FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

A WISE APPOINTMENT

The announcement that has been made of the appointment, by the Dominion Government, of Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, to be director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, to take the place of Dr. Wm. Saunders, who resigned recently, should be received with pleasure by farmers generally. The appointment reflects credit on the Dominion Government. Mr. Grisdale is pre-eminently the man for this position, and it is gratifying to know that political influences have not prevented him from obtaining the promotion to which he was entitled. Hon. Sidney Fisher, as in a number of other instances, has shown good judgment in this appointment. Too often we find men secure such positions who have not had practical training on the farm. There is too much of a tendency to look for other qualifications less important than intimate knowledge of agriculture.

As it becomes known that the head of the Dominion Experimental Farms is an acknowledged authority on agriculture, that he was born and brought up on the farm, that he has managed a farm of his own for many years, and that for a long time he has been in close contact with the agricultural problems of Canada, through the position he has held as Dominion Agriculturist, it will serve to increase the confidence of our farmers in the Dominion Experimental Farms. Mr. Grisdale is just at the age when he can give his best services to this country. He has been a capable administrator in his own department, and under his management we may expect to see a great extension of the work of our Dominion Experimental Farms and in their usefulness.

A GREATER INTEREST IN ALFALFA

Interest continues to grow and spread in regard to the alfalfa crop. Not a farmer can we find who has grown alfalfa, providing it with inoculation, but is satisfied that the crop is a paying one. The strange thing is that these farmers have not heretofore put in a larger acreage.

The farmers in all of the more progressive states in the American union have in the last few years seeded larger and larger acreages of their farms to alfalfa. Even in New York State, where only comparatively recently has alfalfa been generally grown, the dairy farmers in some sections have 12 acres of alfalfa to every one other acre of either clover or grass upon their farms.

Alfalfa has passed the experiment state. We now know with certainty it can be grown on the majority of farms and the question now before each one of us is not "Can we grow alfalfa?" but rather "Can we afford not to grow this great crop?"

THE HORSE HAS COME BACK

The horseless age is not yet! That good horses are not only in demand but in real high favor was demonstrated at the recent Sorg sale at Durland's, in which sale the wealthy men of the United States were interested. In all there were 41 horses sold at this sale, these including a lot of breeding stock of unproven value, and they fetched the total sum of $51,565, an average of $1,258 per head. An average per head of $2,340 was paid for 15 prize winning park horses and an average per head of $1,741 for the total of 28 show horses.

Some individuals realized enormous prices. One animal, the famous little mare, Vanity Fair, which was bought by Mr. Sorg from the importers, the Carr Bros. for $4,000, sold at the auction to Thos. W. Lawson for the extraordinary price of $6,000. United States Senator C. W. Watson paid $7,450 for the pair of big hackneys, which after winning maximum honors at the London International Horse Show, were obtained for $4,500.

Verily the day of high-priced horse flesh is right with us, and evidently will remain. High prices, it must be noted, however, are for horses of high quality. That slogan, "the horseless age," affects only those individuals of ill conformation and of nondescript breeding. Ample remuneration is ever waiting those who breed the good horse.

DEATH OF OPPOSITION ARGUMENTS

It is most encouraging to the farmers' cause to note how many of the cries in opposition to the reciprocal agreement are dying out. The Imperial Preference question has been set at rest. The demand made by the farmers' deputation for an increase in the British preference of 50 per cent. and its total abolition in 10 years, which the opponents of reciprocity do not want, has made it so that they do not care to talk about the preference at all.

The east-and-west transportation cry has been silenced by the railways and the navigation interests themselves. Mr. Fitzhugh of the G.T.R., Sir Donald Mann of the Canadian Northern, and Mr. Bosworth of the C.P.R. have all expressed satisfaction with the agreement. Canadian Northern lands are reported to have already advanced $5 an acre and are expected to go higher yet; C.P.R. stock is selling at $18 a share more than it was before the possibility of reciprocity became apparent.

The millers shouted blue ruin at first. Now Mr. Campbell proposes to build a new 3,000-barrel flour mill at Midland. The annexation bogey has longest been silenced. The solid people of this country gave evidence of their dislike to seeing their deep patriotism made into a football for political advantage. Hence it has been dropped.

While our manufacturers want nothing more and cry "let well enough alone," our farmers and dairymen see a great big advantage to them in a free market to the south through having reciprocity. In the interests of the Empire they recognize reciprocity as highly beneficial since it will strengthen Canada and develop further the friendly intercourse with our neighbors in the United States.

EXPRESS RATES AND CREAMERIES

The recent tariff schedules of the express companies had they been allowed to stand would have borne with undue weight upon the creamery interests. Creameries are not paying exorbitant profits as we all know, and the increased express charges would make it still harder for creamery men to derive a profit from their business.

That the increase in rates was not called for is evidenced by the large profits that the express companies have been paying for years past. It would seem that express rates are regulated, not to yield a fair profit on capital invested, but to take out of the business of their patrons all that their business will stand. It is this tendency to take the last cent possible out of its patrons on the part of express and railway companies that made the appointment of the Dominion Railway Commission necessary.

Increased charges were to have been made on cream shippers. But the case was carried before the Railway Commission, where it was found that the increases were uncalled for and the old rates were restored. In a similar way the fruit men, particularly those who grow tender fruits, have been subjected to unnecessarily high rates for a long time, and by persistently taking their case before the Railway Commission they have at last been able to get more reasonable rates. The express companies have also been forced to give fruit men more reasonable terms on the delivery of fruit in the cities to which fruit is shipped.

These successes came through the enterprise of the parties affected by the express rates who persistently carried their case before the Railway Commission. Only through the Railway Commission can we hope to obtain relief from excessive express charges; so when a pinch comes, it is before this tribunal we should go, and go strong and be persistent.

Value of Fruit Lands

Many Canadian peach growers fear the competition they will meet from the peach growers of New York State should the reciprocity agreement become law. It should be reassuring to our peach growers to know that the peach growers of Western New York are afraid that the Canadian competition in their markets will decrease the value of their peach lands $25 to $50 an acre. This fear was expressed at the recent meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society. When the situation is analysed, however, it would seem that the fears of both are groundless. If United States peach growers get the benefit of our market for early peaches, the Canadian peach growers will benefit from free entry to United States markets later in the season. In the meantime, the fact that contract prices are higher this year than heretofore on the Canadian side of the line should convince Canadian growers that they at least have nothing to fear from United States competition.

You are Protected

"Better be safe than sorry." Remember this when you are dealing with a stranger who comes without recommendation. In dealing with advertisers in Farm and Dairy, you are not dealing with strangers for they all have our recommendation. Read again our Protective Policy on the editorial page.

The Canadian Century, which has been sending out such lurid warnings against the dangers involved in reciprocity, is registered at St. Albans, Vt., as second class mail matter, evidently for the purpose of securing sale in the United States. Peculiar is it not, to find a journal which is endeavoring to secure business for itself in the United States scared to death at the idea of a Canadian farmer being able to send a few eggs or some poultry across the line?—The Weekly Sun.