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EDITORIAL.

As a mortgage-lifter, the experience of S. B. Chute, of Nova Scotia, shows that a properly-conducted orchard has wheat-growing beaten to a standstill.

Out of the fatuous morass of a protectionist Imperialism will emerge the more rational, stronger and permanent bond of freer trade within the British Empire.

Isn't it about time that one of our poets wrote a song entitled "O, Farmer, Plant a Tree," to take the place of that outworn classic, "Woodman, Spare That Tree"?

That the record price paid this season for greasy wool in Sydney, N. S. W., was the result of Japanese competition, and spells the entry into the fine-wool industry of Japanese factories, is the argument advanced by our Australian correspondent this week.

The appeal of the Dominion Militia Department posters for recruits in the Canadian naval service is likely—as it should—to fall upon deaf ears, so far as the sensible young men of the farm are concerned. The rising manhood of Canada is all needed for her expanding agricultural, industrial and other pursuits, and it does seem deplorable that in the glorious dawning of the twentieth century these promising fields should be depleted even to any small extent, either in town or country, for the ignoble pursuit of learning, under uniformed orders, to kill human beings.

In "The Ontario Milk Act," a bill respecting the production and sale of milk for human consumption, Hon. Jas. S. Duff has introduced into the Legislature a commendable measure, which may, however, need amendment on one or two points before being enacted into law. For example, clause 4, while authorizing municipal councils to fix local standards for butter-fat and total solids, forbids the sale for human consumption of milk containing less than 12 per cent. solids, of which 3 per cent. shall be butter-fat. If this precludes the sale of buttermilk and skim milk, it should be changed.

A very great change in the nationality of the immigrants coming into the United States has taken place in the last thirty years, according to a writer in the New York Independent. From the middle of last century down to 1885, immigration was almost entirely from England, Ireland, Germany, Norway and Sweden. The immigration from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia combined was in that year less than half as great as that from Germany alone. Since that date the immigration from the north-western countries of Europe has declined, while that from the south-western portion has greatly increased. In 1910 the immigration from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia was more than twenty times as great as the immigration from Germany, and more than four times as great as the combined immigration from England, Ireland, Germany, Norway and Sweden. In 1880 Ireland sent by far the largest proportion of immigrants, according to area, of any country in Europe. In 1910 Ireland had receded to third or fourth place in that respect, while Italy takes front rank.

There are doubtless grazing districts where young cattle stock can be more economically reared than in others, but is it usual, in these sections, to find pure-bred sires of deep-milking families in general use?

The loss by fire in the United States and Canada for 1910 was $234,470,650, or an increase of more than $30,000,000 over 1909. There are loose-thinking persons who would jump to the conclusion that this must have been a fine thing for workingmen in the building trades. Following out this principle, the way to make a nation rich would be to burn the whole country up.

"The Farmer's Advocate" cannot too strongly urge its readers to think out farm problems for themselves. It is quite right and proper to reap the benefit of neighbors' experience, but it is a great mistake merely to imitate them because they seem to have done fairly well in their respective specialties. Because a man does well with a certain class of stock or a certain crop, it by no means follows that his way is the best. What every man should aim at is not merely good ideas, but the very best ones. And we repeat that he should not practice these as an imitator. Study causes, effects and underlying principles. An imitator is easily thrown off the track, and is seldom equipped to meet changing conditions effectually. It is the man who grapples with the problems of his occupation, getting down to the bottom of them, and pursuing their ramifications, who is the really masterful farmer, prepared to pioneer if necessary, or, if he follow, prepared to follow intelligently, improving, perhaps, on his model. Master the problems of your business so far as you are able. Therein lies the fattest profit, the deepest satisfaction, and the largest mental growth.

Two farmers lived side by side. One was rich, independent, and not always considerate. The other, being poor, and unable to raise a great variety of produce, would often have liked to exchange work and products with his forehanded neighbor. But the latter refused. So year after year one man hauled his grain to town, ten miles distant, and brought back the other's butter and beef, while the latter hauled his neighbor's grain back to feed his stock. Thus, every dollar's worth of produce exchanged between these two men had a useless twenty-mile haul. Similar loss and inconvenience occurred through failure to exchange help. In course of time, the rich man came to see the folly of his exclusiveness, particularly as his neighbor was now raising a variety of products he felt especial need of. But, meantime, the second farmer had, by enterprise and perseverance, contrived to reach a position where he could get along fairly well without the other man's help. Still, they were neighbors, and could exchange help, as well as certain forms of produce, to the advantage of each. What would be thought of the second farmer if he were now to say, "No, you used me mean once; I'm going to get even." Such an attitude might be human nature, but would it be admirable? Would we not admire the second man more if he said: "All right, my friend; glad to see you wish to be neighborly. Bygones are bygones. Let's be friends."

Does not this example substantially illustrate the present relationship of the United States and Canada?

A Startling Timber Report.

An innocent-looking advance press copy of a report by Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, to the President of the United States, which has reached "The Farmer's Advocate," should give a wholesome jolt to the thinking of some eminent admirers of private corporations, and statesmen who on occasion fairly "bristle with patriotism," but whose attitude towards Government ownership or effective control of public utilities, is of a decidedly cold-storage character. It furthermore gives point to the fear, expressed in these columns, of the possible exploitation of Canadian forests under reciprocity arrangements, and it indicates the real point at which the Provinces and the Conservation Commission need to be alert.

The investigation under Commissioner Smith was authorized by Congress, and the resulting report, dated Feb. 13th, 1911, discloses evident thoroughness. Forty years ago, at least three-fourths of American standing timber was, it is estimated, publicly owned; now, about four-fifths of it has passed under the domination of a few private holdings, largely through grants to railroads and canals, unlimited Government sales at $1.25 per acre, and allowing great tracts to be assembled, in spite of legal requirement for small holdings. This speculative grabbing is far in advance of any use thereof, and actually prevents access by blocking the way to other timber wanted for use. It also ties up indefinitely the new growths. In the third place, there is an enormous increase in the value of the diminishing supply of timber so held up, which the owners neither created nor substantially enhanced. Concentration has gone so far that 195 holders, many of these interrelated, now have practically one-half the privately-owned timber in the States' area covered by the investigation, which embraced 80 per cent. of the whole. The manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, boldly declares that the day of cheap lumber will soon be gone, and the men who own the timber will hold it till other supplies are gone, and will demand their own price. Having acquired legal control, the consequences to the public will become worse as time goes on, not only in respect to the timber, but the land itself, and the minerals. In the investigation area, it was found that 1,802 of the largest owners had 88,579,000 acres of land, the Southern Pacific Railway holding 4,318,000, the Northern Pacific 3,017,000 acres, besides the holdings of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, which, including its directly-owned subsidiary concerns, are the second largest in the United States, but this does not include large timber interests of members of the family and associates, all held off the market for future rise in timber value. The concentration is more marked in the Pacific Northwest than in the Southern States. The present annual growth of timber is only about one-third the present annual cut, and new growth is very slow. Without allowance for growth or decay, the timber now standing would only last about 55 years. During a recent period, the value of standing timber has increased tenfold, twentyfold, and even fiftyfold, according to local conditions. A few examples might be cited.

A tract of timber land in Virginia, offered for $3,500, was later sold for $48,000.

In Mississippi, 7,000 acres was offered a lumber company that refused it for $5 per acre. In 1907 they bought it for $30 per acre.

In Louisiana, in 1887, a firm bought 19,000