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EDITORIAL.

When the self interest of an organized class is pitted against the indifference of the unorganized mass, what is the logical result?

Thirty-seven fox companies, representing a capital of two and three-quarter million dollars, were incorporated at the last session of the Prince Edward Island Legislature. Beats real estate.

Nature's sweetest incense is the smell of the fresh-turned soil. The poet comes near to the same idea when he sings:

"And all the incense in the air springs from the speechless sod,
"Which has no other offering or way to worship God."

Do not forget the ditching of sown fields. However nice the land may look at seeding, it may be waterlogged in spots several times before harvest. An unfurrowed field is easy to run the binder over, but there is more satisfaction in reaping a heavy uniform crop than in riding smoothly with an idle knoter over the places where ditches should be. Drainage is a big part of good farming.

Live stock should command a good price, for there are almost innumerable chances of loss in breeding and rearing. An outbreak of contagious abortion, such as is outlined in another column in this issue, means a loss of thousands of dollars to stock breeders in the district. Too great care cannot be taken in mating animals to be sure neither is affected with a contagious disease which may be passed to the other, and, in case of the male, to many others.

Soil that is lumpy above but soggy below, so that one hesitates to put a roller over it, may be effectually pulverized with a plank clod crusher. We improvised one hastily this spring by spiking two three-inch plank to the bottom of an old corn marker with the rear edge of the forward plank lapping under the forward edge of the rear plank, and the rear edge of the latter blocked in such a way that when the marker was drawn forward the inclined faces of both planks ground the clods they passed over. It worked well, but we shall make a wider and heavier one for future use.

The question is occasionally raised whether copies of the many excellent bulletins issued by the United States Department of Agriculture are available without charge to Canadian applicants. Dr. Jos. A. Arnold, editor in chief of the Division of Publications, informs us that the publications of the Department are sent gratuitously to Canada, as long as the supply lasts, after which applicants are referred to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., who is authorized under the law to sell publications for a nominal sum. The price for Farmers' Bulletins is five cents per copy.

Bacteriological Investigation Needed.

The article in the horse department of this issue on abortion in mares raises several important questions calling urgently for scientific investigation on lines concerning which practically nothing has been done, so far as we are aware, either by Provincial Departments of Agriculture or the one at Ottawa. This is also true of the much more widely interesting subject of infectious abortion in cattle. A year or so ago, we sent some material from aborting cows, to the Bacteriological Department of the Ontario Agricultural College. They made some brief study of it, but wrote regretting their inability to do more, explaining at the same time that they had recently had an excellent opportunity to make a study of infectious abortion in cattle, but had been unable to do so for lack of funds. Now, here are lines of investigation that might be prosecuted with immense advantage to farmers. There seems to be plenty of money available from Provincial and Federal sources for other lines of work of questionable advantage to the man on the land or in the stables, but here, where there is a chance to do something worth while, the answer is "no funds." We would suggest as the most urgent present-day need of agriculture along educational lines, a great extension of bacteriological investigation, and perhaps no subject is more urgent than the cause and prevention of infectious abortion in breeding stock.

A Public, Not a Party Issue.

Attentive reading of the Ottawa despatches in the newspapers makes it very clear that the revision of the Bank Act has been in no sense a party issue. Committee divisions upon the various amendments that have been proposed cut square across party lines, and it is satisfactory to note that a majority of the most aggressive champions of the public interest are Government supporters. Conspicuous among these is J. B. McCurdy, M. P., for Queens-Shelburne, N. S. who pressed a number of well considered amendments aiming to secure greater publicity in banking practice, providing more information as to existing assets, real estate and bank premises; Major Sharp, of North Ontario, who stood sponsor for an amendment in favor of a court or commission to inspect and regulate the banks; Nickle, of Kingston; Thornton, of Durham; Sexsmith, of East Peterborough; Steele, of South Perth; Thompson, of the Yukon; Rainville, of Chambly-Vercheres; Ball, of South Grey, and a few others. Among the Opposition members of the Committee who have fought more or less earnestly on the public behalf, we notice Thomson, of Qu'Appelle; Warnock, of McLeod; Douglas, of Strathcona, and Ross, of West Middlesex, who favored a fund to secure depositors. If anything, there has been a larger percentage of aggressive public champions on the Government than on the Opposition side. It is encouraging to find an earnest minority of members on both sides standing out against the pressure of influence by the Bankers' Association and its skilled lobbyists. The subtle influence of such lobbying, allaying opposition here, modifying it there, converting it into support in some other quarter, cannot possibly be realized outside of Ottawa. As one of the Ottawa despatches put it: "This influential body (The

Canadian Bankers' Association) though not directly taking any part in the discussion, saving in cases of apparent emergency, has been represented throughout by no less than five eminent King's Counsel. In addition, several parliamentary agents have been in attendance. The purpose of these men was to watch the proceedings, talk members into more 'reasonable' frame of mind, and see that amendments calculated to limit the powers of the banks or to injure the banking system should be voted down."

Voted down they were with a very few exceptions. When the division bells sounded the whip of the Bankers' Association would fill the back benches with members of the Committee who seldom appeared otherwise.

Who was there to drum up members on the public behalf, other than those who attended of their own initiative? All honor to the small but sturdy group of men on both sides who fought for the public cause!

Meantime, have you done your own duty by writing your member to express your views? Give him a word of encouragement or instruction as the case may be. You must be your own whip, and the post office is your present means of influence. After that the ballot. This revision is not the last one. There will be another coming ten years from now, if not sooner. By that time a strong pressure of public opinion will have been aroused. Even at the present revision there is still hope of amendments in the House. See that your member represents you. There is yet time to play a part. Write him to-day.

"Yellow" Agricultural Journalism.

Among present-day periodicals and newspapers throughout the United States there is a well-marked tendency towards "yellow" agricultural journalism, exploiting the unusual and exaggerating facts to make them sensational. Even some of the so-called agricultural journals are tinged with it. Fortunately the better class are edited by men with too much experience and common sense to be carried away in this manner. Writing in one of these better-class journals lately, an American agricultural professor told of having received from a city man a letter asking for full information upon the subject of what is the most profitable crop to grow. The inquirer confessed that he knew nothing of the matter himself, but desired the information that he might write an instructive (?) article for the agricultural press. The professor replied asking his correspondent whether he considered himself competent to write an article on a subject he knew nothing about. Indignantly the latter replied: "So we are to exclude all history not written by eye witnesses!" No doubt he considered his mental gizzard capable of digesting off hand the information he expected to get from the professor, and building it into a really valuable article. He did not know that it takes years upon years of experience to mature one's ideas concerning farm practice. The cheaper class of American farm journals contain plenty of articles by just such men. They "make up" well enough in the paper, but a practical farmer reading them can at once detect their hollow ring of theory without practice to give it weight.

More particularly, though, upon the subject of sensational journalism, read this from Dean H. C. Price, of the Ohio College of Agriculture: