

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union will hold its annual meeting at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, January 28th and 29th inst. The experiments in agriculture, horticulture, and bee keeping, have been very successful. The annual meeting promises to be an unusually interesting one. Already the Hon. Jno. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, Ontario; T. B. Terry, Hudson, Ohio; R. McKnight, Owen Sound; Mr. Gilbert, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and many other prominent men are expected to be present. The farmers throughout the Province are earnestly requested to be present. Further particulars concerning reduced railway fare for those attending may be secured by addressing the secretary, R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont.

Canadian Farmers and the British Market.

A very successful meeting of farmers was held at Dorchester Station on the evening of Wednesday, the 16th instant, under the auspices of the North Dorchester Agricultural Society. Mr. Richard Venning presided, and the Town Hall was filled in every part with representative farmers from the surrounding country. The deepest interest was manifested in the proceedings, and although the meeting lasted until 11 o'clock, unbroken attention was given to the addresses. By special invitation, given some time ago, Hon. John Carling, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and Professor William Saunders, Director of Experimental Farms, were present. Each gave addresses of great practical value.

HON. MR. CARLING

in his opening remarks referred to the good which might be expected to follow upon meetings of this character. It was by coming to fully understand matters relating to trade in farm products that they could best advance their interests in that respect. He then spoke at considerable length upon the importance of agriculture in this country, and as a means of quickening general interest in this great industry he urged the teaching of the elementary principles of agriculture in all our public schools. He hoped that a good use would be made of the text book recently issued by the Education Department of Ontario, and that one of the results would be to keep young men from forsaking the farm and flocking into the city. Coming then to the broad question of a market, the Minister of Agriculture pointed out the position in which Canada was now placed through the

TARIFF LEGISLATION

of our neighbors. It was quite evident that a number of articles making up a considerable part of our export trade in farm products would be practically shut out from the United States, and, if our farmers were to continue the growing of these articles for export, a new market would have to be found. Having in view all the circumstances, and having regard to experiments tried during the past season, the market in which our farmers might expect to meet with the best results was Great Britain. It was absolutely true that there were few things produced on Canadian farms for which a profitable market could not be found across the Atlantic. Mr. Carling then undertook an analysis of that market. Taking the articles one by one he dealt

with the conditions under which they were produced in Canada, and then gave the latest trade figures, for the purpose of showing the extent of the demand in Great Britain. Beginning with

HORSES,

he aptly remarked that it cost no more to raise a good animal than a poor one, and showed that for well-bred horses there was a good market both in Great Britain and in the United States. Poor horses, however, are cheaper across the line than in this country. With respect to cattle, it was not necessary that he should do more than point to the enormous trade which we had developed within twenty years, for his hearers to see in which direction they might look for profitable sales in the future. So far as

LAMBS

were concerned, now that they had been struck a fatal blow by the McKinley Bill, he was pleased to observe that a fine opening presented itself in Great Britain. He referred to the bulletin recently issued by the authorities of the Agricultural College at Guelph. There is room for a large and profitable trade in fat grade lambs between Canada and Britain, providing they are shipped early in the season. At some length the Hon. Minister dealt with the question of

HOG PRODUCTS.

He showed that of hams and bacon alone Great Britain had imported last year 560,001,102 pounds, of which the United States sent 515,344,044 pounds, and Canada but 7,470,087 pounds. We were not getting the share of that trade which our means for the production of superior bacon entitled us to. Canadian bacon and hams readily realized from one cent to one cent and a-half more per pound than the American article, and this increased price compensated for any difference that might exist in the cost of feed. In this connection there was the discouraging fact that we had for years been importing very largely from the United States. To improve this state of affairs the Government had imposed an increased duty on hog products two years ago, as a result of which there had been an important diminution of our imports from across the line. The figures were:

	1890	1891
Pork	17,445,728 lbs.	11,085,111
Bacon and hams	4,344,200 lbs.	2,564,044
Lard	4,882,851 lbs.	988,999
	26,672,757 lbs.	14,638,154

Here was a reduction in one year of 12,034,603 pounds, which was the measure by which the home market had really been enlarged. In this connection he also pointed to the fact that our imports of beef from the United States had declined from 6,443,315 pounds in 1890 to 2,698,305 pounds in 1891, or a total reduction in one year of 3,745,010 pounds. Mr. Marshall's name was mentioned in this relation as that of one of the hardest workers in parliament in respect of these meat duties. Mr. Carling said he would like to see every farmer impressed with the wisdom of giving more attention to hog raising as a means of increasing the annual profits from his skill and labor. No one could glance at the figures of British imports without seeing that a market existed for all the pork, bacon, hams and lard we could produce. He had been told quite recently by one of the largest pork packers in Canada that a sufficient number of live hogs could not be procured for his purpose. From this subject Mr. Carling passed on to a consideration of the question of

GROWING BARLEY.

He pointed to the almost prohibitory duties imposed by the Americans, and drew the conclusion that if our farmers wished to continue the growing of barley, they must grow that sort which was preferred by the British maltster, viz., the two-rowed variety. There was no longer any room to doubt the possibility of growing two-rowed barley in many parts of the Dominion at a greater profit than the six-rowed. It yielded more to the acre and weighed more to the bushel. The product of the past two years has been well received by the British maltster, who was willing to pay a high price for it. Mr. Carling explained that in October last he had sent eight sacks to the High Commissioner in London, with a view to having those samples submitted to leading experts and maltsters, so that they might say what price they fixed upon them. He read a number of cables, which clearly showed that a keen demand existed for the better samples, and the High Commissioner declared that certain buyers would take very large quantities if they were available. A cable dated 11th December intimated that barley up to the samples would realize from thirty-five to forty shillings, or as much as the very best on the market. These prices in Canada, it was explained, would be equal to ninety-one cents in one case and one dollar and four cents in the other per bushel of forty-eight pounds, from which should be deducted from twenty-five to twenty-seven cents for all the charges incidental to the transportation of the grain and the placing of it in the hands of the British maltsters. Although the amount of barley available for export during the past year had been relatively small, it was gratifying to know that 739,421 bushels had been shipped from Montreal during the season of navigation just closed. Of that amount nearly 300,000 bushels was made up of the two-rowed sort. Mr. Carling exhibited samples of the grain sent to the High Commissioner in October, and at some length explained the conditions under which two-rowed barley could be successfully grown for the British market. Quality was of the first importance. In the return which had been sent to him from Montreal there was included some gratifying figures with respect to eggs. Notwithstanding all that had been said about the killing of our

EXPORT TRADE IN EGGS

by the McKinley Bill, it turned out that during the past season 2,233,757 dozen had been shipped from that port to the British market. The United Kingdom annually imported 100,000,000 dozen eggs, and it might be said that there was a market there for all we could possibly produce. From this promising beginning he had no doubt that the trade would rapidly increase, until it passed the highest figures ever reached in our exports to the United States. Our facilities for reaching the foreign market were excellent, and would improve with the production. Touching incidentally upon the question of

UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY,

Mr. Carling declared that he saw the greatest possible danger to British connection in the proposition now before the country. He apprehended that there was no feeling in Canada in favor of annexation, and judging by the applause which followed this remark it could be safely assumed that there was none in that meeting, at least. In concluding, the Minister presented an inter-