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"Persevere and
Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

The Chicago Scare: Its Effect and Lessons.

It has been frequently stated that the prejudicial effects on trade of the Chicago packing-house exposures would soon blow over, because the public has a short memory. This view is not shared by a good many careful students of the situation in Great Britain. It was a violent shock to the consuming population, and once an idea of that sort becomes firmly implanted in the mind of the Englishman, it is extremely difficult to eradicate. Furthermore, "The Farmer's Advocate" has been assured by some of the best-posted men in the Liverpool meat trade that for about three years past the consumption of tinned meats has been steadily declining in Great Britain, while other trades show an increase. Nor is this unreasonable, when we come to consider the speedy and excellent conditions under which the live-cattle and dressed-meat trades (both chilled and frozen) are conducted, bringing various grades of reliable fresh meats within reach of the people. The consumption of bacon, fruit, cheese, etc., is also most remarkable in England, and it is therefore not to be wondered if the nails which Upton Sinclair and President Roosevelt drove into the coffin of the products of Packerstown should be of a decidedly tenacious character, particularly in so far as canned meats are concerned. Eating is a large item in the daily programme of the Englishman, and he is properly very particular about the character of what is on his bill-of-fare, whether in the palace or on the workman's bench. The authorities are responsive to this characteristic, and extremely vigilant as to the healthfulness of foods, whether for private individuals or the army and navy. In fact, this is one of the noticeable features of public administration and law-court procedure in England. Under such conditions, it is obvious that the Chicago revelations could not be otherwise than a severe blow to United States animal products, and if Canada is wise she will heed the lessons: first, cleanliness and purity in all that pertains to food production, and, second, cattle and other animals of the very best meat type, properly finished. They bring the most money, and cost no more to carry or to sell.

Horse Racing and Betting.

A number of our exchanges of the Horse and Sporting class have been expressing their views on the subject of gambling at horse-races. The opinion has been advanced that it would be better if racing could be made a financial success without the fascinating allurements of betting and book-making; but if they can't have racing without betting, they would have the racing anyway. That is to say, if they can't have the rattlesnake minus his fangs, they will take him fangs and all. Our view is different. We regard gambling as an evil to be expurgated. The speed trial in itself is not without some compensating features, and no fault can be found with the position of those who esteem it a legitimate source of pleasure, but if the business of racing cannot be made financially attractive without the gambling element, the fact is sufficient condemnation of the sport. The sporting editors are thus compromising themselves by their own pens. If we cannot have racing without gambling, exit the whole fraternity.

The man who insists on a hot dinner every day is misnamed.

The Demand for Cheese.

Nineteen hundred and six bids fair to rank high as a Dairy Farmer's Year. Particularly is this the case in respect to the price of cheese. Of late the output of the factories has been shrinking in volume, but it will probably be found, when the season's operations come to be totalled up, that the aggregate will be fully equal to 1905. Certainly the cheese has been going forward more freely from the port of Montreal, up to a recent date the exports being above 100,000 boxes more than during the previous season. This may, in part, at least, be due to the strong demand in England, which is certainly an actual condition. Early in the year it was thought by many that the opening high prices would be followed by a swing downward when the "fodder" cheese disappeared and the full flush of grass milk made its appearance. But this did not occur; prices steadily advanced till they reached what is generally regarded as phenomenal for summer cheese. There is little doubt but what this is due to legitimate demand, and not to speculation. To some extent this element enters into the trade every season, but the result of personal enquiries, which we were enabled to make recently among a number of the great dealers in London, Eng., and Liverpool, went to show that the Canadian cheese was not only in high favor, but there was a strong consumptive demand, although it was during their hottest season, when millions of people were away from the centers of business activity enjoying vacation. It may be true that the wealthiest classes are not the heaviest consumers of Cheddar cheese, but it seems only reasonable that the demand all round would be greatly stimulated with the return of the rest-seekers and the general resumption of the greater activity of the autumn trade and manufacturing. As it was, even in early August a decided tone of optimism permeated the trade in dairy products, with every prospect that it would grow stronger as the season advanced. The dealers thought that the Canadian dairymen should be congratulating themselves over 12½ cents per pound at the factory for summer cheese, and, though it must obviously come high to the British consumer, we heard but little grumbling on the part of those in the wholesale trade, and they are constantly and closely in touch with the shops where the cheese is retailed.

Order Your Index for the 1906 Volumes

Thousands of "Farmer's Advocate" readers keep the paper on file from year to year. Thousands more would find it advantageous to do so. The amount of helpful information contained in each 52 issues is enormous, covering, as it does, the whole season's work. The Questions and Answers department alone contains hundreds of prescriptions and bits of practical advice, some of which may be needed some time on such short notice that a question addressed to the office could not be answered in time to be of service.

In order, however, to make the various articles available, it is necessary to have some means of ready reference. This is afforded in the most convenient possible form by using our printed index, and stitching together in consecutive order all the issues it covers. We are now about to publish the half-yearly index for the first volume of 1906, comprising the titles of articles in all the numbers from January to June, inclusive. We will print as many as are requested between now and September 15th. Every subscriber is welcome to

indexes free of charge, but we do not purpose incurring the expense of printing them for those who will make no use of them. If you wish an index for each of the two 1906 volumes, drop a card to us at once, and we will put your name on file.

Anent Questions and Answers.

Questions frequently come to our office accompanied by a request to "answer in this week's paper." Such a wish is always impossible to comply with. In the first place, it ordinarily requires about two days from the time a letter is mailed till it is delivered to the editorial desk. A letter written on Monday seldom reaches us until Tuesday, or even Wednesday. Inasmuch as the forms which contain that part of the paper in which the Questions and Answers correspondence is printed go to press on Monday of the week in which the paper is mailed, it is a manifest impossibility to print any question "this week," even though we had time to give the query immediate attention—a state of leisure which seldom obtains in editorial offices. A few weeks ago a letter came in on Thursday, asking for "a reply in this week's paper." The whole issue was then being mailed.

As a rule, queries should be in our office at least a week before a published answer is expected, and in cases where the questions are referred to some specialist outside the office, ten days or two weeks must usually elapse after receipt of enquiry. Questions have been received, which, perchance, did not require more than ten minutes to ask, and yet the correspondence and research necessary to give an adequate answer occupies weeks of time. We put forth our very best effort on behalf of enquirers, but few people appreciate the situation in regard to this department. We answer hundreds of questions a month, and spare no pains to impart reliable information.

A reader, who has been studying up a certain matter for a few days, weeks or months, comes with his knottiest points to the versatile editor, who is expected to turn with facility from an exacting consideration of soil and husbandry topics, tariff issues, hydro-electric-power problems, and miscellaneous questions of public policy, to a minute treatment of the practical details of silo-building, advice about sick turkeys, or varieties of vegetables and fruits. And we must not merely know what he asks; we must know that we know it. Add to this obligation the pressure of work incident to almost every editorial room, and you can feel a little more lenience toward the hard-working scribe who may have failed to attend to your questions in time for "next issue." We serve you cheerfully to the best of our strength and ability. We cannot, however, perform the impossible, and when immediate replies to interrogations are desired, the querist should comply with our rules and enclose a dollar for answer by mail.

Please Leave Us Some Girls.

"The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, is asking the question, "Why not greater attempts to bring out the Eastern girls at harvest time to help the farmers' wives?" No doubt it would be very fine for the West, but if we get the girls all trekking West, as the men have been doing, it will be all up with Ontario agriculture. It is hard enough to keep any farm boys or men here now, but if this last magnet is taken from us, a young man on an Ontario farm will become a rara avis in very truth.