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EDITORIAL.

A Fairly Satisfactory Tariff.

Press comments and expressions of opinion by certain aggressive members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, make it clear that the body agricultural have reason for satisfaction over the tariff recently announced by Hon. W. S. Fielding, Dominion Minister of Finance. In the revision, the principle of moderation was adhered to with a judicious inclination towards reduction. In fact, on the whole, the Government's action has accorded with the view advanced by "The Farmer's Advocate" last spring. The only exception we could take would be that, if anything, they might have gone a little further in reducing protection on some staple lines; but so far from blaming them, we are disposed to congratulate them upon having resisted so effectually the seductive appeals of ultra-protectionists. Not only is the new tariff moderate, but if the intermediate schedule can be brought into operation through overtures with other countries, the burden of taxation and protection will be still further lifted, and more favorable markets obtained at the same time for Canadian exports.

"The Farmer's Advocate" would be opposed to a high general tariff, designed as a club to persuade other nations into a reciprocal mood, but with a general tariff conceived chiefly in our own direct interests, which is the proper plan on which the country should construct its tariffs, we believe the alternative intermediate tariff to be a move in the right direction.

As for the actual changes in the general tariff, it may be pointed out that the duty on binders and mowers has been practically levelled to the basis of the old Mackenzie tariff. Indeed, it is at a point where it is doubtful whether further reduction would result in cheaper prices of implements to the farmer, while it would certainly entail loss of revenue to the Federal treasury. The inordinate and, according to the Minister's statement, the unintentionally large measure of protection formerly accorded to the sugar refiners has been pared down by raising the duty on raw sugar. This will turn extra revenue into the treasury without injuring the Canadian beet-sugar industry or permanently raising the price of refined sugar to the consumer. We believe a ruse has been attempted by the refiners, but cannot permanently succeed, because a move to do this would ultimately be checkmated by importations of refined sugar. The addition of a 5-per-cent. tariff on the principal lines of smooth wire used by our fence manufacturers, which will add slightly to the cost of fencing, is accompanied with what is regarded as a concession to the Western farmer—a continuation on the free list of barbed wire, the use of which should be everywhere discouraged.

Some capital has been made of the placing of oranges, lemons and limes on the free list, and in many sections this move is popularly commended. However, when one examines the matter, he can scarcely get away from the suspicion that this move was chiefly for effect. The Government wanted to make a noteworthy reduction somewhere, and thought this a safe place to do it. This surmise is only borne out by the labored efforts of the Ottawa correspondents of the Government organs to prove that the move would be a great benefit to the British West Indies. If there were such a motive in view, the proper action would have been to retain or in-

crease this duty, and give the British Indies the benefit of the British preference. That the removal of the duty is approved in Canada means nothing more than that reduction of duty on any article would be received with gratitude, except where there is a special interest impelled to protest. Those who believe Canada should frame her tariff in the interest of revenue, rather than protection, can scarcely approve the wiping out of a duty which is purely and simply a revenue-producing item. However, this item is of small consequence, anyway, and, on the whole, we feel warranted in expressing the general satisfaction of the agricultural community with the results of the tariff investigation and subsequent revision, barring the continuation of the bonusing system.

Official Testing of Pure-bred and Co-operative Testing of Grade Cows.

During the past year much has been written about the testing of dairy cows through the instrumentality of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, but we surmise there is some confusion in the public mind concerning it all. There are two distinct lines of work being carried on by two separate Branches of the Department. The Dairy Branch, under Commissioner J. A. Ruddick, has an attache, Mr. C. F. Whitley, endeavoring to stir up interest in co-operative testing of common or grade dairy cows, and assisting the co-operative associations somewhat when formed. The other line of work is being carried on by the Live-stock Branch, and its purpose is the official testing of pure-bred cows whose owners wish to qualify them for admittance to the "Record of Performance," which is a supplementary and duplicate register kept by the respective breed organizations for the registration of pure-bred cows that have, in officially-supervised yearly tests, equalled or excelled certain minimum standards of milk and butter-fat production set by the respective breed associations; that is to say, the breed organizations keep their own Records of Performance, but the Live-Stock Branch of the Dominion Government assumes the work and responsibility of the official testing.

In view of the widespread and growing interest in the co-operative testing of grade herds, and in the official testing of pure-breds, we have thought well to publish, at this stage, some fuller particulars of the work, and, under separate headings in our Dairy Department, readers will find considerable information about both lines of work.

The Deadly Level Crossing.

Mr. E. A. Lancaster, M. P. for Lincoln and Niagara, has, for the fourth time, we believe, introduced his bill in the Canadian Parliament for the protection of the lives of the people on level railway crossings. It proposes that, after Jan. 1st, 1908, railways must protect their crossings in the thickly-settled portions of cities, towns and villages, or else slow down. Newspaper scribes treat the subject with more or less frivolity, describing the measure as a "hardy annual," a "perennial plant," and so on. Last year the bill was incorporated in the general Railway Act, but was amputated in the Senate, that graveyard of not a little legislation in the interest of the people. Meanwhile, the railways have gone on remorselessly killing the people and destroying horses and rigs, evidently bent on making time records at all hazards. The list of these accidents during the past year has been appalling. Success to Mr. Lancaster's bill.

The Future of the Ontario Winter Fair.

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair has outgrown its premises, having reached a stage where valuable educational features, such as the lectures and the judging, are contracted in their benefits by lack of accommodation; where extension of exhibits is debarred by restriction of quarters, and where the addition of new features is prohibited by the same limitation. When the present fair building was erected in Guelph, in 1900, its dimensions were deemed ample to accommodate the show for a good while to come, and, in consideration of her expenditure, Guelph was secured the holding of an annual Provincial Fair for ten years. The period has still three years to run, but in view of the present situation, and of the fact that before 1910 much larger quarters must be provided, it behooves the management, the Province and the City of Guelph to consider at once the urgent needs of this most important educational institution.

Guelph was fortunate in securing the Winter Fair, and the Fair has been equally fortunate in locating at Guelph. The proximity of the Ontario Agricultural College, the excellent stock-raising country surrounding the Royal City, its central situation and accessibility by railway from all the districts which it is intended to serve, make this the location par excellence. No disinterested person wishes to see a change. Nevertheless, there are people in Toronto, the city which likes to monopolize all good things Provincial and National, who are casting covetous eyes towards Guelph and Chicago, and wondering if they cannot get up a big winter show in the Queen City. The fact that Guelph has no accommodation for horse exhibits, gives Toronto a talking point. Then, there has been some talk about a Provincial dairy show in Toronto, independent of the fat-stock idea. Impartial opinion is that the dairy exhibition, if held at all, should be at Guelph and Ottawa, which points would be convenient of access for people of the two great dairy sections of the Province, and would give the dairymen the benefit of minimum railway rates. But this will require much room for the housing of cattle, dairy apparatus and dairy products. Then, again, the poultrymen are clamoring for two and a half or three times as much space as at present, and the wonderful growth of this department gives warrant to their claim.

The foregoing demands, together with wise provision for normal expansion of all departments, make it plain that the present area of floor space should be increased by about two hundred per cent, and that without delay, else some of the new features that might be brought here will find themselves permanently established elsewhere.

What is going to be done about it? One of the Guelph aldermen has suggested that the present building, which contains in one end the city fire hall, should all be given over to the purposes of the Fair, and the Government asked for a grant to enable the city to build a new fire hall. This, it is estimated, would cost the Province in the neighborhood of \$10,000, and the increased housing obtained would be entirely inadequate to meet the demands above specified. To forsake the present building at the expiration of the ten-year agreement would be regrettable indeed. The alternative is to enlarge it, and it happens to be so hemmed in by the streets, street-car track and G. T. railway that the only direction in which extension is possible is out on to the market square. While a certain amount of reluctance may be manifested by the citizens at seeing their square thus occupied, most of the objections van-