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EDITORIAL

THE EDITOR AND THE ORATOR.

"Our Great Northern Neighbor," is the title of a significant editorial given special prominence in a leading New York paper. It is remarkable for what it concedes about Canada, remarkable for what it conceals, and almost as remarkable for some of its assumptions, although to most of these we have become somewhat accustomed as a chronic habit of mind on the part of our neighbor to the south.

First of all, we have an acknowledgment of Canada's area as being "larger than that of the United States," its "superior natural resources," its "similar coast-line," and the touch of that Saxon industrial and commercial activity now giving Canada "equal prominence" with the great Republic. Then follows in bold outline an enthusiastic resume of the agricultural, mineral, timber and power resources of the Dominion, whose water-power is reckoned as constituting two-fifths of the entire world's possession of "white coal," which, cheaper than any other form of energy, will afford facilities for manufacturing, lighting and transportation, creating veritable hives of industry in Quebec and Ontario; while the agricultural areas will prove world granaries like those of Argentina. It is pointed out, in order effectually to awaken the appreciation of American readers, that the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan embrace an area not only equal to the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, and all that vast area extending down to the Gulf of Mexico, but with enough room left to afford a comfortable spot for all Great Britain and Ireland. At the Canadian Club banquet in New York, recently, ex-secretary of the United States Treasury, Mr. Leslie M. Shaw, who made a notable speech, substantially verified the editorial, and added that, while the past half century's development in the United States had been unequalled in the history of nations, the next fifty years would disclose developments in Canada quite as marvellous.

Next comes the confession that the paper mills of the United States need the pulp-wood of Canada to keep them going, and, to aid their building enterprises, the almost "exhaustless forest supplies" of Canada are wanted in exchange for American-made agricultural implements, milling and power machinery, for locomotives, passenger and freight cars. The article proceeds to commend the wise foresight of Hon. Secretary Elihu Root in taking steps to pave the way for reciprocity with Canada, and discerns in the new Intermediate Tariff provision of Canada and in some reported observations of Premier Laurier at the Imperial Conference, a new Canada's entering into trade negotiations with other countries, the approach of another Independence Day. Canada is already in the exercise of independence in the framing of her tariff and in the control of her immigration, postal and other policies. The American mind seems slow to grasp the conception of the national evolution that is going on—Imperial Unity, with Self-government, as voiced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the late Conference in England. Canada is not "just waiting" for the opportunity to strike for independence. Sir Wilfrid Laurier well knows this, and he knows, further, that no government could survive one day at the ballot that would permit Canadian resources or interests to be exploited by means of any tariff "deal" for the benefit of American industry. This article carefully

conceals any reference to the enormously high protective tariff of the United States, though calling attention to the Canadian tariff, in spite of which United States trade with Canada has largely developed, and, which it might have added, has occasioned many American industries to transplant themselves to Canada. The article and Mr. Shaw's speech both conceal any desire to lower the American tariff. Mr. Shaw confessed that reciprocity would work to the advantage of Canadian agriculture and would retard her manufactures, but the insuperable obstacle to it, he said, was the practical impossibility of finding articles appropriate to be sacrificed in the interests of others. However paramount are the agricultural interests of Canada, we need not disguise the fact that they are interwoven with the industrialism of the cities and towns; and, while we are in no mood to punish ourselves with a retaliatory high tariff, the conditions, tendencies and assured industrial progress of Canada forever preclude the possibility of this "Olympus of the nations," foreshadowed thirty years ago by Lord Dufferin, lapsing into a pastoral realm, a handy appanage of the United States. It is not to that end we are belting Canada with transcontinental railways and ship canals, and asking the British Government to join in establishing improved cable facilities and a fast steamship service on the Atlantic and Pacific.

BUILD MORE SILOS.

That the silo, as a means of storing succulent fodder of good feeding value, has proven a success in this country, is verified by the very many farmers who have tested it, and are so well satisfied with it that they would not be without it for many times its cost. This is, we believe, the general experience, and if there are some who have abandoned the provision of ensilage, as we know there are, we are persuaded that the cause of their dissatisfaction will, on investigation, be found in some mismanagement, either in faulty construction of the silo, in the character and condition of the crop ensiled, or in excessive or exclusive feeding of silage. Corn is practically the only crop that has been generally satisfactorily siloed, though green clover has in some cases been successfully stored in the same manner. In all sections of the country where corn can be brought nearly to maturity, it fills the bill admirably, and corn, we are confident, may, by the selection of seed of early-maturing varieties, be successfully grown suitable for ensiling over a much wider area of this country than is generally thought practicable. There is every indication that, partly as a result of the propaganda in favor of corn-growing, in these columns, and partly by reason of the prospective failure of many new meadows, there will be a very large increase in the area of corn this season. Local seedsmen tell us that probably the sales of seed corn are a third more than in former years. When it is known that corn has been successfully ensiled in the vicinity of Winnipeg and Brandon, there would appear to be little room for excuse on the score of climatic conditions for neglecting its culture in the greater part of any of the Eastern Provinces.

It is, we believe, safe to say that no other crop will produce nearly so large a quantity of palatable, wholesome, nutritious and economical food for cattle as corn fairly well matured, the stalks and ears together being cut up short and stored in a well-constructed silo. And the necessity for the provision of some succulent feed in

winter is greater than ever now that so many farmers have given up growing roots, owing to the labor and time required in handling them. A crop which under average conditions will yield twelve to twenty tons per acre of nutritious stock food, at a cost of a dollar and a half per ton stored in the silo, should appeal to the farmer as a tolerably safe proposition. What other crop will nearly equal it in yield and feeding value? With a well-filled silo convenient to the stable, the handling of ensilage involves comparatively little labor, and if more is stored than is necessary for the winter's feeding, no provision for the exigency of a dry time and failing pastures in summer is equal in convenience and value to that of the left-over supply in the silo, which will keep good for years if not needed for use.

The conditions of success in the provision of good silage are a well-cultivated crop of early-maturing corn and a well-constructed silo. The questions of seed selection and cultivation have been well handled in these columns in the last few weeks, and silo construction has repeatedly received consideration and description as the season for preparation has approached in the cycle of the years. For cheapness of first cost and efficiency combined, the circular stave silo on stone foundation, is probably most suitable to the greatest number of farmers, while for durability and economy in the long run, the circular cement-concrete structure, where gravel can be had within convenient distance, makes the ideal silo. An inside diameter of 12 feet and a height of 30 feet is the most suitable for the average farmer, and as 50 cubic feet of settled silage, in round numbers, represents a ton, about five acres of corn should fill such a silo. A wider surface leads to loss of quality, owing to exposure to the air, unless a large stock of cattle can be kept. Better, if necessary, build two small silos than one large one; then, if silage is left over for summer use, the supply will keep better, owing to less surface exposure. If more capacity is required, it is better to secure it in height than in width, as the greater the height the greater is the pressure, the more complete the exclusion of air, and the greater the chance for the best quality of silage.

The silo has proved an inestimable boon to dairy farmers in Canada, and many of the breeders and feeders of beef cattle are thoroughly satisfied that ensilage is the most profitable feed they can provide, but there are thousands of farms yet in sections where there is no question as to the success of corn-growing on which no silo is found, and it is putting the statement mildly to say that those are not, as a rule, the farms on which the evidences of prosperity are the most noticeable.

SUMMER VACATION SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS.

For several years past largely-attended summer-school sessions, for the instruction of teachers in Nature Study, Art and Manual Training have been held at the London, Ottawa and Toronto Normal Schools, but this year this work will all be transferred to the Agricultural College at Guelph, for the reason that the Normal Schools will be occupied in giving special courses to Separate School teachers, to bring up to standard the qualifications of members of some of the Orders, resulting from a decision of the Privy Council. The public-school teachers will find at Guelph, particularly in the Macdonald Institute, an environment and educational facilities for special courses of the kind indicated, at once agreeable and helpful. It seems to us the idea is most commendable, also, from the advantage that should accrue to the rural and even town public schools from bringing teachers into close contact with the Provincial fountain of agricultural education.