

Doubtless, in many cases, the comparison was overdrawn; doubtless, in some, the plea for better educational advantages covered a poor use of such as the boy or girl already possessed. In many cases, too, the fact that it costs a good deal to live in a city, while going through a graded or high-school course, was not sufficiently considered. But the truth remains that, in the majority of instances, the complaint is the expression of a natural and wholesome desire; and that in its gratification, in many instances, lies the key to the problem, "How to keep aspiring boys and girls on the farm."—[C. R. Barnes, University of Minnesota.]

A Favorable Reciprocity Bargain.

A larger measure of reciprocity than was hoped for by the most sanguine has been provisionally agreed upon by Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. Wm. Paterson, representing the Dominion of Canada, and President Taft and Secretary Knox, representing the United States. The agreement remains to be ratified by concurrent legislation in the Dominion Parliament and the Republican Congress, such legislation to be indeterminate, subject to revocation at any time by either country, though it is believed that a fair trial will so convince both countries of the advantages of reciprocity that it will be succeeded by a larger, rather than a restricted, measure of reciprocal free trade. The new arrangement does not in any way prejudice any present or future trade relationships of the Dominion with other countries. It is expressly provided that in any case where the duties on United States produce are made lower than the present duties on British goods, the latter shall at once be reduced to a parity. Moreover, Canada remains free to revise her preferential tariff, lowering it as much as she sees fit. In the Canadian House, the ratification of this agreement is all but assured—there will be a vehement protest if it is not—but in the American Congress, wedded to its high-tariff traditions, with a delicate political situation and the usual temptation to log-rolling and political chicanery, there is no slight danger of the arrangement coming to grief. The long series of futile efforts by both political parties in Canada to secure reciprocity with the country which should be our best customer, was lucidly reviewed in the House of Commons on Thursday of last week by Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, when presenting to Parliament the details of the proposed agreement. Commencing with the Treaty of 1854, whose abrogation in 1866 caused such a grave apprehension throughout Canada, he recalled that the desire to negotiate more effectively for a new treaty was one of the inducements which led to confederation, in 1867. The next year, 1868, there was enacted in the tariff a standing offer of reciprocity to the United States. In 1869, Sir John Rose was sent to the United States to endeavor to bring about an agreement. In the tariff of 1870, the reciprocity offer was again inserted in a different form. In 1871, Sir John Macdonald, being concerned in the Treaty of Washington, sought to arrange for reciprocity, but failed. In 1874, the Government of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie undertook to implement its pre-election platform by sending Hon. Senator Brown to negotiate a treaty, which was prepared, but the United States failed to ratify it. In 1878, one of the arguments used in support of the national policy was that it would force the Americans to give us a new treaty, and the national policy tariff of 1879 contained a standing offer of reciprocity in agricultural and certain other natural products. This attitude was maintained steadily down to a recent date by most of our public men, and in 1891 the Government of the day had Parliament dissolved, in order, it is alleged, that they might receive a mandate from the people to proceed again to Washington on the old mission. When the Laurier administration came into power, in 1896, two members were promptly sent to Washington to reconnoitre for a reciprocity treaty. The effort once more proved abortive. Finding the proposition hopeless, Premier Laurier declared that he would make no more pilgrimages to Washington in the interest of this cause. Canada would stand on her dignity, and seek out other channels of trade. The next move would have to come from Washington. Sure enough, it came. When the Payne-Aldrich tariff was passed, it contained a provision imposing a maximum tariff of 25 per cent. in excess of the general one, upon imports from all countries which discriminated in their tariffs against the products of the United States. By reason of the French treaty, if not also the British preference, Canada fell, technically, into the class of discriminating countries, and, unless President Taft had some show of excuse for exempting her, the maximum provision would have been automatically applied against our products. Now this was not desired by President Taft for various reasons, one being that it would, in its very essence, make the Payne Aldrich tariff even more of an injustice to the American consumer than it already appeared. So President Taft sent special envoys to Ottawa, and in the end an understanding was reached whereby Canada's maximum tariffing concessions, which gave Mr.

Taft the desired excuse for exempting her from the maximum tariff. In the negotiations of that time, President Taft evinced a sincere desire for a much broader measure of reciprocity with Canada. To this end, representatives of the United States Government were again sent to Ottawa last year to open a discussion, which has been recently concluded at Washington. There is no doubt whatever that in this matter the Canadian Government has public opinion strongly behind it, and the temper of the agricultural community in particular is such as not to tolerate any opposition or truckling for political purposes.

As for President Taft, his Message to Congress denotes a thoroughly magnanimous and cordial attitude, even granting the political and economic exigency behind his motives. If Washington is now ready to deal fairly and cordially with Ottawa, Ottawa will discredit herself and play false to Canadian interests if she does not meet Washington in the same spirit. We are no longer courting or dependent upon the United States, but we are still neighbors—neighbors who can trade largely to immense mutual advantage.

The most sweeping feature of the proposed agreement is the removal of all duties, on both sides of the border, on most of what are loosely termed natural products, as cattle, horses, mules, swine, sheep, and lambs, live and dressed poultry, wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, dried peas, beans, corn (except for distillation), potatoes, butter, cheese, fresh milk, cream (with provision for free transhipment of cans), eggs, honey, fish, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit and several varieties of dried fruit, flaxseed, cottonseed and other oil seeds, grass seed, clover seed; garden, field and other seeds (except flower seeds) in packages over one pound each; hay, straw, lumber, salt, coke, certain classes of steel rods, barbed-wire fencing, type-setting and type-casting machines, cream separators, cottonseed oil, railroad ties, telegraph

45 cents a ton. Wood pulp and certain grades of print paper are to be free, in the event of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec agreeing to remove their Provincial restrictions. In return for free fish, American fishermen are to be licensed to fish in Canadian waters for a nominal fee. This latter privilege, and the throwing open of our forests to American exploitation, are the only two features of the agreement with which "The Farmer's Advocate" is not heartily in accord. True, some of the tender-fruit growers are protesting, but we believe, if the agreement be given a fair trial, they will find it will work but little or nothing to their disadvantage, and considerably to the advantage of the consumer.

Those who fear that reciprocity will lead to the free export of raw farm products, such as barley, are reminded that there is now a large and lucrative United States market for the products of intensive agriculture, as dairying and stock husbandry, and, with free access to it, Canadian farmers may be depended upon to ship large quantities of farm produce of this kind. Incidentally, the free importation of live stock promises to smooth the way for our breeders of pure-bred animals, many of whom seemed likely to be much embarrassed by the new U. S. regulations governing the free import of registered stock.

Nova Scotia Farmers' Association at Windsor N. S.

President H. S. Kennedy opened the fifth annual convention of the Farmers of Nova Scotia on Tuesday evening, January 24th, with some 200 farmers in attendance. Reviewing the agricultural situation throughout the Province, the president saw great reason for encouragement. While results were disappointing in some lines, notably fruit, on the whole they were very satisfactory.

Points from some other addresses will be published next week.

The report of the Halifax Exhibition commission created a discussion of three hours. After some severe criticism, which tended to expose the weak places of the management, suggestions were made to divide the grant and hold smaller shows in different districts in the Province, but the final decision was to continue the show as at present, and restore the vaudeville and attractions which for the past three years had been expunged from the programme.

The representatives of the Fruit-growers' Association urged that no prize list for fruit be published in the general prize list, since the early date of the exhibition precluded the possibility of showing ripened, well-colored fruit.

President, W. H. Woodworth, Berwick; Vice-President, R. M. Jackson, Cape Breton; Secretary, C. R. B. Bryan, Durham.

The following resolutions were discussed and passed: That the daily papers at Halifax be asked to publish reliable market reports.

That the Federal Government be asked to take necessary steps to improve the trade in live stock between Eastern Canada and the West India Islands.

That the Provincial Government be asked to give financial aid toward the encouragement of purchasing ditching machines in each of the counties of Nova Scotia.

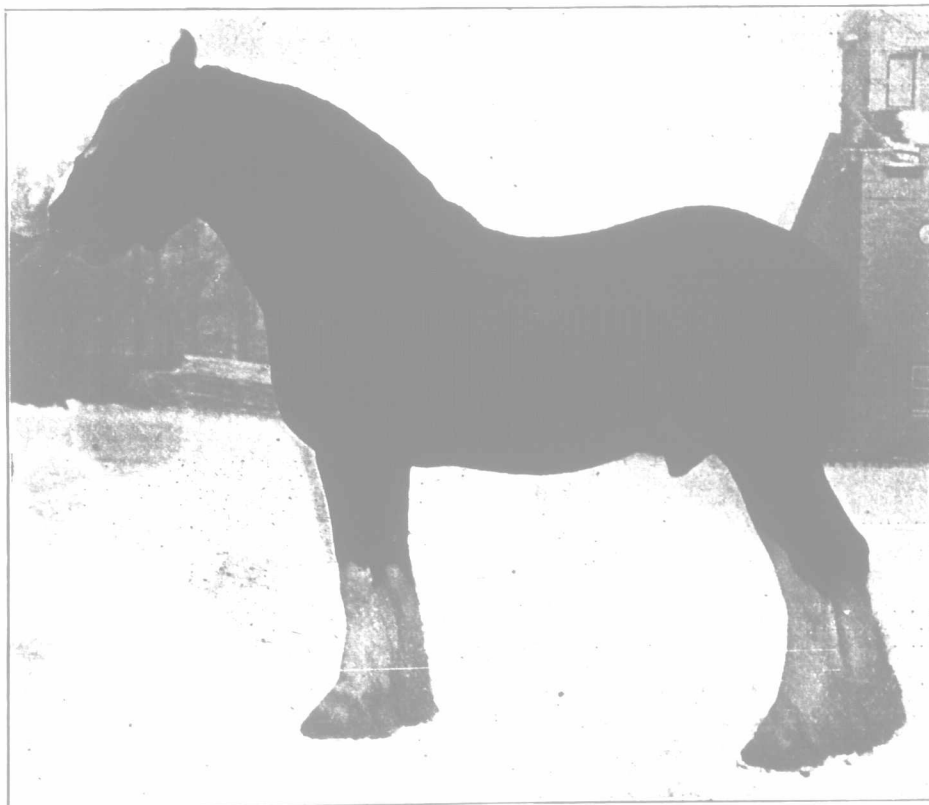
That the Dominion Exhibition grant of \$60,000, now given to the Maritime Provinces once in four years, would be better and of more benefit if given yearly at the rate of \$15,000, to be distributed as follows: \$6,000 to Nova Scotia, \$6,000 to New Brunswick, and \$3,000 to Prince Edward Island.

That we place on record our disapproval of the action of the Provincial Exhibition Commission in doubling the entry fee for exhibits at the Provincial show.

That the Government increase the grants to agricultural societies in proportion to the increase of membership in such societies.

That some central station be established at which pure-bred sires which have outlived their usefulness in one society, may be sent for convenient sale or exchange.

R. J. MESSENGER



Sailor King.

First-prize three-year-old, and champion Clydesdale, Eastern Ontario Winter Fair, Ottawa. Property of Graham-Renfrew Co., Ltd., Bedford Park, Ont. Inadvertently the championship was wrongly credited to Craigisla, in the list of awards last week. He was reserve.

poles, wooden staves, pickets and palings. In meats of various kinds there are material reductions, as, for example, "meats fresh or refrigerated," "bacon and hams," "beef salted in barrels," "pork barrelled in brine," and "meats, other salted," are to enter each country from the other at 1 1/4 cents a pound. Flour will bear a duty of 50 cents a barrel on both sides of the line, and oatmeal 50 cents per 100 pounds. Some reductions are made in the agricultural-implements schedule, a uniform scale of duties on both sides having been arranged. Farm wagons and complete parts are to be dutiable at 22 1/2 per cent., the present Canadian tariff being 25 per cent. Harvesters, reapers and mowers, plows, tooth and disk harrows, drills and planters, cultivators, threshing machines, wind-stackers, baggers, weighers and self feeders, and parts of the foregoing for repairs, are all to be 15 per cent. each way. Another list, including portable and traction engines, hay loaders, potato diggers, feed cutters, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, field rollers, manure spreaders, weathers and windmills, are to be 20 per cent.; parts for repairs, except shafting, to be 20 per cent. Some of these items represent reductions on the American, and some on the Canadian schedule.

There are many reductions proposed in mineral products, the most important being a decrease in the Canadian duty on bituminous coal from 53 to