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EDITORIAL.

The Globe's "Canned-meat Stocker."

The Globe, of Toronto, the other day wandered from its usual happy hunting-ground of politics and undertook to lay out a plan of operations for the farmers of Ontario. Owing to the scarcity of farm labor, which is just now serious, the Globe sees a gloomy outlook ahead for the farmer, which it believes will be aggravated when the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific begins, providing more work for men. Grain-growing is "too capricious to be safe," observes the Globe; "fruit-growing cannot be made profitable except in limited areas"; fattening steers for the British market necessitates "a heavy outlay of labor," and dairy farming, even where the milk is sent to creameries and cheese factories, involves "too much toil." No reference is made to horse-breeding or sheep-raising, so we are left in the dark as to whether or not these branches of animal husbandry are also to be ruled out. Having thus cleared the field of the chief undesirable branches of agriculture at one fell blow, the farmer is made ready for a sweeping change. "What's to be done?" he may well scratch his head and enquire. Simply this, decides the Globe: Raise "stockers" for someone else to fatten, and work and trouble will be reduced to a minimum. If prices are good, says the Globe, the aforesaid stockers can be sold without waiting till full-grown, but if poor, the farmer can—if he is a man of forethought—"Keep them long enough at least to enable him to set off the increase in weight against the diminution in price." This being quite clear, all the rest is easy, only the animals must be "well bred and in fair condition." Certainly, we can do with more of that sort, which, under suitable conditions, have been and will continue to be raised.

But to whom are the Globe "stockers" to be sold? The paper itself kindly answers that question. First, to the remnant of Ontario farmers who persist in making slaves of themselves "finishing" cattle for the British market. Secondly, they may be exported to the United States (in the face of a good stiff duty) "to be finished for the canned-meat trade," which indicates what a high opinion the Globe has of the sort of "stockers" those who take its advice are going to raise. And right here we might point out that Uncle Sam's live-stock organizations or Congress will shut out, by hook or by crook, the Globe stockers just as soon as they conclude that they do not want them. As a matter of fact, the proposed trade is now on the decline. In 1898 we exported 88,605 head of cattle to the States, but in 1902 this had dropped to 31,743. But perhaps the Globe's "canner" will do better, and make a name for himself in Chicago. Meanwhile, our exports of finished beefs to Great Britain show a large increase this season. Or, thirdly, they may be "sent to the Western ranches to be finished by a year or more on the nutritious natural grasses." Experience up to date of that plan of campaign has not been very encouraging for the cattlemen, but it's a grand idea to furnish traffic for our long-suffering trans-continental railways hauling steers thousands of miles back and forth across the continent.

The next point naturally dealt with by the Globe is how to raise the stockers, and it is

reassuring to find that there need be no trouble with a steer or heifer up to three years old. On the ordinary farm, where the ranching system is out of order, they are to be dehorned and housed like sheep, and as land cannot be afforded for pasture, fodder must be grown and cut to feed them in summer, and preserved in the silo for winter. Now, theoretically at least, a good case can be made for "soiling," as very much more feed can be grown ordinarily than the same area of pasture will produce, but the system, though advocated for generations, has made little or no headway on this continent, partly because of the labor and trouble involved in growing and handling a suitable succession of crops.

But let us get down to the main question suggested: Are we to take up the business of raising stockers instead of dairying, the greatest and most uniformly successful industry of Ontario? The dairy products of Canada have now reached about a million dollars per week in value. One may be prepared for all sorts of daring suggestions in these days of expansion, but looking back over the toil of the past thirty or forty years, we must protest when rude hands are thus laid upon the dairy industry and, incidentally, upon its great and, in some measure, dependent ally, the bacon trade. Was it for this that Farrington, Ballantyne, Chadwick, Derbyshire, Foster and Robertson labored; and Prof. Arnold, Willard and others started on their rounds of dairy instruction a quarter of a century ago, a plan so sound that we are still pursuing it? Must we give up the bacon hog and allow the soft-pork bulletins of Profs. Shutt and Day, and the gallant fight of the Hamilton Spectator against the corn-fed hog, all to be forgotten? To what end did the Province organize dairy associations and start out Sleightholm and the travelling dairy? For what purpose have our three great dairy schools been established, and illustration stations in cheese-curing organized at Woodstock and Brockville? Are the elaborate dairy buildings at our big exhibitions merely a passing attraction, and do our fair and earnest dairymaids compete in the arena simply to make a holiday for a gaping crowd? Is it in vain that Ontario has more and better pure-bred herds of dairy cattle of different breeds than any other equal area on the face of the earth, or that the Province has been dotted with cheese-factories and creameries from Lambton in the west to the Ottawa valley in the east, and our farm dairies equipped with deep-setting outfits, cream separators, refrigerators, barrel churns and butter-workers? Just when Prof. Dean has written a book to make secure forever the foundations of Canadian dairying, and somebody's going to invent a milking machine, and when our cheese has become supreme in the world's greatest market, and the summer product sells at 10 and 12 cents per pound, with a heavy make to boot; when Professors Robertson and Ruddick expand with the thought that Canadian butter is going to oust the co-operating Dane, and we witness a chain of transportation facilities all but perfected from Ingersoll to Liverpool, along comes the Globe's canned-meat stocker and coolly proceeds to overturn the entire structure and put the dairy cow out of business; but if we are not very greatly mistaken, he will find himself up against a much tougher proposition, despite the labor question, than when his half-brother, the one-eyed steer, struck the Royal Commission cattle-guard

at Ottawa. In the meantime the "Farmer's Advocate" begs to move that the Globe be presented by Premier Ross with a season ticket for the Strathroy Dairy School, or it will certainly lose its reputation as being the "Scotchman's Bible."

The Canadian Farmer's Thanksgiving.

The coming of our annual national Thanksgiving Day recalls to reflection and a consideration of the grounds for gratitude on the part of our people generally, and of the farmers of this country in particular, in view of the favorable and propitious conditions and circumstances in which they find themselves on this anniversary occasion. "White-winged peace" hovers over our fair Dominion and all the vast Empire of which we form a part, and if our swords have not been literally turned into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, we at least enjoy for the time being the comfort that comes with the consciousness of being at peace and in charity with all the world.

A momentary contemplation of the contrary condition, when cruel war prevails, with all its saddening accompaniments of separation and suffering, is sufficient to evoke in every right mind the sentiment of thankfulness for the state of public tranquility now prevailing. The health of the people constitutes one of the principal sources of the enjoyment of life, and it is perhaps correct to say that in no other land is good health more general than in Canada. Destructive storms or floods are little known, famine or even a general failure of crops throughout any considerable area of the country has never been experienced, and the willing worker can almost invariably find wholesome employment at a fair remuneration, while the necessities and comforts of life are cheap and comparatively easily acquired.

In no country in the world are the people so generally well housed and in the enjoyment of such comfortable homes as in Canada. This is true alike of farm and city conditions, and has its influence for good on the character of the people, which compares favorably with that of any other nation.

An era of unprecedented prosperity is being enjoyed by the farmers of Canada. A succession of favorable seasons for the growth of crops over the larger portion of the Dominion has been vouchsafed, while market prices, home and foreign, for nearly all the products of the farm, have been good, and for many of them high, and the rapidly-increasing volume and value of our exports of farm produce clearly indicates that a very large amount of money must have found its way into the pockets of the farmers. The unprecedented expansion and activity in our bank institutions, and the opening of new branches of the e in so many comparatively small towns, is an evidence of agricultural prosperity, as also is the improvement in the demand for and the price of farm lands.

The summer season now closing has been in some respects a peculiar one. In most sections of the country an unusually protracted drought in May and June caused anxiety with regard to the fate of the crops, and in some districts the relieving rains came too late to ensure an average yield, though in all in time to improve the returns far beyond the fears once entertained, with the result that in practically all parts of the country enough and to spare is the welcome outcome. Central Canada in crop returns has been