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The Hog Commission

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, has announced that the commission of Canadian farmers, which is to be appointed to study the swine industry in Great Britain and Denmark will be composed of at least three members and a secretary, and probably of five. When the vote of \$10,000, to defray the expenses of the commission, was under discussion in parliament, Hon. Mr. Fisher was asked a number of questions about it. The discussion, as reported in Hansard, was as follows:

MR. BLAIN—"How many will comprise this deputation and how will they be selected?"

MR. FISHER—"I think that I shall have to send five. I would like to be content with three, but I think that Ontario will supply two, Quebec one, the maritime provinces one, and the west one. Then, I will have to send a secretary, or an officer of the department, to make up the report, keep the notes and attend to everything of that kind. If I can manage to do with three I will be glad to do so."

MR. BLAIN—"What will be their duties?"

MR. FISHER—"To investigate everything in connection with the pork production and marketing in these countries."

MR. SPOURLE—"Will they go outside the country?"

MR. FISHER—"They will visit Ireland and Denmark for the purpose of

Our Efforts Appreciated

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—As president of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, I feel it my duty to thank you for the great interest you have taken, and for the space you have given in your valuable paper, Farm and Dairy, during the last year to promote the interests of the hog business. Your position is far different from that of some of our other agricultural papers, that it makes a hog man appreciate your efforts.—D. C. Flatt, Wentworth Co., Ont.

investigating the business in those countries, to see if they can get any hints for the improvement of our industry."

MR. SPOURLE—"I would suggest that they extend their inquiry to Chicago and the west, where the industry appears to be quite up to date, in fact very much ahead of ours in handling animal products. They might get information there which they could not get anywhere else."

MR. BLAIN—"Will this be the total cost of the commission?"

MR. FISHER—"I expect so."

MR. HENDERSON—"To my mind the most important thing the minister can do in connection with the hog industry is to find out where we can sell more products. I think the people of this country know pretty well how to slaughter hogs and how to pack them. I do not know that we can learn much on these matters from Ireland or Denmark. What we want is a greater market."

MR. FISHER—"We do not supply the British market to anything like the extent we might."

The Milk Commission

The Ontario Provincial Milk Commission, appointed to investigate the whole milk problem, held their first meeting on May 25th, at the Department of Agriculture, Toronto, electing Dr. A. R. Pyne, chairman. Those present were: Hon. Jas. Duff, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister, and Messrs. F. G. Macdiarmid, M.P.P. for West Elgin; J. R. Darga-

vel, M.P.P., Leeds; W. F. Nickle, M.P.P., Kingston, and Mr. W. Bert Roadhouse, Secretary.

About two hours were spent in thoroughly discussing all the phases of the question with a view to making the investigation as complete and as far-reaching as possible. It was decided to visit a number of Toronto dairies and sources of milk supply on June 28, 29, 30, and later on to personally inquire into conditions in all the other cities of the Province, as well as a number of centres across the line where considerable progress has been made in the effort to secure pure milk. In the meantime the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the various cities and States on both sides of the line to secure all the literature available on the subject. The Commission will be glad to receive suggestions from producers, distributors, or consumers. The Secretary's address is the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Ontario Live Stock and Fodder Supplies

The general condition of live stock is briefly described as thin, but bright in the May report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture recently issued. No disease of a serious or epidemic nature has appeared, the mild form of distemper reported in several parts of the Province being of a local nature. Horses are said to be in good heart, although not looking so plump or sleek as in some years, owing to close feeding. The same may be said of both beef and dairy cattle. The chief ailments reported among this class of stock were cases of abortion and other parturient troubles with a number of cows, and scours in calves. Most of the stall-fed and other fat cattle have been disposed of, but the number of stockers going on grass is somewhat less than in former years. Sheep have come through the winter nicely, and lambing has been upon a generous scale, but fear of the dog is holding back the sheep industry in Ontario. Loss of spring litters has been rather too common with sows and several correspondents report cases of crippling of hogs; but otherwise there are few complaints regarding this class of stock except that while high prices are being paid for pork, the equally high cost of feed leaves very little profit for the farmer. A number of correspondents held that on this account there will not be a surplus of hogs offering later in the season.

FODDER SUPPLIES.

But for the winter there have been much scarcity of fodder before live stock got upon the lads. As it is, many farmers have had to feed much economically because supplies are rather bare of supplies. The scarcity of straw and roots told against generous feeding, and in many cases the situation was saved only by the good crop of corn and the use of the silo. Hay is in good demand, but in most cases there is only sufficient for local demand, as a good deal was baled and shipped during the winter. Hats of Ontario are higher in value than for years, but the slow sales this spring at very tempting prices prove that farmers have only about enough for home consumption. In eastern Ontario, oats for seeding are at a premium; in fact, all kinds of provender are scarce in that section than in the more western counties.

The Board of the Canadian National Exhibition has appointed Mr. Robert Copland, of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to be judge of the Clydesdale horses at the coming Exposition.

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