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Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

One thousand export Clydesdale certificates, issued in Scotland from New Year's to the end of October, does not look much like decadence of Clydesdale popularity.

If Canada imports cheap American mess pork and lard, exporting her own pork products to supply a Wiltshire trade in Britain at top prices, the country is just so much the better off by every dollar's worth of such trade transacted.

Scores of professional agriculturists complacently preach to college students and farmers doubtful doctrine, into the soundness of which they decline to examine fully, divining only too well that candid examination would call for radical readjustment of smug theories. Not every man has the courage to grapple with stubborn facts and problems of economic truth.

A hundred-per-cent. duty on American pork would not remedy the ills of the bacon trade, and would benefit the Canadian hog-raiser little, if at all. It might benefit the packers, especially if they took a notion to combine. The promise of advantage to Canadian farmers through seeking more protection on their products, cannot in the long run prove other than a delusion and a snare.

It would be a good idea, if the corn scuffler has been left alongside the fence, to run it inside. There may be a sulky rake under shelter of an apple tree, left there in the stress of harvest, and half-forgotten since, it would be well to run it in also. It would look better and last longer. Of course, all binders and mowers were housed at the proper time, as soon as done with for the season, but there may be a temptation to neglect the storing away of plows and harrows. To put under cover such implements when their work for the year is done, coating with oil the working parts, requires only a little thought, and nothing pays better.

Canadian sheep-breeders will naturally felicitate themselves upon the abrogation of the United States thirty-day quarantine, as announced in our news columns last week. While welcoming the removal of a hampering restriction upon export trade, we sincerely hope it will not lead to any relaxation of effort in cultivating the home market for rams. We need more commercial sheep flocks in Canada, and our breeders will do well to make the development of this industry their first care. The export market should be regarded not as the main, but as an extra outlet for the increase of our pure-bred flocks. Regarding the importance of keeping our flocks clean, in order to avoid a repetition of the late unpleasantness, a word to the wise should be sufficient.

"Scotland Yet" criticises the proposal of the British Government to set aside money for the building of new roads, especially for motor purposes, as being peculiarly class legislation, contending, rather, that money should be spent on straightening and levelling existing roads, treating them in some way to allay the dust nuisance, and building new sections here and there to alleviate congestion of traffic. This reads well, and it is hardly for us, at this distance, to venture opinions on such matters of domestic policy. But it looks as though, motor traffic being accepted as inevitable, its exclusion from roads used by other vehicles is a move in the right direction. We fancy Canadian farmers would welcome a proposal to apply a tax on motor-cars to the building of special roads.

Autumn Use of the Drag.

With the season of fall rains coming on, the split-log drag will be once more in requisition. Whenever the surface of the road is softened and cut up, destruction commences by the gradual flattening of the crown and soaking of the subsoil. A little work with the drag at this season will keep an earth road shaped up and smooth, facilitate the flow of water to the ditches, and prevent, or, at any rate, reduce the seepage of water into the subsoil, there to be frozen in winter, heaving the road and preparing for that impassable condition of the highway commonly expected on clay roads when the frost is coming out. In this connection, a pithy observation by D. Ward King may be recalled with profit. "The roads," he said, "will be all right in spring if we don't put a lot of mud into cold storage in the fall." Another benefit of autumn dragging is that it keeps the road smooth, making an excellent bottom for sleighing. Those who have been fortunate to catch Opportunity at the right moment, and drag their beats just before a freeze-up, have had the satisfaction during the winter of driving either with wheels or sleighs over clay roads as good as the best turnpikes.

High Prices.

Prices appear to be soaring skyward. Values of farm products are typified by dollar wheat, seven-to-eight-cent hogs, and twenty-five-cent creamery butter; while before us are items from three newspapers, noting or predicting increases in cement, shoes, rubber, and brooms. Gold must be plentiful thus to decrease the amount of merchandise that can be purchased with a given quantity of it. Either that, or else prodigal consumption of necessities and luxuries is outstripping production, aided though it be by invention. Probably both factors—i.e., cheap gold, and increased ratio of consumption to supply—enter into the equation. Withdrawal of energy from rural to urban employment by artificial economic conditions, produced by tariffs and otherwise, also operates to increase prices of agricultural products, because the cost of producing them is increased; while some lines of manufactured goods, such as cement, are raised in price by combines; again, in other lines, produced in insufficient quantity to meet the home demand in the country of production, prices are raised by the simple operation of protective tariffs, without necessarily any combination at all.

Ontario's New Readers.

Perusal of the new series of readers authorized by the Ontario Department of Education cannot fail to disappoint any true sympathizer with the new education movement—the movement which desires to see the child's school education related more closely to the features of his environment—which, in short, desires to correct the unfortunate bias toward the purely academic, and draw out the faculties of observation, arousing interest, incidentally, in the romance, science and art of agriculture, and the useful trades. We would by no means be understood as opposed to the education of rural youth along literary lines. They should be grounded in literature, and given a course that will make for scholarly culture. The trouble is, that, in seeking this object, agriculture and nature have been all but ignored. Ideal ways of accomplishing the needed reform are by having a reasonable proportion of lessons in the readers bearing upon agriculture, progressive agricultural and mechanical problems in the arithmetics, and a general effort all through the curriculum to weave in much which relates to nature and country life.

Judged by this standard, the readers fall far short. True, they are cheap, well gotten up so far as the bookmaker's art is concerned, and commendable for the most part in the ethical principles inculcated; although, from the debatable inscription on the title-page of each book, "One fleet, one flag, one throne," to the back cover, a militarist spirit is breathed, offset only in the Fourth Reader by the extract from an excellent speech by Bright. There is practically nothing to speak of about agriculture or horticulture, though a short lesson on the banana does appear in one reader. It would seem that the Ontario Horticultural Association's committee on the inclusion of horticultural topics in the readers had either not done much, or had its recommendations received with little heed.

Literary criticism has been made by other writers. Minor defects and incongruities in the make-up have been pointed out, and question raised at the inclusion of so many passages from contemporary or recent authors whose works have not been sifted by the winnowing process of time. Dickens, an author whose merit all will recognize, seems to have been almost unduly favored by the compilers, the Fourth Reader index referring to some thirty pages of his writings, including a passage from Nicholas Nickleby, where Smyke is being thumped to jelly by Squeers, and Nicholas rushes in, precipitating a general melee—hardly an elevating pen-picture to present, thus detached, to the mind of impressionable youth.

The history of previous efforts to prepare a literary pabulum for Ontario youth recalls the Irish National Readers, officially advised for Upper Canada in 1846. The Red Readers, Campbell's, were authorized in 1868, and the Ontario Readers in November, 1884. From a pedagogical point of view, the new series may be regarded as somewhat of an improvement, but as for any expected reform in the direction of diffusing knowledge of, or stimulating interest in agriculture and country life, one can only conclude that a pressing need has been overlooked.

Tariff Hinders Trade.

In continuing the discussion of tariff conditions and effects, it may be well to begin by quoting again from the remarks of W. O. Sealey, the extract this time being from an address delivered by him at a fruit and vegetable-growers' picnic in August last:

"While universal Free Trade would undoubtedly give us the best natural opportunities, that is impossible at the present time, and, therefore, we have got to make the best of the circumstances as we find them, both at home and abroad; and of the various suggestions for improvement, a re-arrangement of the tariff on agricultural products strikes me as being the most practical at the present time. For, while some may say that 'Trade laughs at tariffs,' and still continues to grow, it grows in the direction of least tariff resistance, and therefore the tariff influences its direction, and determines to quite an extent what country shall profit most by it. As, for instance, very few Canadian eggs are being sold in the United States to-day because the McKinley tariff prevented, whereas previous to the McKinley bill we sent millions of dozens of eggs to the United States. No U. S. steel rails are being sold in Canada to-day. Why? Because the Canadian tariff prevents."

It would be quite possible, in like manner, for the Canadian Government to stop absolutely all import trade from the United States by simply raising the tariff high enough. It might not need to be quite so high as "Haman's Gal-