

The Farmer's Advocate

HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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off, there seems to be no good reason why they should not draw from Canada to supply the cows to fill the places of those whose day is done as profitable producers. Some dairymen in Western Ontario believe that many of our good grade dairy cows will be picked up and taken into the United States. If the cows go milk must be produced in smaller quantity, for a time at least, until the new market exerts an impetus on the breeding business in Canada.

In the past, in sections of Canada bordering on, or not too far removed from, large United States cities, a cream trade was developed. If it was found profitable to ship cream into that country with a duty of five cents per gallon, we might reasonably expect an increase in the export of this product now that the duty is entirely removed. The same may be said of milk, which formerly had a duty of two cents per gallon and is now free. With these markets wide open, there cannot but be keener competition for the output in this country, especially in districts near the border.

The raw material goes in free, but butter and cheese still are dutiable but to a reduced extent, the tariff on each being reduced from six cents per pound to two and one-half cents per pound. We understand that Canadian cheese does not stand in high favor in the United States market where a more open, softer product meets with approval. Nevertheless, prices are higher over there than here, from two to four cents per pound in the country towns, and, in the city of New York, cheese was quoted last week as high as 17½ cents per pound for finest quality whole-milk goods. The difference in butter prices at present is not very great, but what there is favors the United States market, and our Montreal market correspondent informs us that a

difference of one cent per pound net will influence a shipment of butter across the border. It takes very little to turn the tide in some instances.

This is the state of affairs. The ultimate outcome may be, to some extent, a matter of conjecture, but the signs point to increased interest in dairying as well as in beef production. If the United States dairyman comes after our dairy cows, and the United States cities draw upon our supplies of milk and cream and other dairy products, it looks as though our dairymen had a busy time ahead of them breeding and raising cows for their brother dairymen to the south, and, at the same time, raising enough to keep up a growing supply of milk for our own and United States cities. Let us turn the light for a while upon the effect of the new tariff regulations upon Canadian dairying.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

The season of the fall migration of ducks is now at hand. We have in Canada a great many species of ducks, which belong to three classes. The first class comprises the Fish-ducks, often called She'll-drakes and known to ornithologists under the name of Mergansers. They have narrow bills with toothed edges, adapted to seizing and holding fish. We have three species belonging to this class, and the males of all three are handsome birds, but the male Hooded Merganser, with his large-crested head, is particularly striking. The ducks of this group are not much esteemed by sportsmen on account of the fishy flavor of their flesh.

The next class consists of the river and pond ducks, such as the Mallards and Teal, and among them are found many species much sought after by the hunter.

One member of this group, the Wood Duck, was at one time a common breeder along the streams of the wooded portions of Canada. It has unfortunately been hunted with such persistence that it is now a very rare bird in the more settled parts of the country.

It is perhaps the most beautiful of all the ducks, the male having the upper part of the head and the crest glistening green and purple, the side and front of the lower neck and the breast a purplish-chestnut, prettily marked with several chains of angular white spots, the sides yellowish-gray, with black and white wavy bars, and the under parts a pure white. The female is a much more obscure bird, as is the case with all the ducks, gray and yellowish-brown, mottled with dark gray.

The Wood Duck makes its nest in hollow trees and the young are carried out in her bill by the mother.

Another of this group, the Black Duck, is now the commonest breeding duck in Eastern Canada, still breeding in large numbers in extensive marshes. The name Black Duck is a misnomer, as the bird is really a mottled dark brownish-gray.

The Mallard is a rather rare duck on migrations in the East and is rarer yet as a breeder. A few breed in the marshes of Southwestern Ontario, but the main breeding ground of the Mallard lies west of Manitoba. The moulting of the male Mallard is interesting. In August the Mallards seek out some secluded reed-margined pond, and both sexes lose their wing-quills, so that they are able only to swim and dive, not to fly. The drake is a very conspicuously colored bird in his usual dress, but while his wing-feathers are falling out and being replaced by new ones he assumes the brownish, inconspicuous plumage of the female and in this way probably escapes many enemies. As soon as the flight-feathers have grown once again this temporary dress is discarded.

The Mallard is a fresh-water duck and winters as far north as open water is to be found. The greater number winter in the southern half of the Mississippi Valley, and for many years this was the source of a large part of the market supply. Almost incredible numbers were slaughtered. At Big Lake, in Arkansas, one pot-hunter in a single winter sold eight thousand Mallards, and from this one locality over a hundred and twenty thousand were sent to market during one winter. Fortunately, both Arkansas and Missouri now forbid market shooting.

The third group of ducks are known as the Sea Ducks from the fact that they spend the winter along the sea coast. They breed mostly in the sloughs of the West. In this group are found many ducks much sought after for the table. Chief among these is the Canvas-back. This species is among epicures supposed to have the finest flavor of any wild-fowl. It feeds in the fall very largely upon the wild celery and this plant is supposed to impart the particularly fine

flavor to its flesh, but as many other species also feed extensively upon this plant, it would seem that as far as the epicure is concerned there is more in the name than in the flavor, and many a Red-head and other duck is enjoyed under the name of Canvas-back.

The main breeding ground of the Canvas-back is just east of the Rockies, in Alberta. It used to winter in immense flocks on Chesapeake Bay, but it has been so much hunted there that few winter there now. It winters along both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

The Blue-bill is another member of this group. It is quite a striking bird with its abruptly-marked black and white coloration. It is sometimes called "Raft Duck" from its habit of lying out in open water in large raft-like flocks.

Another member of this group is a peculiar-looking duck with a musical voice, known as the Old Squaw or Long-tailed duck. Most of the ducks have only a quack or a squawk as a note, but the Old Squaw has a series of soft, nicely-modulated notes which sound as though they were played on some reed instrument.

The Old Squaw breeds on the Arctic Coasts, and winters on the Great Lakes and along both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Europe Through Canadian Eyes--VIII.

A GROWING SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY.

It is interesting to inquire into the origin and growth of the democratic spirit in England as compared to its rise and progress in Holland. Even since the Norman conquest, at which time the authority of the king and his chief barons was absolute and unquestioned, the people of England have been steadily limiting the power of their rulers and transferring it to themselves. Not by revolutions, except in the case of Charles I., but by patient and increasing recognition and assertions of their rights, has this process gone on and is still going on. In King John's time it was the barons who forced his unwilling hand to sign the Magna Charta. Since then the strife has been taken up by so-called lower and yet lower orders of society, until, at length, we see the working man stoutly standing out for his share in the conduct of affairs, and dictating to party leaders the policy they shall pursue. The people of Holland, on the other hand, from the earliest period of their history, were impatient of any authority except their own. Having to cooperate in the construction of dikes to keep back the sea and make their land habitable, "a particular habit of union, goodwill, and reciprocal justice" was developed in them. This habit of mind tends not only to mutual respect but also to self-respect, and a feeling of equality one with another which will brook no tyranny. This independence of spirit, exhibited from the very first, though often savagely repressed by aggressive monarchs of other European countries, was never entirely crushed. In the sixteenth century the king of Spain was the absolute and harsh master of the country, but the Hollanders not relishing such ruling rebelled, and after a stern struggle of eighty years had their independence established, and recognized by the Powers in 1648. The leader in this long contest was William, Prince of Orange, known as William the Silent. His grandson, another Prince of Orange, became William III., of England, and his praises are lauded every twelfth of July. William the Silent freely sacrificed his personal property and spent his energies in order that Holland might be freed from the Spanish yoke, but was assassinated before the work was completed. To hear the Dutch speak of him makes one realize what hero worship means. The royal family of to-day is regarded with an affection that is unique among the nations, because of being his direct descendants. But the kingdom is virtually a republic and proud of its liberties, and should the house of Orange cease to be or cease to occupy the throne, no attempt to set another family in its place would be tolerated. They are content as they are; out of gratitude to the house of Orange lavishing affection and attention on Queen Wilhelmina, but guardedly cherishing their right to govern themselves.

In Germany the democratic spirit is growing rapidly. Our informant was a German pastor of Basel, who, though opposed to the Socialist party, freely admitted that it was becoming increasingly dominant. He warmly supported the Kaiser, because the latter favored religion, was deeply religious himself, while the Socialists were openly opposed to anything of the kind. He wished us to distinguish, however, between the Socialists of Germany and those of the same name in America. Some American Socialists, he said, are really anarchists, while the Socialists of Germany would merely be classed as radicals in our country, a very different thing.

The monarchy is gone in France, never to return, so our French friends informed us. They did not dispute the fact that was suggested to