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Volume I.

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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Editorial

CHILLED MEATS

REFERENCE was made in the GUIDE a few months ago to the work done by the commission that investigated the possibility of developing a Canadian chilled meat trade with European countries. Two of the gentlemen who acted on that commission, Messrs. Palmer and Greenstreet, went to Ottawa a few months ago to lay before the Hon. Sidney Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, the report of the commission, and to discuss with him the possibility of something tangible resulting, and the ways and means by which such a result should come.

We understand that they were very cordially received by the Minister of Agriculture. He stated, however, that it would be impossible for the Government to undertake to aid the scheme formulated by the commission upon the elaborate scale which they had mapped out. He expressed himself as having the most hearty sympathy with the object in view, and the delegation came away with the assurance that the Government would give the matter very serious consideration, with a strong likelihood that direct assistance would be given, if the matter was urged upon them.

The development of the chilled meat industry with Britain is of the greatest importance, and is well worth the close consideration of not only every Western farmer, but every Western business man as well. It is admittedly a fact that the live stock trade of Western Canada, so far as the production of hogs and beef

cattle is concerned, is in a very poor condition. There are doubtless several reasons for this, but chief among these is the unsatisfactory conditions which have existed and which exist at the present time in regard to the marketing of this product.

One of the prominent features in economic conditions in young countries, and especially in Canada and the United States, is the tendency to control staple commodities by trusts. The development of the meat industry in the United States is no exception to this rule, and it is no exaggeration to say that the meat trade of that country is today dominated by a powerful trust that, not content with confining its operations to its own country, is rapidly getting into a position where it can dominate the trade of the Argentine Republic of South America, and even threatens to dictate to the European consumer the conditions upon which he is to buy this important part of his food supply. A meat trust of a much smaller scale is being developed in Western Canada, and there is no guarantee that eventually it will not be absorbed by this powerful combination that now dominates the situation in the United States. This would certainly be a deplorable condition of affairs, not only from the viewpoint of the producer, but of the consumer as well.

Trusts are difficult to control by legislative enactments, as has been abundantly proven. They have at their back the mighty influence of unlimited money, and the best brains that money can buy. The most effective guarantee against the development of such conditions is the building up of the trade on those co-operative principles which, properly applied, can absolutely destroy the power of any trust. The opportunity which now presents itself, when we are commencing to discuss seriously the development of a Canadian trade in chilled meat, is very great indeed. A chilled meat trade between Canada and Europe is bound to come. The development of the trade in

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