

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

The Fair Problem.

During the past few years there has been noticeable a marked change in the general character of many of our smaller country fairs. The movement has been an effort to adapt the work and sphere of fairs to the changed condition of the agricultural industry. Where the undertaking has been in the hands of capable, broad-minded officials, the change may truthfully be characterized as improvement. In a large measure the source of this improvement is discoverable at the annual meeting of the institution known as the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. These meetings are now held annually in Toronto, and are attended by representatives of fair boards from all parts of the Province of Ontario. The object of meeting is to exchange ideas on the management of fairs; to devise methods of improvement, and to endeavor to secure a uniformity of ideals among those having in charge the work of conducting agricultural exhibitions. At the annual meeting last week in Toronto, the unanimous opinion of the delegates was that the efforts of the association during the past year were highly satisfactory. Reports from every direction showed that many fairs had been lifted out of a lethargic and comatose condition to vital educational institutions. The efforts of the most successful fair boards are now directed toward interesting the younger generation in their work, but the introduction of such features as stock and fruit judging contests, gymkhanas, children's exhibits, model kitchens, experimental plots, and numerous other events and exhibits, are all calculated to develop a local interest in the fair.

Caps the Climax.

As I am just a new subscriber to the "Farmer's Advocate," I wish to express my appreciation for your paper, which far exceeds my anticipations. The several articles are so practical and concise, and each issue seems to contain just what I am looking for. I am availing myself of the opportunity of showing the "Advocate" to my neighbors, and when I tell them that such a paper is a weekly, "Why," they say, "that caps the climax."
C. HAMILTON,
Dundas Co.

Canadian Forestry.

As a nation, Canada has been richly endowed with natural resources. One of the greatest of these is her forest wealth. To a nation or State natural resources stand in the same relation as capital to the individual, and the State obviously should husband her resources just as assiduously as a shrewd, practical business man manages his capital. If such were the case in Canada, our forests would not be decreasing at the prodigious rate that has characterized them during the past fifty years. As a State or nation, we have been dissipating our capital instead of supplying our needs from its natural increment without reducing its amount. That we have done so, the drifting sands, bare rock, barren soils in almost all parts of the Dominion which formerly carried magnificent pine forests, bear solemn and positive evidence. Our situation now is one that calls for prompt and vigorous measures if we are to preserve what to the nation is one of her most valuable assets. The work is one for governments. It involves the investment of large sums of money, and the care of valuable property that cannot be expected to yield great if any returns for many years; but should be undertaken in the interests of future generations. To continue our present lavish destruction of valuable timber without making any provision for replacing it is to rob posterity of a patrimony bequeathed them just as positively as is their nationality. Forests are not the property of any set of persons, or any government of the day, but of past, present, and future generations.

Canada to-day is in need of a public sentiment that will prompt her Provincial Governments and Federal Parliament to protect the present forest areas and provide for reforestation of those lands that are not suitable for agricultural purposes. There is no doubt that such a sentiment exists, but it is passive; it should be vital and active. It should find expression in our demands upon legislators, in public meetings, through the columns of the press, in the organization of local civic improvement societies, and in the encouragement of forestry associations already formed. The trouble in the past has been that the average man is unable to grasp the importance of providing for posterity more than one generation distant, and we have fallen into the habit of committing the solution of such problems as future wood supply to the inventions of scientific men; forgetting that the function of such men is to direct the uses of natural products, not to produce them. So far the best that science has been able to do has been to devise methods of systematic forestry, and scientists are now urging such methods upon our governments. Whether the governments shall take up this work is for the people to say. Let our people understand their need; let there be a keen public sentiment in favor of liberal reforestation and forestry, and let our governments, no matter what their political color, adopt a vigorous policy that will foster this—our great natural resource.

Canadian Wheat in England.

It is stated by The Miller, the leading periodical of the English grain and flour trade, that a marked improvement is noted in the quality of samples of Canadian wheat recently to hand there. "We have taken," says our contemporary, "the trouble to examine a number of recent arrivals and compare them with made-up standards, and in the majority of instances, especially in No. 2 Northern, arrivals are much superior to the standards. We have proved to our own satisfaction that wheats bought on Winnipeg inspection are entirely to be relied upon, and it now remains for individual buyers to make their demands accordingly. In the last three years our imports of Canadian wheat have advanced in value from £2,216,000 to £3,700,000, and of wheat meal and flour from £600,000 to £1,200,000, while in every instance the corresponding imports from the United States have declined."

The Manchester Market.

Great Britain, with its dense population of 45 millions of people, contained within an area not greater than the settled portion of the Province of Ontario, is the Mecca for the over-production in food products of nearly all the countries of the world, and even in manufactures their home market is invaded by the enterprising and ambitious manufacturers of other countries. The Manchester district is the most densely peopled of any part of the Kingdom; in fact, it may be said of any part of the world within the same area. Within a radius of 12 miles around St. Paul's, London, a population of five millions may be counted, whilst within a radius of 40 miles around the Manchester Cotton Exchange, a population is aggregated numbering eight millions of people, or about one-fifth of the population of the entire Kingdom. The City of Manchester is no longer insular, but a magnificent seaport, created and raised to this commanding position by the energy, enterprise and sacrifices of her sons. The Manchester ship canal, which cost £17,000,000 sterling, now enables vessels of the largest size to carry their cargoes right up from the sea inland, a distance of 40 miles. The greatest market, therefore, of the United Kingdom is concentrated here, and its exploitation by Canadian produce shippers and manufacturers is easily within their reach, as a direct trading line, the Manchester liners from Montreal in summer, and St. John and Halifax in winter, is now firmly established. As an illustration of how this line alone developed trade between Canada and Manchester, I can point to the continual growth of the imports of cheese. In 1896 the quantity imported into Manchester was 2,376 boxes during the cheese season, May to November, and rapidly increased in each of the succeeding years, until 1903, which shows a total of nearly 60,000 boxes. The quantity of butter advanced from 13 boxes in 1897 to 38,775 boxes in 1902. These figures merely show the quantity brought up the canal, and by no means represents the quantity sold and handled by Manchester importing houses, received by them through other avenues, especially by way of Liverpool, owing to the larger number of vessels sailing from Canadian and American cities to that port, and carrying much larger quantities on through bills of lading to Manchester.

	BUTTER.	Sterling.
The total imports of butter into England during the year 1903 reached the enormous sum of		£20,788,705
Of which sum Canada supplied		866,240
A falling off from the previous years, when from Canada was imported		1,347,343
A decrease of		481,103
	CHEESE.	
Total imports for 1903		7,054,305
Of which Canada contributed		4,823,690
	EGGS.	
Total imports		6,617,640
Of which Canada supplied		218,571
	BACON.	
Total imports		13,619,140
Of which Canada supplied		1,691,687

It will be perceived that a great margin is still left for Canada to fill in these leading lines of provisions. It is the feeling of the trade, and it is recommended that it would be a great advantage to all Canadian shippers of butter, if the steamship companies would make a point of carrying it at a much lower temperature. Experts contend that it is simply a waste of effort to carry an article like butter at a temperature of about 30° to 35°, and expect it to arrive in perfect condition. The room in which butter is stored in transit should never be allowed to go above 20°. The quality of the Canadian butter on the whole for last year was satisfactory. The great object to be attained is that it should be continued to be made with the utmost care, and shipped as fresh as possible. The great competitor on the English market is "Danish," which realizes 10s. and sometimes 15s. per cwt. more than the Canadian article. The proximity to this market of Denmark on the one side, and of Ireland on the other, for fresh made creameries, gives them an advantage over the production of Canada, but this may to a great extent be counteracted by the superexcellence of Canadian manufacture.

The openings in Canada seem practically unlimited for the export of food products, when the continued growth of the English population is taken into account. The greatest consideration and favor is shown by consumers to Canadian products, but they can only maintain their position by continued excellence in quality. The great consuming public in England, represented by the individual purchaser with money in his pocket, will seek and buy only the best article at the cheapest price. This invariable practice is the only one the individual follows, no matter what he utters in the way of sentiment or cordiality.

As no cheese comes to England better than the Canadian, and as no butter, except, perhaps,