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EDITORIAL.

There is just about enough substance in protectionist argument to lend color to a great mass of error.

We cannot all farm as we should like, but we may all try to follow, as fast as circumstances permit, the best methods and principles we know or can learn.

The culture of next year's corn crop should begin now—if it did not commence when this year's crop was standing in the hill—with careful selection and storing of seed ears.

Almost every thinking man has a longing eye upon the land these days—except those who are on it. We never miss the water till the well runs dry. Those persons best appreciate the farm who were raised on it, but have subsequently dwelt in city or town.

To appreciate the value of weight in draft horses, combined, of course, with quality, conformation, and other desirable attributes, one has only to read the market reports. Read these, note that an extra hundred pounds of bone and muscle commands 25 to 50 cents a pound, and consider whether it will not pay to feed the colt liberally this winter, not forgetting the systematic exercise which is equally or more important.

A noticeable feature of the standing field-crop competitions, as reported by E. D. Eddy, of the Seed Branch, in the Census and Statistics monthly, is the high place taken by members of the Canadian "Seed-growers" Association, and others who use registered seed, or seed secured from an experiment station. "There is great need," Mr. Eddy concludes, "for more farmers to make a business of producing pure seed grain of a known variety, and there is a good demand for seed of this sort, but the supply is limited."

The August foreign trade returns of the United Kingdom were very satisfactory. Imports increased by £3,600,000, and exports by over £6,500,000. Imports of cereals and flour were both less than in August, 1909. Being the end of the cereal year, the annual figures showing imports of wheat and flour were included in the returns. The year 1909-10 showed an expansion for the first time for four years. The quantity imported was the equivalent of 27,600,682 qrs. of wheat, against 25,281,871 qrs. for 1908-9. What vast numbers of people are employed abroad to feed the hungry Britisher?

As opposed to the log-rolling method of tariff revision, we do not wonder that our American friends now, with delight the idea of an expert tariff commission. Perceiving, however, that the original advocates of the commission plan welcome it only to remove and prevent the grosser abuses of protectionism, we entertain grave doubts of its outcome, being other than to entrench more soundly the high tariff policy of the United States. If the United States Government would, first of all, appoint an impartial commission to examine seriously the question of protection as a principle, and present a report thereon, we would have more hope of our neighbors adopting a sound tariff policy.

The Dominion Exhibition Grant.

Every enterprise that is conducted upon business methods demands at least an annual stock-taking. The Dominion Government made an appropriation of \$50,000 to Toronto in 1903 for the holding of a Dominion Exhibition. Since then this grant has been duplicated throughout the various Provinces, until virtually eight have shared in the privilege and benefit of this Canadian institution. Each Province has had its Dominion Exhibition now, excepting Saskatchewan, whither the distinction and grant are wending their way for next year; and Prince Edward Island, which has had to be satisfied with \$20,000 in grants to their local organization at Charlottetown, without having the dubious privilege of maintaining the national reputation. This exhibition for 1910 has recently been held at St. John, N. B., and it is consequently a suitable time for estimating the worth of this year's effort, to glance over the benefits accruing from previous years, and to determine whether or not, as Canadian taxpayers, we are getting our money's worth out of the enterprise.

To be a Dominion Exhibition in more than name necessitates the attendance of exhibitors of all kinds of agricultural, horticultural, dairy, forest and mine products, and of all classes of live stock, from the full length of the Dominion. This can only be attained by holding the exhibition when it will not conflict with the time of other shows, and by the appropriation of liberal prizes. Such proportions in a show demand larger grounds, more and larger buildings, and other preparations requiring considerable outlay.

The avoidance of a conflict of dates might be easily arranged, but the other essentials are not, and have not been, easy of accomplishment. New buildings have frequently been built for the Dominion show, consuming more or less of the national grant. If the fair associations had not sufficient grounds and buildings for their annual local event, it was incumbent upon them locally to supply these things; on the other hand, if these places had a plant sufficient for their regular shows, then the additional grounds or buildings required for their one Dominion Exhibition would be needless and unused after the event was past. Similarly with their prize list. To make an exhibition truly national in character demanded an increased prize list over that ordinarily offered by these organizations. To some, this increase over their regular prize list had the appearance of working against the best interests of their show in after years, and consequently was not indulged in to any extent.

Examining the recent Dominion Exhibition held at St. John, N. B., we find that the prizes offered were not large and numerous enough to induce shipment from the Western Provinces, especially when there was small chance for supplementary sales of stock. There was a total prize list of \$18,000, of which little, if any, more than 70 per cent., or \$13,000, was actually paid to prize-takers; and, of this amount, about \$10,500 was offered on, and about \$7,000 taken by, all classes of live stock. There was only a small show of live stock (not enough to take away all the prize-money), because of the conflicting time and meagre prizes offered. In comparison it is interesting to note that at Fredericton, N. B. show, in 1909, there were over 800 entries of live stock, while at the Dominion Show, at St. John this year, there were only 650. The Halifax Show this year advertised a \$20,000 prize list, while the Dominion Show offered but a little over \$18,000, and the former offered within \$530 of as much as the latter in live stock. Entries

at St. John totalled 95 in horses, 321 in dairy cattle, 144 in sheep, 15 in swine. Such was the live-stock exhibit of the Dominion Exhibition this year, and other things were quite up to this standard! If the Fair were properly managed this year, it appears like a mistake to have attempted to hold a Dominion Exhibition at St. John, N. B.

With such results for this year's efforts, and results not wholly different for many of the preceding Dominion Exhibitions, it does not call for any unusual amount of perspicacity or business acumen to reach the conclusion that, as a migratory proposition, this so-called Dominion Exhibition has failed of realizing the proportions suggested by its name, but has been a mystic consumer of \$50,000 a year. Next year's show in Saskatchewan may be a courtesy due the Province, but, beyond that, it would surely be well to abandon the present extravagant plan of the Dominion Exhibition, and, if a suitable permanent home for it cannot be agreed upon, the money can surely be put to some better use.

October Days.

The glory of these October days! Cool nights, crisp mornings, golden, mellow afternoons. The thickening carpet of the fall-wheat fields; the soft velvet of the new clover seeding, brightened in early morn with dewy frost; sentinel rows of corn shocks in the field behind the barn; the sere stubble of the hay and grain fields, threaded with blackened streaks where the plowman's furrow turns up the fresh soil, fragrant with a "concentrated essence of the four seasons"; the crimson flush upon the apple's cheek; the flaming color of the forest leaves; the rich-tinted, fragrant, mellow season of the harvest home!

There is something charmingly pensive about the subdued yet busy activity of these autumn weeks. Every living thing, from squirrel to beaver, seems to realize the approach of a dormant season, and those which may wisely lay up a store of Nature's bounty. No exception to this rule is Man, who, with his family, has been busy gathering the harvest of the fields, and turns now to the garden and orchard.

What a wealth of good things there are to garner on a well-ordered homestead! Not counting the field crops already in the barn, or on their way to market, here we have fruits of all kinds following the luscious strawberry (welcome harbinger of the fresh-fruit season), concluding with plums, peaches, pears, quinces, and that excellent old stand-by, the apple, in all its choice variety, from Fameuse to Greening, and that prince of winter apples, the Northern Spy. Then, the rich, spicy nuts the children gather from the woods—walnut, chestnut, hickory and butternut—to furnish, with apples, many a delicious repast before the winter fire; or, alas, too often now, over the hot-air register!

Then the pumpkins and squash and watermelons—yes, and that game-flavored vegetable, the mushroom, from the pasture field, not to mention musk melons—"antelopes," one grocer calls them—cauliflower, cabbage, salsify, onions, celery, and what-not. "Oh, yes," the cynic smiles, "but very few farmers have all these things." No, more's the pity, but it's largely their own fault. There are few sections over the greater part of Eastern Canada where most of these things could not be enjoyed, with a little foresight in spring. These same melons, which cost a farmer's family only a little manure and care, city folk gladly buy at 10 cents to 25 cents or 50 cents apiece, and half the other things they cannot or do not buy at their best, no matter how badly desired.