and try again in a few days. Most bad feet are caused by the first set of shoes.

RE PROPOSED CANADIAN PERCHERON RECORD.

Mr. Geo. H. Greig, of Winnipeg, Western Representative of the Live-stock Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, at the request of a number of men interested in Percheron horses, has been corresponding with all known breeders and importers in Canada, with a view to the incorporation of a Record Society for this breed under the Act respecting the incorporation of live-stock record associations. Correspondence is invited by Mr. Greig relative to the advisability of such action, also the time and place to hold an organization meeting. Regina, Sask., at the time of the Summer Fair, July 31st, Aug. 1st and Aug. 2nd, has been mentioned as a suitable place.