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## EDITORIAL.

### Needs of the Toronto Live Stock Market.

The constantly-growing importance and expansion of the live-stock industry in Canada unquestionably requires improved market facilities at home and abroad. Commendable effort and progress is being made in providing the means of reaching and placing upon the British markets the live-stock products of the Dominion, but our home markets for the display and disposal of live animals and the preparation and distribution of dressed meats for the home and export trade have been sadly neglected, and are very far from being creditable to the country, and entirely inadequate to the requirements of the trade. This statement applies especially to the Province of Ontario, and to the market and trade at such an important center as Toronto, where the annual receipts of cattle have increased in the last ten years, according to the records of the Western Cattle Market of that city, from 103,371 in 1890 to 133,210 in 1900, of sheep from 54,051 to 118,474, and of hogs from 53,780 to 197,607, an increase on the whole of 238,089 head, or more than 112 per cent. That the ratio of increase in the next ten years will be vastly greater is unmistakably indicated by the growing conviction among farmers that stock-raising is by far a safer source of revenue than growing grain for sale, the crops of which are uncertain, and the prices as a rule too low to leave a fair margin of profit. The undoubted prospect of a rapid increase in the population by immigration, and the opening up and settlement of new farming districts, since Canada is becoming better known in Europe, and the assured growth of our towns and cities, will inevitably increase the demand for meat and other animal products, so that the present marketing facilities will soon be entirely insufficient. For the yarding, feeding, handling and disposal of the large and ever-increasing number of animals passing through the Toronto market, the present accommodation is very primitive and inadequate, the shanty-like buildings, now fast going to decay, having been put up by piecemeal as the constantly-growing requirements of the trade have demanded and with comparatively little apparent regard to systematic arrangement or convenience, of handling and displaying stock to advantage, while the facilities for the transaction of business between buyer and seller are such as would be more in keeping with the needs of the market of a third-class town than of a first-class city and center. The location of the present cramped and patched-up cattle market and stock-yards, which is well down in a thickly-settled portion of the city, renders practically impossible the securing of sufficient land in that section for a well-arranged system of yards, switches, abattoirs, offices, and suitable shipping facilities, such as the present trade requires and the inevitable expansion of trade will in the near future imperatively demand. In view of these facts, and while there are yet no vested rights of any considerable importance to be affected, it is surely the part of wisdom and foresight for the people of the city, as well as the dealers and the public, to favor any well-considered scheme of providing, without delay, for the establishment of stock-yards and a market commensurate with the needs of the trade, where banking and shipping facilities, abattoirs, packing houses, cold storage, comfortable offices and waiting rooms, hotel accommodation, stabling, and a sale pavilion for the disposal by auction or otherwise of pure-bred stock, factories for the working-up of the offal of the slaughter houses, and kindred enterprises, may be conducted on similar lines to those now so successfully established and satisfac-

torily operated in Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and other cities in the United States.

That there are strong influences prompted by self-interest and other considerations opposed to the change indicated is conceded, and it need not be surprising if these make a fight against the inevitable, but the force of public opinion and the will of the dealers and stockmen should and must prevail, and there is nothing to be gained, but much to be lost, by delaying the reformation, which must come soon if Ontario is to hold its proud position as a stock-raising province and Toronto is to secure and maintain a market that will draw this trade and properly provide for its growth and expansion.

What is needed in order to gain this end is a strong and well manned and regulated organization, free from the influences of party or municipal politics; a systematic plan, with ample room for development, and a vigorous policy for the carrying out of the objects and aims of such an enterprise. The city council, under whose control the present market is conducted, has wisely declined to spend a large sum of money in the attempt to patch up the present premises, which, for sanitary and other reasons, are entirely unsuitable and which are properly described in the following extract from an editorial in the *Toronto World* of March 2nd, 1901:

"The present condition of the market almost beggars description. The business of the market is transacted in the center of what seems to be a big barnyard. Men and cattle are jumbled together in a most chaotic way. The accommodation for the cattle is bad enough, but that provided for the market officials, the drovers, bankers and others, is execrable. One bank clerk pays out \$20,000 a day in a room about 6x12 feet. It will accommodate two individuals at once. If a third enters the bank is crowded. The cattle dealers' offices are on each side of a narrow hall, for all the world like bedrooms in the attic of a cheap and nasty country hotel. When the weather is soft this hall and the offices become more offensive than the cattle pens. During the winter the men probably have the better of it, but for the balance of the year we would prefer to associate with the cattle in their pens rather than come in contact with the filth and odor of the business section of the market. Well on to ten million dollars' worth of business yearly is transacted on a dunghill. Toronto's cattle market is an abomination."

It is simply incredible that a progressive city like Toronto can long tolerate in its midst an institution of this description, which is not only a detriment to the city and its business interests, but a block in the way of the live-stock industry of Ontario.

For the purpose of the establishment of new stock-yards and the necessary plant for such other accompanying enterprises as we have indicated, a charter was granted by the Ontario Government in December last to a company bearing the corporate name of The Union Stock-yards Company, Limited, with an authorized capital of \$400,000, with its head office at Toronto and its stock-yards at Toronto Junction, where, it is said, the company has secured an option on one hundred acres of land lying between the G. T. R. and C. P. R. lines; that the company has procured a 30-year exclusive franchise from the municipality, which has been ratified by special act of the Legislature of Ontario, this franchise having been transferred to the company by the original holders, The Western Stock Market Company, and, among other valuable concessions, granting exemption from all general taxation to the company's lands and all the improvements and erections thereon for a period of 30 years. A by-law has also been passed, granting these exemptions to the plant and equipment of a beet-root sugar factory. With a beet-sugar factory

established convenient to the stock-yards, it is claimed that the pulp from the factory can be largely utilized in the feeding and fattening of cattle.

The ADVOCATE has no interest in this or any other company or scheme for the promotion of this object, and is concerned only for the furtherance of the live-stock industry of the country, which it rightly regards as paramount to all others in the Dominion, and which we have faith to believe is bound to grow into immense proportions in the near future. What is needed is prompt and vigorous action in providing, on a broad and comprehensive scale, for the development of the country's most important asset. The city is equally interested with the country in this enterprise, as the growth of the stock market and the establishment of factories in connection therewith means an increase of population and extended custom for business in many lines.

### Veterinary Education and Meat Inspection.

In a recent issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE attention was called to one of the amendments passed at the late session of the Canadian Parliament to the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, providing for the inspection and certifying of meatsold for human food, by a lawfully authorized health authority, as not being affected with any contagious or infectious disease. This is in line with the development of the dressed-meat trade, and if reasonably carried out it would be advantageous to the meat-buying public as well as the vendor. In the U. S. meat inspection is one of the most important branches of the civil service, coming under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. A stringent examination is demanded of all candidates, who, by the way, must be graduates of a three-year veterinary school. At the present time, in Canada, the difficulty would be to find enough competent inspectors (veterinarians) who could make, say, a microscopical examination of meat. As a people we cannot afford to have a branch of the public service created unless it is going to be well manned, and in the matter of meat inspection, we must, perforce, give some attention to the founts of veterinary learning in this country. Unfortunately for Canada and the agricultural profession, if the graduate wishes to practice in Manitoba or the best States of the country to the south of us, he must necessarily hie to a school with a three-year course, with the result that we find several of the American colleges giving the finishing touches, without which he is debarred from practice. To the young veterinary aspirant, Canada's reputation as an educational spot on the globe is dimmed by her veterinary colleges being run on the plan of dear old Doctor Dick (Edin), doubtless very useful fifteen or twenty years ago, but owing to the progress in such sciences as bacteriology, etc., utterly unfit for to-day. That many veterinarians whose professional education was obtained in British North America are successful is unquestioned. Their success is due to the inherent qualities of the men themselves. A conversation with the veterinary officer accompanying Lt.-Col. Dent verifies our contention. That gentleman, late President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, an institution demanding, by the way, a four-year college course from the candidate for licence to practice, was very much disappointed at learning of the low standards of veterinary education prevailing in Eastern Canada. The status of the profession must remain low and meat inspection cannot come in Canada under present conditions. The great republic to the south is striving hard for supremacy in the British food market, in which contest she is greatly assisted by a corps of well trained, scientific meat inspectors.