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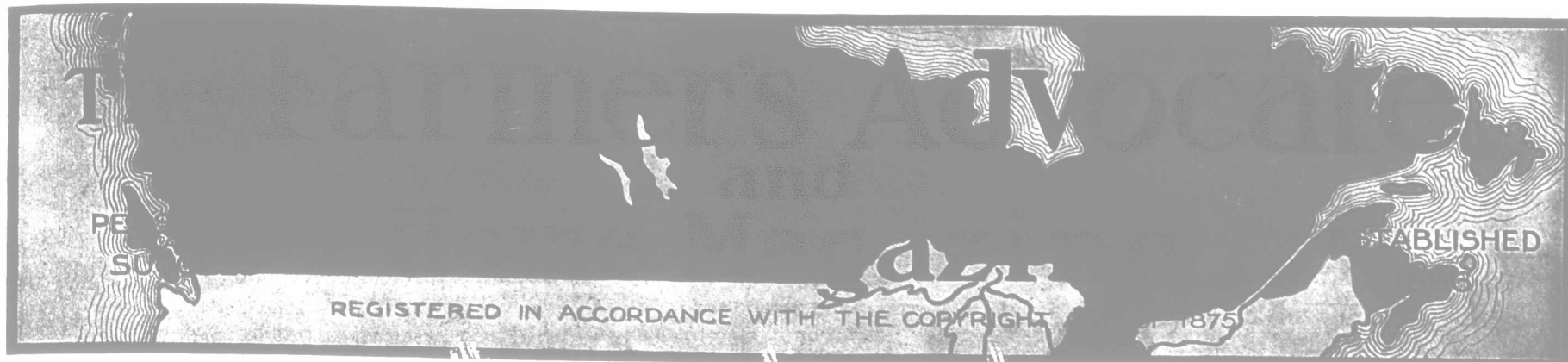
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No. 957

EDITORIAL.

The Western Ontario Dairymen's Association confines its attention to educational matters. The Provincial Minister of Agriculture was the only man who discussed the tariff at a regular session.

The consumer who kicks about the price of beefsteak seldom thinks of what it cost the farmer who bred, fed, stabled and cared for the cattle. As a matter of fact, the extravagant cost of steaks is largely due to our expensive system of retailing and delivering, plus the consumer's failure to utilize the cheaper cuts of the carcass.

Thirty-five systems of farm accounts have been submitted in response to our announcement of prizes for essays on farm bookkeeping. This number is most gratifying. The task of judging will be difficult, hence the results may not be announced for a week or two. There will be some good matter for publication when the awards are made.

Ten or a dozen speakers at recent agricultural conventions have emphasized the fact that farming has become a business, and a complex business at that. The change is adding not only to the dignity of the occupation, but to the demands it makes upon management and business training. Both the business and scientific aspects will be increasingly emphasized as time goes on.

That the aggregate value of Canadian dairy products for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1911 bids fair to exceed by eighteen and a half million dollars the aggregate production in 1902-1903, the year of bumper exports, is Dairy Commissioner Ruddick's comforting assurance. Foreign trade returns do not tell the whole story. Home consumption has largely increased.

It is a mistake to assume that American capital would cease to flow into Canada under conditions of reciprocity or free trade. It is quite conceivable that in some lines it might come all the more readily because of the cheaper living and lowered cost of labor and supplies. For those manufacturing industries catering to export demand, free trade is the most favorable condition under which to produce.

The manufacturers have presented their views on the tariff question frankly and publicly. In this they command our respect. Nor, for our part, have we any exception to take to their tendering of advice to the agricultural community. We occasionally indulge in the privilege of making suggestions to them, and turn about is fair play. While unable to share their views on all points, we welcome their evident disposition to fair discussion.

Canadian bank failures are becoming so frequent as to be almost monotonous, or, they would be were they not so serious. Our boasted banking system seems to have some weak spots, after all. Public opinion is veering rapidly to the conclusion that we need some system of Government inspection or independent audit. Police Magistrate Denison, who sentenced Travers, stated that this was the third case within his jurisdiction where failure had arisen from practices which Government inspection would have disclosed.

Five Paths to Prosperity.

In national affairs, New York is often described as a pivotal State. As goes New York, so go the elections, may not always be true; but the vastness of her population, the greatness of her cities and towns, her marvellous means of transport, linking the Atlantic and the Great Lakes, and the varied capabilities of her soils for the higher branches of agriculture, such as fruit culture and dairying, give the farmer of that commonwealth a remarkable vantage, clearly discerned by men standing on the outposts of progress. The position of the State is not unlike that of the Province of Ontario and Western Quebec in the geographical and agricultural make-up of Canada. More than ever, Canadian agriculture is to be based upon intelligence. So is it with New York farming, now in the midst of a great awakening, in which many agencies are operating. For over a quarter of a century, the Experiment Station at Geneva, during recent years under the able direction of Dr. W. H. Jordan, has labored on the problems of research; from Albany, the State capital, ramify agricultural societies, associations, farmers' institutes, and a campaign of improved highways. On the mighty hilltops of Ithaca, the State College of Agriculture, under Dr. L. H. Bailey and a corps of over 80 professors and instructors, with ample farming lands on which to link theory and practice, stands in alliance with Cornell University, in its remarkable democracy of education for the industrial classes in the pursuits and professions of life. "Cornell" yet breathes the spirit of Goldwin Smith and the man whose name it bears; and it is cosmopolitan, over thirty nationalities being represented in its 5,000 student enrollment, of which this season the College of Agriculture claims 1,254. On every hand is evidence that the College is energized with life. Departments are thronged to overcrowding, plans are under way for new buildings and equipment to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars, and an Extension Movement is connecting it with the rural homes and schools of the State, enlarging its opportunities and multiplying its efficiency. This particular work was largely initiated by Prof. John Craig, formerly of Canada, who became horticulturist when Dr. Bailey assumed the directorship. Prof. Chas. H. Tuck, a genial optimist, inspires the movement now.

The regeneration of New York Agriculture appears to be proceeding along five conspicuous lines: (1) Improved and more systematic dairying, (2) fancy and businesslike fruit culture, (3) poultry husbandry, with egg production as a specialty; (4) the restoration of organic matter to the soil, the long-continued reduction of which, J. L. Stone, Professor of Farm Practice, declares to be the fundamental difficulty that has so reduced the productive capacity of the farms; and (5) the systematic construction of a network of macadamized State and county roads to enhance country life and facilitate the marketing of farm products. Underlying and permeating the entire movement is a more serious apprehension of the problems of the farm and appreciation of country life. Farming is being made to pay better, and men, weary of the American West, are returning to resume and enjoy the opportunities of life on the lands of the State. The least evidences of prosperity are probably in those districts where the old mixed-farming vogue, irresponsible to modern methods and enthusiasm, yet obtains.

To supply milk of good quality, in sanitary

condition, daily for some 9,000,000 people, most of them city and town residents, to say nothing of butter, cream and cheese, is an enormous problem. Incidentally, the sale of so much whole milk lessens the supply of by-products, and thus hampers the hog-raising industry. Securing the necessary dairy cows becomes increasingly costly and difficult, although the breeding of this type overshadows all others, and the Holstein-Friesian is far in the lead. Many years ago, the cause of the black-and-whites was espoused with characteristic American enterprise and enthusiasm by such firms as Smith, Powell & Lamb, J. B. Dutcher, T. G. Yeomans, F. C. Stevens, The Unadilla Valley Association, and others, who have continued the work with unabated energy in milk and butter record-making, and in a campaign of publicity probably never before equalled. Prof. I. P. Roberts, formerly head of the College of Agriculture, and director of the Experiment Station, gave a demonstration in herd improvement, by breeding and discarding the undesirables, that raised the production of the College herd from 3,000 pounds of milk per year, to 7,463 pounds, containing 302 pounds butter-fat, or a gross return of \$120, a little more than double that of the original herd. At present, the average milk production per cow in the State is reckoned at about 4,400 pounds per year, and to raise it to at least 7,000 pounds is the aim. To this end, the College dairy department has launched the cow-testing policy which in Canada has proven of such value. The discovery that some cows are not producing enough to pay for their feed, while others return over \$50 in excess of food consumed, is an eye-opener. With the rank and file of dairymen, the next greatest means of progress will be in the production of proper foods and in improved modes of feeding. The College dairy department gives evidence of thoroughgoing work. From the laundering of the student suits, to the boxing of the final product, and the sterilizing chamber for utensils and cans, a policy of rigid cleanliness is insisted upon. There is much more in the gospel of keeping clean than most dairymen have yet learned. From all dairy plants in the State the call is for better-trained men, and the terms of dairy-schools students to qualify themselves are steadily lengthening, is the observation of Prof. H. E. Ross, Assistant Professor of Dairying. The day of the slipshod maker is gone, never to return. He is not wanted. The tremendous demand for whole milk and cream crowds upon the supply for cheese factories and creameries, but certain local conditions favor the latter. Supplies of cheese and butter keeping well within bounds, good prices are likely to be sustained, insuring to skilled workers, and patrons, commensurate returns for products of high grade.

Long and deservedly New York has prided itself upon its achievements in horticulture, alike in floriculture and fruit-growing. Distinguished leaders have piloted the pathway of progress in its science and in its commerce. The fruit areas present all the tokens of prosperity and the refinements of life. More than ever before, apple culture will be prosecuted according to the requirements of science and business. The orchard-survey work has shed a flood of light on the problems of the weak and strong points of the industry. In the three years' survey of Niagara County, it was found that some 716 orchards gave an average annual income per acre, for five years, of \$109.20. Gradually, faulty cultural methods will be abandoned, and greater profits secured as fresh advances are made in the manage-