

FARM AND HOME

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Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

Canada's Growing Time.

That the Dominion is enjoying its full share of the general prosperity is clearly shown by the government's statement of the chartered banks of Canada. The statement shows the largest circulation ever attained during Oct. in which the demand for currency is the heaviest of the year. The bank circulation for Oct amounted to \$49,588,000 as compared with \$35,955,000 in Oct. '96, showing that fully 13,000,000 more is now employed in carrying on the ordinary commerce of the country than was the case 3 yrs ago. It is also a significant fact that in spite of the change in agricultural methods in large sections of the eastern provinces, by which dairying is supplanting grain growing so that farmers' cash receipts are spread over the season instead of being made just after the reaping of the crops, the expansion between Feb and Oct is larger than usual. It was some \$6,000,000 in '92, and was \$10,000,000 this year. The west, however, is more than making up by its grain production for the decline in the east. The bank statement on the whole is a clear evidence of the good times that the Dominion is now enjoying.

Advance in Rates.

The freight representatives of the Canadian railways have decided to make a general advance in freight rates for the winter season of from 20 to 25 per cent, the only exception to the advance being the rates for flour and grain. The railways claim that as the cost of all railway supplies has materially increased during the past year, it is only right that shippers shall pay more for transportation, considering the general prosperity of the country.

The Live Stock Season,

which closed Dec 1 with the last shipment from Montreal, has on the whole been a most profitable one to the Canadian shipper. During the season there were exported from the port of Montreal \$2,859 head of cattle to Europe, of which 11,894 head came through on bond from the states. Although the figures show a decrease of 16,150 head compared with last year, there is no question but that the business on the whole has been much more profitable. And although the actual port figures show a decrease, the farmers and stock raisers in the country have experienced a heavy demand at profitable prices from the states, and a large quantity of Canadian cattle have gone across the line this year to satisfy the existing shortage of good cattle. It is estimated that fully 30,000 head of Canadian cattle have gone to Buffalo and other American markets, not to speak of the large quantity shipped via Boston and Portland in bond. The average cost per head in the country was

\$60, making a total value of nearly \$5,000,000 distributed among the stock raisers. The total shipments from the port of Montreal are valued at about \$7,000,000. The shipments of sheep show an increase, the total for the past season being 58,189 head, an increase of 23,198 head as compared with 1898. The average price paid at country points was \$5 per head, making a total of \$290,945.

A Dangerous Movement.

I have received several letters from readers of Farm and Home endorsing the views expressed in the issue of Nov 15, regarding Major-General Hutton and his pet schemes. That fiery warrior seems disposed to throw this fair Dominion into a regular armed camp. But if the Dominion government, whose servant he is, and from whom he receives his salary, countenances his schemes, they will have to reckon with the farmers, who, thoroughly loyal as they are, are not going to support a standing army for the mere purpose of gratifying Major-General Hutton and a few other gold-lace gentlemen.

A National Loss.

Canada has lost one of its foremost educationists and the world one of its best known scientists by the death of Sir William Dawson, who for 40 yrs was at the head of McGill Univ. He made a world-wide reputation by his geological researches and discoveries, but of late years was cast somewhat in the shade by his opposition to the evolution theory which he refused to accept to the end.

Northwest Farming.

Dr McEachran, chief inspector of stock for the Dominion government, who returned this month from his annual tour over the Canadian northwest, brought back the gratifying intelligence that there was very little disease among cattle. Dr McEachran estimates that there are now about 200,000 head of cattle in the northwest.

The whole country west of Winnipeg, Dr McEachran reported, is most prosperous and it would be difficult to find a more cheerful and satisfied lot of people than the Manitoba farmers. Sir William Van Horne, in one of his happy moments, said that Canada's real Klondike was in the northwest farms and he was right. It is upon the farmers that Canada's future greatness and prosperity depend.

Our Farmers' Institutes.

It is announced that the speakers who will enlighten the farmers are to be congregated at a central point to receive instruction on different subjects. In other words to attend a normal school to get posted for this particular business. Great attention will be given to the breeding and feeding of hogs for the packers. Farmers generally are of the opinion that they are far enough advanced in the hog business to graduate and get diplomas. The only yearning for knowledge in this line is to get a good reason why packers dropped the price of hogs in Ont the past summer in the face of a rising market in England and the states. The farmers will raise the hogs all right, and of the right kind, but they won't do it much longer at the prices fixed by the boss of the combine.

Problems That Come Home.

Current events in industrial and commercial life are attracting the attention of farmer, more now than at any previous period. "The man with the hoe" is getting alive to the condition of affairs and to his part in the great drama of life. He takes farm papers, especially Farm and Home, and learns how the cards are shuffled against him. The movements of the great combines have been watched with keen interest and now the movements of the smaller ones are in the direction of his wallet. Country blacksmiths have met and raised their schedule of prices 25 per cent, which will add largely to the farmers' expenses. Cattle, hogs, sheep and wheat are declining in prices, and

the question is How is the farm to be run at a profit? To cap the climax, the agents of the Canadian railways recently met at Ottawa and agreed to make the winter increase in freight rates far larger than usual. This increase will meander past the drover, the pork packer, and the merchant and finally strike the farmer's pocket, where he will feel it in less receipts for the products of the farm.

The Welcome to Canadian Troops

accorded by the merchants of Cape Town, South Africa, is another graceful act which goes far toward cementing the empire into one great whole. The mayor accorded our troops a great public reception, while the people of the city were most generous in the decorations of their homes and places of business.

To Increase the Butter Trade.

The government has announced that every proprietor of a creamery who puts up cold storage rooms and conducts them according to the regulations of Prof Robertson's department, will receive a bonus of \$100. Large quantities of butter are spoiled at railway stations while awaiting transshipment, and the idea is to prevent this loss. The increase in the butter trade is largely due to provisions made for cold storage in steamships, cars and at ocean ports. The exports of butter from the Dominion in 1894, when there was no cold storage, were 32,055 packages; the exports for 1899 to Nov 1 were 444,376 packages, or 14 times as much as in 1894. The quality has improved so much that Canadian butter brings a higher price in the old country than Australian, which formerly commanded from 10 to 15 shillings more.

A Wrong to Be Righted.

A good deal of attention has been given to farm drainage the past season, and the ditches and watercourses are now being found well adapted for the purposes for which it was framed, except when a railway corporation is concerned, and these corporations appear to be above parliament and statutes. Farmers proceed under the Ont act until they strike railway property and the ditch is stopped because the railway has been declared a work coming under Dominion jurisdiction, although built by bonuses paid by Ont farmers. Several attempts have been made to get a Dominion act dealing with the matter, but the great railway corporations fight the measure, and so far have been able to defeat it. G. E. Casey, M P for West Elgin, will make another attempt to remedy this great injustice the coming session and he will be aided by the rural municipal councils. Members of parliament will be asked if they have sold the farmers to the great corporations, and if they have not, they will be expected to legislate in the interests of the people.

...A Word with YOU...

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