

Notes from Ireland.

THE RESTRICTION ON STORE-CATTLE IN PORTS.

The last occasion on which I referred to the embargo on the imports of Canadian cattle into the United Kingdom, and the agitation to have it abolished, was before Parliament came to give its verdict on Mr. Cairns' famous bill to repeal the Act of 1896, and at the time all parties concerned were awaiting with an anxiety only too natural, the upshot of the whole movement. Time flies, and events happen so rapidly nowadays that by this date the fate of Mr. Cairns' bill has doubtless become a matter of ancient history. As everybody knows, owing to the peculiarity of the laws controlling business at Westminster, the bill, so to speak, never came to a climax; it was literally "talked out," which means that it was knocked completely out of the programme for the present Parliamentary session. The result, needless to say, was hailed with great gratification by the thousands, both in Great Britain and Ireland, who felt it essential to their own personal interests to strongly oppose the agitation and contest it at every stage. After a while, however, this delight gave way to misgiving, and though public interest in the subject is not so highly pitched, still it has by no means completely subsided. Even yet there is nothing to justify any idea that the last has been heard of the agitation or that there will not be another bill to fight next session, perhaps under more formidable circumstances. Many, indeed, go so far as to assert that, sooner or later, Canadian stores are inevitably bound to make their way in to us. From this it will easily be gleaned that, while it has been averted temporarily, considerable fear exists that the threatened blow at our Irish store-stock industry may, in the long run, fall. This uncertainty, with all the lack of stability in our stock-breeding operations which it necessarily involves, is considered to be yet another grievance "agin the Government," for they have never definitely expressed their policy on the matter. Whether it be the Prime Minister or the President of the Board of Agriculture that acted as spokesman, one was usually as wise at the finish as at the commencement, as to what the Government really intended to do with regard to the restrictions. With the Government adopting such an attitude, it is easy to understand the continuance of an uneasy feeling among those whose welfare is so closely concerned with the points at issue.

In the House of Lords, recently, an appeal was made that the country should no longer be kept in doubt on the matter, and that a definite statement of policy should be given. The Agricultural Minister, Lord Carrington, was thus forced into an utterance on the subject, and what he said was that the Government did not intend to bring in any bill either repealing or altering the Act of 1896 during the present session, and that there was no possibility of the private bill, over which there had been such a hubbub, proceeding any further this session. He took advantage of the occasion to express his appreciation of the chivalrous way in which Canada had acted, though disappointed that the restrictions had not been removed.

This, then, is how the matter stands at present. The entire controversy has not been altogether devoid of benefits to Ireland, and in a very important sense; it is a good thing that spirited discussions were engendered all over the country, because many of our farmers have been brought to consider for themselves the economic aspects of their business, and appreciate at proper worth the vital necessity of endeavoring to produce the best stock. They have been brought face to face with the reality of keen foreign competition, which, while it existed before, was never so manifestly apparent, and they have been forcibly reminded of the advantages of following such systems of farming as will enable them to adapt themselves to altered conditions, if such should be brought about. Of late, the leading agricultural paper in Ireland has been considering the subject from many standpoints. In a recent issue, this journal, *The Farmer's Advocate*, published an article under the heading, "Would Canadian stores be sent at all?"—a title which, in view of all the recent talk on the subject, strikes one as rather novel. In the article are quoted several passages from the thoughtful editorial on the embargo, which appeared in *The Farmer's Advocate* of April 19th, last. Alluding to the fact that shipping facilities would be more favorable at present than in the days of the former Canadian-store trade, the *Gazette* remarks: "If the Canadians are disposed to send the quantity of stores, the inducements in this direction will be found in every way encouraging. We say IF the Canadians are disposed to send over the stores, for, from recent evidences of opinion among the stock-owners of the Colony, the drain on the country's soil resources which a highly-developed store-cattle trade connotes, is giving thoughtful Canadians room to doubt their wisdom in exporting their unfinished cattle, even although there were no such restrictions as at present exist. On the other hand, there are indications that the desirability of bringing their

cattle to butchering condition before disposing of them is being grasped—a fact which seems to fall on deaf ears when brought directly before the attention of Irish farmers."

THE GOVERNMENT AND FORESTRY.

"I am very much in sympathy with your wishes, but I am afraid I can do nothing for you." These were not the actual words, but they are pretty nearly the substance of a reply which the Chief Secretary for Ireland gave to a recent deputation which waited on him with regard to the afforestation of Ireland. The deputation represented the Irish Forestry Society, which, as far as a private, unsubsidized organization can, is striving to do something for tree-planting and woodland cultivation in the country. The latter-day depletion of our forests, and the consequent urgency of renewing them, as well as planting waste lands, were impressed on the Chief Secretary, and, what was of even more direct advantage, the deputation submitted a carefully thought-out scheme for the acquisition of land suitable for planting. Mr. Bryce, the Minister in question, in the course of his reply, admitted the truth of the statements made by the different speakers, and stated that "the scheme, in many respects, appeared to him as eminently practical, and that it would no doubt prove useful in the event of the Government finding itself in a position to take up the matter." So, estimated by the usual results from deputations to Ministers, my interpretation of Mr. Bryce's reply, with which I commenced this paragraph, is, perhaps, not too inaccurate. However, we must give Mr. Bryce credit for good intentions, as, since he received the deputation, he has stated in Parliament that the advisability of appointing a Committee of Enquiry into the subject of afforesting Ireland was engaging attention.

THE DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY.

Writing of committees reminds me that the special committee appointed by the Government to look into and report upon the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, is at present proceeding with its labors. So far two sittings have been held, and two very important witnesses examined, namely, Mr. Gerald Balfour, M. P., who was Chief Secretary of Ireland when the Act establishing the Department was passed, and Sir Horace Plunkett, who has been Vice-President since its inception. The evidence of the latter gentleman was particularly interesting, as well as valuable. He traced the development of the various schemes initiated by the Department during the past five years, and, in short, gave a succinct history of its working. In light of the severe criticism which he has undergone for having appointed to various positions in the Department men other than Irish, Sir Horace appeared to consider special reference to this matter necessary. At any rate, he laid particular stress on the fact that he set out with the determination to get the best men for the various posts. Irishmen sufficiently trained were none to plentiful; only two competent to serve were found in England, and these were secured and brought back from good appointments at English Colleges for work in Ireland. The reason why so many "foreigners" were "imported" was due to the Vice-President's resolve to secure the tip-top men. The Department then set out to train young Irishmen for positions, and many of these had already been "turned out" from their educational institutions, fully equipped to take an active part in the working of the Department.

"EMERALD ISLE."

Notes from New Brunswick.

The season has proved very cold and late, and farmers are farther back than is usual at this time. While some who are favored with well-drained land have been able to rush their work along when the weather was fine, and thus secured a good start, others not so favorably situated are behind, and are not through oat seeding, nor have they planted many potatoes as yet. Wheat-growing appears to be declining again from some cause. Unless the weather improves, seeding will be so late that we cannot look for so good a harvest.

Grass is looking fine, perhaps a little thin, but showing nicely at present, and what grain is up is coming right along. Pastures are poor so far, but feed has been plentiful, and cattle will not be out so early as usual. The mild winter must have made haymows last, for scarcely any hay has been mowed this spring. Butter keeps up well, 20 cents; eggs are selling at 16 to 18 cents; beef is worth 7 to 8 cents, and pork 8½ cents, but not much is being done in either. Horses are out of sight; no trouble to sell; the only trouble is farmers have none to sell.

Fruit trees that are far enough advanced seem to be full of blossoms. Ben Davis seem to be all dying, and many other kinds are not standing the winters very well, especially plum trees. Strawberries came through all right, and promise well.

King's Co., N. B.

A course of Agricultural Journalism has recently been added, by the generous assistance of Mr. John Clay, of Chicago, to the curriculum of the Iowa State College.

A Trip to Temiskaming.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

A Legislative inspection party over the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, left Toronto by invitation of the Provincial Minister of Public Works, Hon. J. O. Reaume, on Monday, May 28th, returning on Friday, June 1st. The special train of five Pullmans and two dining-cars ran over the G. T. R. to North Bay, whence the new Government road runs northward. The party included four members of the Government, Hon. Messrs. Frank Cochrane, J. W. Hanna, Dr. Willoughby and Col. A. G. Matheson; Judges Anglin, Garrow and Osler, some 70 M. P.'s, Messrs. C. B. Smith, J. L. Englehart and D. Murphy, the Government Commission that construct and operate the road, and a number of the leading journalists of the Province. From North Bay, northward to New Liskeard, about 115 miles of the road is in regular use, with very satisfactory results; the rails are laid for 50 miles further north, and about 40 miles more is graded. The roadbed is in excellent condition, and, as a business proposition and pioneering enterprise, the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway has unquestionably proved a successful stroke of policy. For the most part, it skirts a panorama of lakes which for scenic beauty the continent has no equal, and Nipissing, Temagami and Temiskaming, and hundreds of other smaller bodies of water, equally entrancing, make this great district the tourist's paradise. On either side of the line is a wealth of timber and mills. The Cobalt-Latchford silver-mining district has proved a tremendous advertising card for the country, which is now overrun with prospectors and developers, and at New Liskeard begins the "Clay Belt," or agricultural land, which is no dream, but a reality, the value and importance of which the whole Province will ere long appreciate. These various features are attracting people, and the railroad has been carrying in passengers at the rate of about 400 per day for weeks, and the number will increase as the season goes on. The Legislative party received a hearty welcome all along the line, the climax being reached at New Liskeard, where a band, bunting, and a procession, greeted the statesmen, and in the beautiful new Presbyterian church a public reception was given by Mayor McKelvey and Mr. Geo. Taylor, a former mayor of London, Ontario, now President of the town and district Board of Trade. Information was given as to the need for roads to facilitate the settlement and progress of the farming country. The splendid audience present was itself sufficient evidence of the optimism and success of the New Liskeard people. The speakers of the evening, including Cabinet Ministers, M. P.'s and Journalists, found themselves facing a people who would have graced any gathering in any city or town in Old Ontario. As a whole, the tour was a revelation to the party of the progress and possibilities of the new north country. In subsequent issues, the subject will be dealt with in greater detail.

Niagara District Fruit Crop.

The Niagara District this year promises a heavy crop of fruit. About the only exception heard by a member of "The Farmer's Advocate" staff on a flying visit through that section, was that plum trees were not well loaded in some orchards. Peaches are making a good show. While remembering last year's experience, when a premature prediction of a heavy crop depressed prices unwarrantably, it being afterwards pointed out that the reduced number of peach trees in the Province would prevent a glut, even though all bearing trees were heavily loaded, we would not predict a season of cheap peaches; still, if all is well between now and harvest, there is reason to expect a generous crop, at prices that should ensure a fairly wide distribution.

Fair Dates for 1906.

Toronto Open-air Horse Show.....	July 2
Inter-Western Exhibition, Calgary.....	July 10-12
Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.....	July 23-28
Brandon Exhibition.....	July 31-Aug. 3
Cobourg Horse Show.....	Aug. 14-16
Canadian National, Toronto.....	Aug. 27-Sept. 6
St. John, N. B.....	Sept. 1-7
Canada Central, Ottawa.....	Sept. 7-15
Western Fair, London.....	Sept. 7-15
Sussex, N. B.....	Sept. 10-14
New York State, Syracuse.....	Sept. 10-15
Michigan West, Grand Rapids.....	Sept. 10-14
Chatham, N. B.....	Sept. 14-21
Dominion Exhibition, Halifax, N.S.....	Sept. 20-Oct. 5
Prince Edward Island Agr. and Industrial Exhibition.....	October 8-12
Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph.....	Dec. 10-15

Yields of Milk and Fat.

The tabulated results of the thirty days' work, ending April 17th, by the cow-testing association at Princeton, Ont., show that 31 cows from six herds averaged 540 pounds of milk testing 3.3 per cent. of fat, total pounds of fat per cow being 18.1. During the succeeding month, 45 cows from 9 herds averaged 671 pounds milk, testing 3.3 per cent. fat, total pounds of fat per cow being 22.4.

Ounce Letters for Penny.

A Canadian Associated Press despatch, dated London, England, May 29th, announced that, in the House of Commons, in reply to a question, Hon. Sir Sydney C. Buxton said, that as a result of the Postal Congress, Imperial penny postage would now carry letters weighing an ounce, instead of a half ounce.