

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

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## EDITORIAL.

### Canadian Stockers in Demand.

Reference has been made in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to heavy shipments of Ontario beef stockers to Buffalo and Iowa City. Our Chicago market report in this issue states that Iowa is "short" on cattle but "long" on corn. From the counties of Ontario, Durham, and Peterborough an order for 1,000 head is now being filled to go to that State. Whether or not the shipments will cease at the end of this contract it is difficult to say, but we learn that the lots being sent are pleasing the market there exceedingly well. While this can be done with profit to American beef raisers in spite of duty and freight, surely there is some money to be made in Ontario by keeping such cattle here and finishing them on our cheap coarse grains and future cheap American corn. While we do not like to see such animals leaving the country just at a time when the feeding of them is commencing to be more profitable, it does indicate more life in the beef business. No doubt the almost universal run into dairying in some quarters and sheep raising in others is largely responsible for this condition of shortage in the States referred to. Now is just the time to use only good bulls of whatever sort they may be. If for beef specially, use good beef bulls; if for the dairy, use the sons of good dairy cows and sires having a performing history. We, as Canadians, have no time to waste growing or trucking in inferior or even ordinary stock.

### The British Agricultural Produce (Marks) Bill.

The sequel to the British embargo designed to shut out Canadian and other store cattle, sheep or swine, by requiring all to be slaughtered within ten days of landing at the port of entry, is now progressing through the English House of Commons under the title of the "Agricultural Produce (Marks) Bill." The first named was largely protectionist in its nature; so is the new legislation sought. Its purport is to require every seller of imported meat to display a notice that he is a registered "dealer in foreign meat," and to have the carcasses branded as such. It was explained on the second reading that butchers would "not be compelled to mark every chop or small piece of meat" and that its sole object was to prevent fraud, by making it an offense to palm off juicy, toothsome foreign or colonial cuts as the genuine British or Irish article. If this bill becomes law it will behoove Canadians to send over nothing but the very best finished cattle or the finest dressed meat, in case that trade be developed, so that the consumers will in time realize its outstanding excellence. The measure will no doubt be vexatious to dealers there, and is based on the claim that British meat is superior to the imported article. We notice that the *Agricultural Gazette* objects to the definition clause according to which "foreign meat" means only meat imported dead, so that no branding would be necessary in case of the carcasses of Canadian cattle, for example, shipped in alive and slaughtered at Liverpool or other ports. In fact the *Gazette* would prefer the bill dropped than passed in its present shape, and it urges the Select Committee, in whose hands the bill now is, to amend this definition so that "British or Irish meat" will mean only the flesh of animals fattened in the United Kingdom, and "foreign meat" the flesh of animals imported either alive or dead.

### The Outlook for Canadian Butter.

Mr. Alex. W. Grant, the well-known cheese and butter exporter, of Montreal, on returning from a six weeks' visit to the British markets, points out that Canadian or U. S. butter must go forward in its best condition to supplant other butters that now have a regular place there. Denmark ships

to England annually \$28,000,000 worth of butter out of a total importation of \$65,000,000. The essentials to a successful trade are regular weekly shipments of fresh butter of uniform good quality. Denmark, Ireland, and Normandy ship weekly, and so must Canada. There is no need to fear Australia, except on second quality. Canada the past season shipped finer butter than anything that came from Australia, but the quantity was infinitesimally small. It is given the preference over States butter because it is fresher and complies more with the requirements. Light straw color and light salting are called for, though some markets take more color than others. As to packages, the square box is most economical and has many friends, but the quality of the butter is more than the package. In an interview, in New York, Mr. Grant expressed the opinion that the U. S. Government could spend \$200,000 or \$300,000 to advantage by giving farmers a bounty of 1c. to 2c. per pound for all the butter they would ship to England within a week or ten days after being made, citing the example of other countries in justification. We must say that the experience in Quebec Province with a butter bonus was most unsatisfactory, very little, if any, of the bonus ever reaching the dairy farmer, who is simply "exploited" for the benefit of a few interested parties. The farmer is usually "helped" or "bonused" or "fostered" in that very way while through taxation directly or indirectly he has to provide a large proportion of the "help" himself.

One of the largest and best lines of export in Canada to-day is cheese—a trade that was not boomed or bonused into existence. Like British trade, it developed naturally upon its merits and mainly by private enterprise. In the Province of Ontario it was helped by the Government, through the Dairymen's Associations, establishing a system of factory inspection and instruction, association meetings, and teaching both of makers and patrons through the press. The rigid exclusion of the "filled-cheese" fraud and the "skim-cheese" business from Canada—rocks on which the American cheese industry came to grief—has been of inestimable advantage to Canada. The factory system, insuring uniformity, was the foundation and the foregoing measures the superstructure upon which a permanent success was built. We apprehend that a flourishing and abiding butter trade can, with the promised transportation facilities, be established on precisely the same principles. Is its future promising? Yes! is the decided conclusion reached by Mr. Grant. The whole world is competing more in other articles than in the finest butter, which is a product of great skill, and the consumption of butter increases with the population, which cheese does not do to anything like the same extent.

Since Denmark developed butter dairying she became also a large exporter of bacon to Britain. Swine rearing fits in admirably with either branch of dairying, Canada already possessing a splendid bacon trade in Great Britain, particularly as to quality. In buttermaking the by-products are utilized to best advantage by raising calves on the skim milk as well as hogs on skim milk and buttermilk. Winter is the proper time for calf rearing—a strong point in favor of buttermaking at that season. Buttermaking, too, is less exacting in its demands upon the fertility of the soil. We may therefore very safely push the butter business, but at the same time there should be no relaxation of attention to the cheese industry. There is room for both and to spare in this broad Dominion, and in many factories now buttermaking is successfully carried on in winter and cheesemaking in summer.

E. McVEETY, Librarian North Dakota Agricultural College, writes: "Your excellent paper has been received at this Station during the past year. It has been largely read by students and faculty, and is highly appreciated."

### Selection of Judges.

The selection of judges who are likely to give general satisfaction to exhibitors is one of the most difficult matters which claim the attention of fair boards. We are fully persuaded that as a rule the honest purpose of such boards is to select men who are known to be competent judges of the classes of stock they are invited to pass judgment upon, and to avoid appointing men who are likely to be interested in any way in the stock competing or likely from any relationship they may sustain to any exhibitor to show partiality to a friend or neighbor. There is, of course, a possibility that some member of the board may be interested in securing the appointment of a friend as judge who would be likely to give him or his friend who may be an exhibitor the benefit of a doubt, if not more, and it is this point we desire especially to emphasize in treating the subject in this article. In the first place we take it that the directors of a show or fair association desire its success. They must know that it is the exhibitors who make the show, and that the greater number who can be induced to enter the list of exhibitors with meritorious animals the greater will be the success of the exhibition. In order to secure a large entry it is essential that all cause for suspicion that the appointment of judges is being manipulated by interested parties should, if possible, be removed; and if such suspicion, whether well founded or not, is known to exist, it is well that it should be dispelled by making such changes—if not in the directorate, at least in the judges—as will be likely to restore confidence and lead to a fuller entry of exhibits. Indeed it would seem to be none too great a sacrifice in such a case if some of the directors, in order to restore confidence on the part of exhibitors, should voluntarily retire and make room for new blood which, while it may be no better, would have the virtue of being a change. One feature at least which has existed in certain shows and which has caused unfavorable comment, namely, the appointment of judges from among the directors, should be studiously avoided. Surely competent judges are not so rare that it is necessary to select them from the list of directors of the show and to continue them from year to year or to have them reappear every other year on the list of judges.

In making these remarks we wish it to be distinctly understood that we are not reflecting upon the honesty, fairness or competency of the judges in any particular case. We have no reason to so reflect, and our only object is the greatest amount of success for our shows, which we contend can only be secured by sustaining confidence on the part of exhibitors and a consequent fuller entry of exhibits. This whole question requires careful and considerate handling in view of the many conflicting interests involved, and it should be the aim of fair boards to choose for judges men of sterling character, independence, and a fine sense of honor—men having a good share of that firmness and fearlessness which is commonly known as backbone, and men who are acknowledged to be close and critical judges of the class of stock they are called to pass upon. A man may have all the necessary experience and may be a good judge, but if he be weak and vacillating, and have not the courage of his convictions, and allows himself to be swayed by fear of what an exhibitor or interested parties may say or think, and does not record his independent judgment, he makes an unenviable exhibition of himself, does injustice to other exhibitors and to the character of the show, and is little, if any, less culpable than the judge who deliberately plans to favor a friend. To appoint to the position of judge a man who has not a reputation worth guarding, or who, even if a competent judge, is so mixed up with exhibitors as to be liable to the suspicion that he is not independent of such relations, is a mistake which should be carefully avoided.

While we are writing upon this subject we will go further and say that in our opinion it only makes matters worse when an exhibitor who feels that he has not received his due in the awards made in one class withdraws his stock and declines