

This year, when they found that the government of the United States was willing to enter into tariff negotiations with Canada and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was going to make a tour of the west, the farmers of the west took advantage of the opportunity to bombard Sir Wilfrid with petitions and memorials favoring the securing of an improvement in the commercial relations between the two countries, the acquiring of the control by the government of the terminal elevators at Port William and Port Arthur, the immediate construction of the Hudson Bay Railway and its operation by the government, and other similar proposals. Not being entirely satisfied with the replies made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and desiring to show both political parties how thoroughly in earnest they were, the western farmers later decided to send a monster deputation to Ottawa to lay their views finally before the government.—Hearing of this the Dominion Grange decided to back them up and send a similar deputation from Ontario. Later Quebec and the Maritime provinces also decided to be represented. Thus all parts of the three prairie provinces and of Ontario were represented in the great deputation that gathered in Ottawa last week. Quebec and the Maritime provinces sent smaller parties of farmers to present their case. It was estimated that 400 to 500 delegates were present from the west, 200 to 300 from Ontario and possibly 50 from Quebec and the east.

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Pointed Arguments for Better Cows

Under the title of "A Reply to Mr. Ayer," there appeared in Farm and Dairy, Nov. 17, a short article which contained some arguments so utterly groundless that it should not be allowed to pass uncontradicted.

The writer, Mr. Webster, says in substance, that if our cows do not produce as much milk as the Danish cows, it is because there is not enough inducement offered in the price of butter or cheese in this country, and he seems to call upon Mr. Ayer, as representing the trade, to bring the price of our cheese to a higher level before advising farmers to produce more milk per cow.

In the first place I may point out that the price of dairy products is governed like everything else by two principal factors: demand and quality. The demand has been the cause of the higher price obtained during the last few years. Improved quality would bring about a further advance if it was effected, and this rests absolutely with the producer. The exporters are only the intermediaries between producers and consumers and are not directly interested in the improvement of quality. In fact, I think they made more money a few years ago when cheese was worth only seven or eight cents a pound than they do now with cheese at 11 cents.

INDUCEMENT TO PRODUCERS

Now with regard to inducement offered to producers, there is enough at the present to justify Mr. Webster, or at least thousands of farmers, to keep cows, and because he thinks cheese should sell higher, is he going to mark time, and wait until it does sell high to go to work and try to improve his herd? Must he have both, better yields and higher prices or nothing at all? That does not seem sensible, especially in view of the fact that he is keeping cows any way. Now, supposing cheese would sell 1½ cents and butter 3 cents a pound more than now, that would mean only \$4.50 to \$5.00 a cow with the average production at 3,500 lbs. of milk a year as it is at present. An increase from 3,500 lbs. of milk to 6,000 lbs. of milk per cow, which is very easily attainable, means an increase in income of \$25

a cow! In which direction lies the best opportunity, and what is there to prevent us from trying to improve in both?

Another thing that Mr. Webster should not forget is that milk can be produced here as cheaply as in Denmark, land, feed, and so forth being less expensive. A lower price for butter and cheese than Danish prices would still net us as large a profit per cwt. of milk, provided we have the right kind of cows, and feed them appropriately.

It takes time to improve herds, and starting now would not be any too soon to meet the big demand that is all the time increasing for milk and its products, and at prices that are more and more remunerative.—"Nepean," Ottawa.

Facts About Heavy Horse Breeding

John M. Beckett, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Heavy horses have been a paying proposition with me. As a rule I do not sell any of the mares, save the aged and non-breeders. I have been able to have mares with five and six crosses of registered Clydesdale sires.

I can always sell the geldings at two years old at \$175 to \$225. My registered mares if put on the market would bring from \$275 to \$350.

The average farmer in this locality is paying more attention to the selection of his brood mares than formerly. Generally he raises one or two colts, the mares doing their share of farm work. Colts from the ordinary blocky mares will sell at weaning time at \$75 to \$100.

Although the government has tried different means to encourage the farmers to keep a better class of horses, having had their Horse Commission, speakers at Farmers' Institutes, and so forth, it seems to me that the best way to bring about general improvement is for a farmer to show his neighbor how, by judicious selection and care, to raise a colt that will bring from \$50 to \$100 more than his at the same age. Money talks.

There has been a great deal of talk against the class of horses that some importers bring out. We ought not to be so hard on them for they find a good market for their horses, and so long as the stallion men will buy and the farmers patronize them they will continue to bring out inferior horses. The average stallion owner is not a millionaire. He buys what he can afford and we should remember that it is not always the best looking and most expensive horse that sires the best colts.

The breeding and raising of heavy horses seems to me to be one of the most profitable lines of stock for the average farmer. For years to come considering the large number necessary for the different mercantile pursuits there will be no falling off in the heavy horses required. There seems to be unlimited capital for building new railroads and our great west is practically just opening up. As farmers we should take advantage of these factors.

Pastures in Ontario.—Both the pasture and the hay crops of Ontario show a gradual increase for the ten years from 1898 to 1907, and also there has been a gradual decrease in the grass lands of Ontario during the last two or three years. According to the reports of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, the grass lands of this Province were increased by 1,427,764 acres from the years 1898 to 1908, but they have been increased by 225,577 acres during the past two years. For several years in Ontario there was an evident inclination to group small farms into larger ones and to increase the areas devoted to pasture. The tendency at the present time however, appears to be a sub-division of the larger farms into smaller ones and the adoption of a more extensive system of agriculture.—Prof. C. A. Zavits, O.A.C.

Wide Differences in Varieties of Crops*

Prof. C. A. Zavits, O.A.C., Guelph

The variations in varieties of any one class of farm crops are usually very marked. These variations are frequently greater and more significant than many people realize. After growing, and testing, and studying over 2,000 varieties of farm crops within the last 35 years, nearly all of which have been grown for at least five years in succession, I am thoroughly convinced that more attention should be given to varieties, both for the direct result on the farm and as a basis of plant improvement.

If every new and well established kind of crop could be confined to one distinct name, the term variety would have a deeper meaning than it sometimes has at the present time. It is unfortunate that old varieties occasionally receive new names simply for the purpose of giving them false values and to enable those who are selling seeds to obtain greater prices thereby. It must not be overlooked, however, that there are many true varieties, of practically all classes of farm crops, which are very distinct and have characteristics, which differ materially and which are fairly constant.

LET THE FARMER EXPERIMENT

The farmer, while unable to make careful tests of a large number of varieties, should lose no opportunity in securing the best information possible from the agricultural experiment stations, and test for himself these varieties which have given the most satisfactory results in his own country. With these few leading kinds he can, by simple experiments, ascertain which variety or varieties are best suited to his own farm. By this method, he not only secures the most suitable varieties for immediate use, but he has some of the best possible material by which he can conduct work of still further improvement especially if he has means and time which will enable him to carry on that work.

In order to illustrate the difference in varieties permit me to refer to a few of the results obtained at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Under uniform tests repeated for several years in succession, we have found that in average yield of grain per acre some varieties have surpassed other varieties as follows: Daubeny over Tartar King oats by 19.4 bushels, Mandeschau over Mensury six-rowed barley by 11.4 bushels, Dawson's Golden Chaff over Early Red Clawson winter wheat by 6.7 bushels, Minnesota No. 163 over Colorado spring wheat 7 bushels, Petkes over Common spring rye by 3.9 bushels, Mammoth White over Thousand Fold rye by 7.9 bushels, Early Britain over Golden Veld field peas by 10.1 bushels, Pearce's Improved Tree over Small White Field beans by 5 bushels, Siberian over Common millet by 16.3 bushels, and White Cap Yellow Dent over Longfellow corn by 16.6 bushels.

MORE MARKED DIFFERENCES

As it has always been our policy to drop the poorest varieties after they have been tested for a period of five years, it will be understood that the differences here presented are not nearly as great as could be obtained by referring to some of the poorest varieties which have been dropped from our lists in former years. All varieties here referred to are under test at the present time.

Besides difference in yield per acre, there is also a marked difference in many other respects, such as the quality of the seed, the strength and length of the straw of the cereals, the susceptibility of some of the grain to the attacks of smut and of rust, the bread producing capabilities of the wheats, the percentage of hull of the oats, the meelness and flavor of the potatoes, the power of druth resistance of the clovers, the keeping qualities of the roots, etc.

*Extract from an address delivered recently in Toronto before the conference of Farmers' Institute workers.