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DOMINION.

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with the matter has never been violated. It was shown that any adulteration with foreign fat was impossible after the cheese had been manufactured, and in the Hastings case the whole process of the manufacture of this particular sample was followed up from the delivery of the milk by the farmer to the arrival of the cheese in England, sworn affidavits from the storers, the buyers, the manufacturers, and everyone connected with the handling of the product being forwarded from Canada, and the proof of the purity of the cheese as testified by the British Government analyst thus being abundantly confirmed. The affidavits, too, gave, incidentally, reliable information regarding the processes of preparing cheese for export in Canada, and no one reading that testimony could help coming to the conclusion that in buying Canadian cheese the public of Great Britain have a guarantee of purity, quality, and cleanliness of preparation such as they possess in regard to very few food products sold in their shops and markets. Better even than all of the restrictions is the presence in Canada of an exceedingly high ideal as to the purity of the dairy products of the Dominion, an ideal based on the knowledge that it is only by keeping its cheese and other farm produce pure and above suspicion that the articles sent abroad from the Dominion will be able to retain their hold on the markets of the world. The worst of these food prosecutions is that the public take a keen interest in allegations of this kind, especially when they are followed by convictions, whilst extremely little notice is taken of those instances where the local analyst has been proved to have made a mistake. In this case, however, the matter does not rest at the mere negating of the deposition of the Hastings analyst, for the energetic manner in which the Canadian authorities took the question up, and the magnificent testimony which they were able to produce in favor of the purity and quality of Canadian cheese gave the public an interest in the case far

beyond that usually evoked by a prosecution of this kind. "Not only are the High Commissioner and the Department of Agriculture to be congratulated," concludes the Liverpool Journal of Commerce, one of the very first trade journals in the United Kingdom, "but Messrs. Thomas Ballantyne, of Stratford, Ontario, who bought and exported the cheese; the famous Molesworth cheese factory, of Ontario, who made it; Messrs. Andrew Clement & Sons, Ltd., of Glasgow, who imported it; and the shopkeepers of Hastings who sold it to the consumers, are, alike, to be felicitated at the sequel to the case, whilst the general public, both of Canada and the United Kingdom, must feel mutually gratified that an occasion has been furnished for demonstrating that the food supplied the mother country from her colonies is absolutely pure and above suspicion."

Another House Plan Competition.

The success of our "A" competition prompts us to renew the "B" competition offer of \$5 for 1st prize and \$2.50 for 2nd prize. Plans and written descriptions of houses in actual existence costing less than \$1,500, suitable for smaller farms or for the homes of farm help and family. Statement of cost must be given, and particulars of wall construction, heating, ventilation, dimensions, size of rooms, arrangements for domestic convenience, etc. All plans and articles must reach this office not later than Dec. 17th, and in every case the name and P. O. addresses of the writer of the descriptions, as well as the owner of the house, must be marked on the back of plans and manuscript.

Potato-growing at Experimental Farm.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I am pleased to see by your editorial in the "Farmer's Advocate" of November 10th that you are calling the attention of the farmers of Canada to the importance of the potato crop, and how that crop may be increased. You pointed out the great difference in yield between the heaviest and poorest cropping variety in our test of varieties last year, and also pointed out the increases in yield which had been obtained by spraying. There is no farm crop which, in my judgment, can be influenced so much by proper methods of culture as the potato. It has been shown by experimenters that by using fresh seed, or coating it with land-plaster, there will be a marked increase in yield over the method often adopted by farmers of cutting their seed long before it is required, and allowing it to dry, more or less. It has been shown that, in proportion to the amount of potato tops eaten by the Colorado potato beetle, so will the crop be reduced, and yet many farmers do not begin to spray until the vines are covered with rapacious larvae, which have consumed much of the foliage before the Paris green takes effect. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture to prevent blight and rot gave us an increase of marketable potatoes, in 1901, in an average of eleven varieties, of one hundred bushels per acre; in 1902, in an average of eleven varieties, of one hundred and twenty-one bushels per acre and, in 1904, in an average of fifteen varieties, of sixty-three bushels per acre, and yet few of our farmers will spray their potatoes. This year, the most productive variety, the Vermont Gold Coin, yielded at the rate of five hundred and fifty-four bushels per acre; while the least productive, the Bliss Triumph, one hundred and twenty-seven bushels per acre, a difference of four hundred and twenty-seven bushels per acre; and while the difference in bushels would not be so great in field culture, relatively speaking it would, yet farmers are content to plant the same variety, year after year,

that has proved only fairly satisfactory with them.

I note that you consider that our list of varieties is too large. In 1888, we had four hundred and eighty-eight varieties of potatoes under test, including seedlings, and have been gradually reducing our collection since that time, adding new kinds from year to year, as thought desirable. This year we tested seventy-three varieties, in uniform plots, and fourteen in smaller plots. Some of the former will be dropped another year, and most of the latter added. In order to get a fair estimate of a variety, it is necessary to test it for a number of years, to get a good average, as varieties will vary in relative yield from year to year. We realize the importance of reducing the number tested, but feel that it is not wise to drop a variety without a thorough trial, some early potatoes not yielding as well as the main crop, but being worth keeping on account of their earliness. We note that you suggest our trying to develop a blight-proof potato. I may say that, in our comparative tests, we have been working in this direction, and in our list of twelve varieties which have averaged best in yield here for a number of years will be found some of the best of those which are freest from blight, though not designated as such. The importance of this subject has not been overlooked, and will receive still greater attention in the future.

W. T. MACOUN,
Central Experimental Farm. Horticulturist.

HORSES.

A feed of boiled barley and a little flax seed every Sunday, with other favorable conditions of feed and care through the week, should make the hair sleek and the skin soft.

It takes a little time to sweep down the cobwebs and dust from the ceiling and walls, but it insures better health and cleaner surroundings.

If in-foal mares are not required for light work they should spend from six to eight hours a day in the open yards, so that they may develop rugged constitutions in themselves and offspring.

The dealers say there will be a good demand for good, marketable work horses during the coming winter.

Prices are not extra brisk now, but it is a good time to fit up. A little extra flesh on a horse always sells for more than it costs to produce.

There is a struggle of the draft horse breeds at the International Show in Chicago this week in teams of geldings suitable for heavy street work. The results of these annual contests should indicate what type and blood is most desired by the discriminating buyers.

The management of the National Horse Show, held at Madison Square Garden, New York, is contemplating reopening classes for the heavy breeds.

More of the Kind Wanted.

A writer in the Live-stock Journal, of London, England, upon the subject of the evolution of a Heavy Hunter line makes some peculiar suggestions, so it seems to us. The Heavy Hunter of England is very much the same type of horse that we popularly call the general-purpose or heavy road horse. He is the large size in the typical saddle horse. As everyone agrees, this is one of the most useful types of horse ever produced. He is hardy, useful on the farm or road, is good with machinery, and can move quite a good load about. The great difficulty is to produce him. There is no established pure breed of his type. The Thoroughbred and Standard-bred of the most approved types are under his size. The Hackney and other Coach breeds are specialized for other purposes, and the source of supply of the good, useful, big road horse, or, as the English call him, the Heavy Hunter, is from a happy-go-lucky combination of different strains of blood. In England, this horse appears to be in even greater demand than in Canada, and the production of him is a fertile source of discussion. In the article referred to, the writer goes so far as to suggest the use of fine-quality Clydesdale stallions upon light, sound Thoroughbred mares, and from the fillies so obtained to build up a family line of hunters. This is just the sort of thing