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z 50 Cents a Year

Dominion and Provincial Affairs Dominion Expansion.

Canadians stirred the hearts of the Englishmen when they found ours were fighting men. The present is a golden opportunity to demonstrate that this nation can not only fight but that it can make a first-class article of food as well. This latter fact has also been demonstrated by the high quality of our food shipments sent to the army in Africa. If England wants to show a substantial appreciation of our sincerity and steadfastness of purpose in defending the empire, let her people give us a chance to set some of our delicacies of the farm on their tables. The policy of expansion being pushed so vigorously by the politicians of the greater powers of the world, mostly for commercial reasons, but for political unity as well, has reached our own country and the question has again come to the front of Newfoundland being received into as part and parcel of the Dominion. It has got to come and when it does we will have a well-rounded out confederation.

A Producers' Trust.

"Let us unite agricultural and industrial workers on a co-operative basis, educate and organize," writes F. D. Festner: "form a universal trust for the sole benefit of the working people." Several movements of this kind have started, in one of which Mr Festner is personally interested. The association which goes about this in the most rational and businesslike way will give the cause the greatest push. The danger is in making retaliation for wrongs suffered the prime object instead of looking beyond to a plan which shall work because in harmony with the eternal laws of justice for all.

Early Seed.

Valuable assistance free is rendered Farm and Home readers in every issue by the description and treatment of animal ailments. Hog cholera, black leg, roup, etc. can usually be prevented by proper sanitary conditions, and a year's file of Farm and Home prescribes the treatment for about all diseases, including those which have secured a hold.

Experiments at Washington by Prof Gates, a well-known physicist, in cooperation with the weather bureau, indicates that rain and snow are produced by electrical conditions rather than by differences of temperature or currents of air. There is reason to hope for an improved weather service as the result, if not an ultimate solution of the problem of producing rain artificially.

Live stock is going to be high for several years, says the American Agriculturist, as a result of its inquiry showing vast improvement in the

farmers' financial condition. Cattle are worth more than ever, cows are 50 per cent above the low point of '92, sheep have almost doubled in value within five years, and hogs are higher. But the most notable fact is that numbers of live stock have increased only 5 or 10 per cent, while population has gained 25 per cent. This certainly means good times for live stock and dairy interests.

The annual budget of expenditures calls for \$1,585,000 in Quebec and \$3,726,300 in Ontario. Quebec has a public debt of \$25,000,000; Ontario 3,117,700. While Ontario has a population a third greater than Quebec, its civil government, legislation and administering of justice cost more, while Ontario spends very much more for education, public institutions, agriculture, charities and public works.

The foreign trade of the Dominion has increased \$64,000,000 in two years, yet exports fell below imports by some four millions last year. From Great Britain we bought \$37,000,000 and sold \$99,000,000; to the states we sold \$45,000,000 and bought \$93,000,000 last year. The preferential tariff fails to change the course of trade with our neighbors to the south, for while imports of British goods have increased 20 per cent in 5 years, those of the states are 70 per cent greater.

Flying Chips.

A young farmer writes to an agricultural weekly that he went to the city to make money, and made it. But he bartered his health in exchange; the grind was too much for him. "I find to farm it successfully," he says, "that I must use more head work and more skill than I ever did with my work in the city." Of course. He is now the head of a business, making his own policy. In the city he toiled in somebody else's treadmill.

The owners of preferred stock in the flour trust, instead of getting dividends are to be assessed. The dropped combines are sick unto death, some of them.

The great success of beet sugar factories in the states has spread to the provinces. As the beet sugar industry is yet in its infancy, beet growers or manufacturers should secure a volume of the new book The American Sugar Industry before embarking heavily in the enterprise. It may be obtained of the Orange Judd Co of New York, at \$1.50. This book should be in every public and farmer's library.

The annual statement of the C. P. R. is a striking index of the remarkable prosperity that the Dominion is now enjoying. The gross earnings for the past year, amounting to over \$29,000,000, are the largest in the history of the company, and the directors have been enabled to increase the dividend which has now been placed on a 5 per cent basis. The G. T. R. has also had a

most satisfactory year. In view of the largely increased earnings the companies should be able to make a reduction in their rates for the benefit of the producer.

If a city girl 16 years old can get seven subscriptions to Farm and Home in a short time, with no difficulty, at 50 cents each, as a girl I know did a while ago, what a business our boys accustomed to selling newspapers can do at 35 cents per subscription, with 15 cents cash commission on each!

A man needn't own a newspaper to spread his opinions; witness a Yankee farmer who inscribes quotations from his favorite statesmen in red ink on the eggs which he sells. Thus the breakfast egg may carry more conviction than the morning newspaper.

If you don't see what you want in Farm and Home, call for it. Write to the Editor and tell him what you would like to see in its columns.

Poverty in Prosperity.

Some people seem to resent the assertion that industrial prosperity is general, as long as poverty and the struggle for bread continue to an appreciable degree. Everybody must reach "Easy street" before our disjointed time is right, in their eyes. The Utopia of Sir Thomas More and Edward Bellamy is to banish the condition in which a man must take any thought whatever for the morrow; the struggle will be over then. But poverty has been a good friend to some of us. The debating societies would make short work of the question, "Resolved, that luxury has made more strong men than has poverty." The real enemy in the present industrial system, the one against which Farm and Home is pitted at all times, is the abuse of power. Combined capital is using its power for selfish ends. So long as human nature is what it is, there will be sickness and misfortune, blundering and poverty, but these conditions can be greatly alleviated by keeping up the fight long ago commenced in these columns.

AS FOR POVERTY ITSELF.

with the odds even—well, Benjamin Franklin said that a man was rich not in proportion to what he possessed, but in proportion to what he could go without. I began life working for my board and 50c a week, but was quite as happy then as now. Hard work and economy have enabled me to get along, and that's the only way for most of us to get ahead. What anyone can accomplish by this sure and old-fashioned method is to my mind more astonishing (as well as more commendable) than the "big strikes" and "soft snaps" we occasionally hear about. Modest competency for the masses is far better than great riches for the few. That's why the farmer is the backbone of the nation.

Educational Matters.

THE TRAVELING LIBRARY.

The establishment of a system of traveling libraries, whereby the treasure house of knowledge purchased by state funds is open to all citizens of the state regardless of distance from the state capital, marks an era in educational development. At present, the states employing this system are O, Wis, Mich, N Y and Kan. In the first three, the only expense is the transportation charge on the books each way. In N Y a deposit of \$5 is necessary and in Kan \$2. Mass has what is far better, a circulating library in every township in the commonwealth save seven.

For Ohio communities, from 25 to 50 books are sent in each library. These are on every conceivable topic. When in the state library a short time ago, I found one set of books dealing entirely with the subject of music, another was on nature studies, a third on a certain period in American history, while several were on miscellaneous subjects. It will be readily seen of what great benefit this is to the rural community. When one desires to study a certain subject he does not need to content himself with the scanty books at hand, but can secure the best authority on the subject.

Hitherto many intelligent farmers have desired to go into a subject with some thoroughness, but could not for lack of reference. The traveling library obviates this difficulty. One of the greatest blessings is the rich fund of agricultural lore to be had for a trifling sum. The best agricultural works are to be had for the asking. The result is that after learning the practical value of the works, many purchase them for their own library. The possibilities opened up to a rural community and to the schools are almost limitless. Books for study, recreation and reference are all there. The transportation charges seldom exceed \$1.50. One of our libraries with books to the value of \$75 was gotten at a total cost of \$1.04.—[Mary E. Lee, O.]

Mistakes—One of my greatest mistakes when I first started farming was fear of running in debt. Want of ready cash prevented me from getting out fruit and nut trees, prevented me from giving my land thorough drainage, which would have paid me back twice over in a few years. I made a mistake in working too hard and not studying enough. Another was in not building a silo 10 yrs sooner than I did. Another was in feeding whole silage too freely without something to balance it, thereby clogging my cows, which proved a great loss. Another was in listening to "hollow horn" doctors instead of employing regular veterinary surgeons. Another was in not paying better attention to poultry, in providing better quarters, etc. I have made mistakes in trying to get along with useless and dull farming utensils, to the injury of both land and work animals. [E. D. Boardman.]

Army worms are said to have crawled up on the snow in large numbers in western P. E. Island. Army worms have been known to crawl out prematurely before. It is a sure way of destruction.