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EDITORIAL.

Canadian Cold Storage.

ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE—REGULAR SERVICE BY TRAIN AND BOAT—SUPERVISION AT PORTS—WAREHOUSES—SPLENDID PROSPECTS.

We are pleased to be able to announce that arrangements for cold storage service from Canada to Great Britain have been practically completed by Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture. The lines of steamers with whom arrangements are made are: The Elder-Dempster Co., Montreal to Avonmouth; the Allan and Thompson lines, weekly, Montreal to London; the Allan and Dominion lines, weekly, Montreal to Liverpool; with possibly the Allan and Thompson lines weekly to Glasgow; also the Furness line, from St. John, N. B., and Halifax, N. S., to either Liverpool or London fortnightly.

The main lines of railroads in the country will run refrigerator cars to Montreal, St. John, and Halifax, by which perishable food products will be carried from all over the country to the ports of shipment. It is proposed to have in Montreal this summer an officer who will supervise the transference of these products from rail to the ship—a very judicious provision. There are cold storage warehouses in Montreal, and there will be one in Halifax, and probably in St. John, at which these products can be held until a ship is ready to receive them. We understand the Minister has offered to make an arrangement with people in Toronto to have a warehouse there, and one in Charlottetown, P. E. I. In this way it is believed the temperature in which our perishable products will be held can be controlled from the point of shipment to the English harbors. Butter, eggs, dead meat, and fruit are the chief articles expected to make use of these arrangements; cheese will, during the hot weather, probably also be sent in cold storage.

The enquiries that have been made as to this accommodation indicate that even greater demand will be made upon the space than was anticipated, and we trust with confidence that at the end of the first season there will be a cry for more accommodation.

The Value of Succulent Food.

In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for March 1st, Mr. Richard Gibson, in his article on "Practice, with Science," raised an important question as to the questionableness of a rigid mechanical adherence in feeding to the "balanced ration" idea without regard to other considerations. Among other things he said: "In working out these prepared tables one is apt to doubt their value when turnips are tabulated in such a ridiculously low place by the chemist, and yet the practical feeder well knows their value is much higher than that assigned. Is it not possible that the water in roots is something more than ordinary water?" In the important contributions from a number of the foremost investigators of America, elsewhere in this issue, on "The Feeding Value of Corn Ensilage," this question is raised in another form, and Prof. Plumb gives support to Mr. Gibson's position in these words: "There is a something in this succulent food that gives it a value that cannot be measured by a chemical analysis." Nature does seem able in her great laboratory to so combine a large proportion of water with the nutrients in a way that when it reaches the animal seems to set at naught inferences that seemingly might be drawn from the scientific table. But there is no conflict between real science and good practice; for the two must harmonize. If there seems to be, then the former has not solved or correctly stated the mysteries of animal nutrition, as its results, for example, are manifested in the use of roots and ensilage.

Free Seed Scandal.

Attention was drawn in the last issue of the ADVOCATE to the free seed business as developed in the United States. The old and well-known firm, Peter Henderson & Co., of New York, who are this year celebrating their fiftieth year in business, under date of March 20th write us, referring to the article in question, as follows: "We have already woke up to the seriousness and alarming nature of the Government free seed distribution as proposed for the present year, and we are glad that you are sounding the note of warning in the Dominion, for we notice they are getting 'the thin end of the wedge' placed there, and if it is not carefully watched, in the hands of the professional politician it will become as great a menace to the public good as ours has grown into here."

The last Congress failed to pass the Agricultural Appropriation Bill in time for the President's signature, but the new House has passed the same bill, which may yet be stripped of the obnoxious free seed provision in the Senate. Leading journals, irrespective of politics, all over the Republic are denouncing this costly humbug.

The New York Tribune, one of the oldest and by all odds one of the most trustworthy and influential of U. S. journals, in its issue for March 24th, just to hand, devotes its leading editorial to this subject, and though strongly Republican, it commends the late Secretary of Agriculture Morton (Dem.) for his opposition to "this whole wasteful, dishonest, and scandalous business." Originally it was intended to distribute for experiment foreign and other rare seeds which agriculturists could not readily obtain, but the free distribution of ordinary seeds at national expense the Tribune denounces as "the enemy of intelligent and self-respecting farmers, as well as of sound principles of government and the rights of the taxpayers of the nation. It should be abolished utterly and at once."

The Dingley Bill.

The new U. S. tariff measure has been submitted to the House at Washington (where it is now under discussion) by Chairman Dingley of the Ways and Means Committee, from whom it takes its name—the Dingley Bill. We give below the main features of the agricultural schedule of interest to Canadians, setting forth at the same time the rates under the old McKinley Bill and the Wilson Bill, adopted during the late Cleveland regime. Substantially it is a resurrection of the first named highly protective measure, but designed also to provide funds to cover the enormously increasing cost of managing the Republic. It will doubtless have the effect of preventing any material letting down of corresponding bars on the Canadian side of the international lines; though reductions may be made where in the judgment of Parliament it would be in the general interests of this country. Since the advent of McKinleyism Canadian trade with Britain has steadily and largely increased. Barred in one direction, it sought new channels, and even the relaxation of the Wilson Bill failed to divert trade into the old groove. Dingleyism will effectually complete the work. The Canadian cheese industry furnishes an example of how an immense and profitable trade can be developed. We have been enabled to displace U. S. cheese in the British market, and can crowd out their products on the score of quality in most of the great agricultural staples—wheat, animals and their products, fruit, etc. Moreover, the Canadian is proverbial for his "staying" characteristics. Our friends over the way seem to be terribly exercised over a few second-grade Canadian feeding cattle, which, however, they are exceedingly anxious to get to consume their surplus cheap corn, and Mr. Dingley may shift this little Buffalo skirmish to the great battle-

ground—Liverpool, but the inexorable laws of trade will lead to the same inevitable result.

Canadian trade will continue with greater rapidity to develop Britainward. Mr. Fisher, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, has completed his transportation and cold-storage plans. He and the Government will be heartily sustained by the sentiment and business judgment of the Dominion in facilitating trade with Britain in order that Canadian products may be laid down there at reasonable rates and in the best possible condition. If there be any preferences going in the Old Land, Canada will assuredly get them, but we do well to rely solely on merit. A substantial shading off of the tariff on British goods should help to promote this trade, strengthen national ties and to some extent lighten the farmer's burdens. Canadian national and trade tendencies are clearly discernible in the light of the Dingley Bill. Here is the list, which speaks for itself:

ARTICLE.	M'KINLEY BILL.	WILSON BILL.	DINGLEY BILL (1897).
Horses under \$150.....	\$30	20 per cent.	.....
" \$150 and over.....	30 per cent.	20 "	.....
" \$100 or less.....	.....	.....	\$20
" over \$100.....	.....	.....	25 per cent.
Cattle, 1 year or less.....	\$2 head.	20 per cent.	.....
" over 1 year.....	\$10 head.	20 "	.....
" less than one year.....	.....	.....	\$2
" 1 year or over, not more than \$20.....	.....	.....	\$6 head.
" more than \$20.....	.....	.....	30 per cent.
Sheep under 1 year.....	75 cents.	20 per cent.	75 cents.
" 1 year or more.....	\$1.25	20 "	\$1.50
Hogs.....	\$1.50	20 "	\$1.50
All other animals.....	.....	.....	20 per cent.
Wool, per pound.....	12 cents.	Free.	12 cents.
Bacon and hams.....	5 cents lb.	20 per cent.	5 cents lb.
Fresh beef.....	2 "	20 "	2 "
" mutton.....	2 "	20 "	2 "
" pork.....	2 "	20 "	2 "
Lard.....	2 "	1 cent lb.	2 "
Poultry, live.....	5 "	2 cents lb.	3 "
" dressed.....	5 "	3 "	5 "
Barley.....	30 cents bu.	30 per cent.	30 cts. per bu.
Buckwheat.....	15 "	20 "	15 "
Corn.....	15 "	20 "	15 "
Cornmeal.....	20 "	20 "	20 "
Oats.....	15 "	20 "	15 "
Oatmeal.....	1 cent lb.	15 "	1 cent lb.
Wheat.....	25 cents bu.	20 "	25 cts. per bu.
Wheat flour.....	25 per cent.	20 "	25 per cent.
Butter.....	6 cents lb.	4 cents lb.	6 cents lb.
Cheese.....	6 "	4 "	6 cents lb.
Milk.....	5c. per gal.	Free.	2 cts. gal.
Beans.....	40 cents bu.	20 per cent.	50 cts. per bu.
Eggs.....	5 cts. doz.	3 cts. doz.	5 cents doz.
Hay.....	\$2 per ton.	\$2 per ton.	\$4 per ton.
Honey.....	20 cts. gal.	10 cts. gal.	20 cents gal.
Onions.....	40 cents bu.	20 cents bu.	40 cts. per bu.
Potatoes.....	25 "	15 "	25 "
Castor beans.....	50 "	25 "	25 "
Apples.....	25 "	20 per cent.	25 "
Dried Apples.....	2 cents lb.	20 "	2 cents lb.
Flaxseed.....	30 cents bu.	20 cents bu.	30 cts. per bu.
Grapes.....	60 cents brl.	20 per cent.	1 ct. per lb.
Dressed Flax.....	.....	Free.	1 ct. per lb.

The schedule for lumber, shingles, lath, posts, etc., follows the same general lines as on the above products.

As heretofore, pure-bred registered stock for breeding purposes is admitted free.

Corn and Root Crops.

The able and practical letters furnished by our correspondents as to their methods of cultivation and management of corn and root crops will no doubt be read with interest and we trust may be helpful, especially to those of our readers who have not had as good success in these lines as they could desire.

The partial, and in many sections almost total, failure of the hay crop, owing to late spring frosts and protracted summer drouths in recent years, has led farmers to look about them for a substitute as a fodder crop, and corn, the great American forage plant, has been found to fill the bill admirably. As a result of this need, and for the silo, a considerably increased acreage of corn was grown last year throughout the country to provide for the feeding of stock during the winter and to supplement the depleted pastures in the late summer and fall months. This liberal supply of succulent fodder proved a great boon to a large num-