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CANADIAN EXCURSIONISTS IN THE DUTCH COUNTRY

A Visit to Some of the Wonderful Dairy Farms of Holland.—Most Sanitary and Hygienic Conditions of Dairying.

The latest report of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner includes an interesting account of the visit of some Canadian dairymen to Holland dairy sections. An interesting excursion, says the report, took a number of the delegates to the province of North Holland, famous for its large output of Adam cheese. Alkmaar is the principal market. The quantity of cheese which is annually sold at Alkmaar equals about 200,000 boxes of Canadian cheese, and yet the whole district in which these three markets are located is not much larger than a good sized Canadian county. The cheese are all brought in by barge or wagon from the surrounding country and piled in separate heaps on the square in the market place. If the weather is showery, a tarpaulin is used to cover the cheese. The market officials have the cheese all weighed before the sale takes place. The individual cheese weigh about four pounds each, and they are weighed in drafts of about one hundred cheese. The weigh house is a very ancient institution in all market towns in Holland, and usually has some very interesting features.

During a drive a visit was made to one of the old farms where the cows are kept during the winter months under the same roof as the family. While the cows are on pasture during the summer months, the stable is used as a cheese curdling room. The winter's fodder is stored in the loft. The floors of the stable are of tile, the mangers and stalls of glazed earthenware, and everything is kept scrupulously clean. The Dutch passion for cleanliness makes this sort of thing possible. The most interesting and instructive feature of this trip was a visit to the farm "Oud Bussem." Here we found two hundred cows, kept under the most sanitary and hygienic conditions for the production of market milk. The stable floors are laid with tile, and the walls and ceilings finished smoothly with some kind of white enamel. The drainage and facilities for cleaning are perfect. A tunnel passes under the stable, and through this outlet all droppings are removed by means of a car running on light iron rails. The accommodations for the milkers and the conveniences for securing the utmost cleanliness leave nothing to be desired. A heavy thatched roof makes the building warm in winter and cool in summer. Ample light and ventilation complete one of the finest stables that the writer has ever seen.

The surroundings of the stable are laid out in lawns, with flower beds and shrubbery, and the whole place is attractive in the highest degree. The milk of the herd is bottled and shipped to Amsterdam in very much the same manner as is now followed by the best dairies in this country.

During a trip through the province of Gelderland, the excursionists visited a "loshuis" or ancient farm dwelling. The "loshuis" are said to have been built originally by the Anglo-Saxons, the primitive inhabitants of Holland. Like the other Dutch farm houses, they consist of one square building, covered with a high-pointed roof, but they differ to the extent that the various parts of the house are not separated, being, strictly speaking, all in one room. In one side of the building there is a door which gives access to the space in the centre. Around this space, which has no floor, are arranged on one side the cows; on the other side a pigsty and horse stable; at the back the space for the family, on either side of which the beds are placed, each in a sort of narrow cabinet. In the centre of the family space there is a fireplace provided with the usual hangers for pots and kettles. Animals and people live there in common.

The total area of Holland is 12,648 square miles, a little over half the size of Nova Scotia. The population according to the latest returns is 5,104,137. The total exports of dairy

Masonic Home in Nova Scotia Opened

On February 1st, Nova Scotia's Freemasons' Home, "Fairfield," at Windsor, N. S., was in complete readiness for the reception of aged Masons and their wives, as well as the widows of Masons who are unable to earn a livelihood.

The history in this movement of establishing a Freemasons' Home has been pretty thoroughly advertised throughout the Maritime Provinces and the keen interest and hearty and substantial support given fully emphasize the high principles of such an order.

The idea of providing such a Home has been in the minds of leading members of the fraternity for many years, but it was not until the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Yarmouth in June, 1908, that steps were taken to bring about the desired consummation. At that annual communication the purchase of the property and all matters incident in the installation of the Home were placed in the hands of a Board of Trustees, viz: M. W. Bro. Charles R. Smith, Grand Master, Amherst; M. W. Bro. Theodore A. Crossman, P. G. M., Halifax; R. W. Bro. James Dempster, G. Treasurer, Halifax; R. W. Bro. W. Medford Christie, Windsor; V. W. Bro. W. Marshall Black, Wolfville; Bro. John C. Gess, Halifax; and R. W. Bro. Thomas Mowbray, Grand Secretary, Halifax. To whom also was delegated the power to make by-laws, rules and regulations for the maintenance and government of the said Home, and the admission of persons as inmates thereof, and their conduct while there.

The Rev. J. B. Merrill (Baptist), of Arcadia, Yarmouth Co., made a proposition to the trustees to take the position of superintendent of the Home, and this, with others, was considered, and in September the choice was made, and Rev. Mr. Merrill received the appointment. The Board are well pleased with their choice, as Mr. Merrill is a man of splendid capabilities.

The choice of a home could not have been better, and as the whole province was taken into consideration for a location it speaks well for Windsor, "Fairfield" has quite a history, being originally the property of the late Judge Bliss, of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Then Rev. Henry Pryor Almon was the owner, who in turn sold it to Edgar Shand, of Windsor, and, after a short residence there, Edward Kilcup took it over, and converted it into a private hotel, and after his death it passed to the Bennett Smith estate, who sold it to the Masons for \$11,000.

The Home contains 19 rooms, exclusive of the wing, which has two rooms. There are at present six fairly large rooms, available for the reception of inmates, all of which have been or will be furnished by lodges or individuals. So far, rooms have been furnished by St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1; Virgin Lodge, No. 3, and brethren of the Scottish Rite, all of Halifax; Royal Sussex, No. 6, Halifax, provided the parlor furnishings, and some of the brethren of the Lodge of St. Mark's No. 38, Halifax, gave the range. Mr. Marshall Black of Wolfville, furnished one of the chambers; Welsford Lodge, No. 26, Windsor, has provided the dining room furniture; W. Bro. James Dempster has donated a handsome hall table of quartered oak, tastefully carved; and St. George's Lodge, No. 20, Wolfville, has presented a nice hall rack. Other lodges have contributed money towards the house furnishings.

The residence has been thoroughly overhauled, painted and sanded; the town water installed, and provision made to meet further enlargements as time advances.

There are about fifty acres of land, the quarter of which is well under cultivation. The orchard comprises 150 trees, strawberries and other small fruits.

The formal opening of "Fairfield" will not take place until June, when the Home and its surroundings will be at their best.

TIMELY RHYME.

We've put this notice on our door
For all those who go through it,
"Please take this door along with you
As far as you can do it."

Fire Drill and Exits

FURNACE SHOULD NEVER BE UNDER MAIN HALLWAY—EXPERIENCE OF COLLINGWOOD.

"The recent fire in St. Joseph's school building is a warning to all school buildings in the city. The inspector of factories, Mr. J. H. Moran, observed on Saturday that the doors had been closed or had been interfered with their easy movement, the experience at Collingwood last year might have been repeated. Very fortunately the children had been faithfully and continuously subjected to fire drill, and this was also an advantage."

Inspector Ring said that while here last year he visited St. Joseph's school and found the exits all right. His inspection last year was confined to the theatres and the school buildings under city control, and as St. Joseph's did not come within the latter category he did not make any extended investigation, or visit the basement. He stated that the principle of placing any heating apparatus beneath the main hallway of a building was regarded as highly objectionable by all inspectors of buildings.

Mr. Ring referred to the record of the report of the proceedings of the International Factory Inspectors at the annual convention held in Toronto in June last calling special attention to some of the remarks of chief inspector John H. Moran, of Ohio, in which state the Collingwood disaster occurred.

After the Collingwood disaster, the report says, the inspection department was placed into a whirlpool of work. "We were deluged with requests by telegraph, telephone and mail service for inspection of school houses. Indifference gave way to anxiety, negligence to a frenzied zeal, and in many instances niggardly economy to lavish expenditure. Members of the legislature were clamoring for the privilege of introducing bills requiring better buildings and all kinds of precautions and protections, and they were anxious to give the department a very material increase in the number of inspectors to do the work. The result was that the bill introduced by Mr. Reynolds, of Cuyahoga county, providing ten additional inspectors and one assistant chief for the Ohio department of inspection of factories, workshops and public buildings was passed almost unanimously. This law requires that the plans and specifications for all future construction of public buildings, such as schools, theatres, churches, hospitals, halls, etc., must be submitted to the department for approval before construction begins except in cities having building inspection departments. To carry out this work properly the law specifies that the assistant chief inspector shall be a competent practical architect."

"It seems frightful that the people of this country will not take steps to provide even reasonable protection to human life unless some tremendous sacrifice of it is made. Public sentiment is then aroused and while the wave of fear and eagerness to make amends lasts, great reforms are worked, and I believe in the particular class of buildings affected the conditions will always be better. The sorry part of it is that the people fail to realize they are responsible in a large measure for just such disasters, and not some one person. Yet every time such catastrophes occur diligent search is made to find some one to hold responsible and make suffer through the law for what is the fault of each and every one in the community. Unless boards of education and similar boards have the support of the people, good and effective work along protective lines cannot be done." While the "sacrifice has been terrible, we believe the lesson has been learned and the conditions in such buildings generally will be greatly improved."

The report of Mr. Moran goes on to show what has been done toward improving 1025 school buildings in the State of Ohio. Twenty-eight were abandoned altogether, in 1717 cases new exits were ordered on ground floor and 1624 on upper floors. In 167 buildings instructions were given not to oil floors, in 511 to swing doors

Dominion Iron and Steel Company Wins Damages

Steel has won.

After litigation extending over two years the Privy Council Thursday gave judgment finding that the Dominion Coal Co. was not justified in breaking their contract with the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. They find that the contract is at an end and have referred the whole case back to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia to determine the amount of damages the Steel Co. should be awarded for the loss of the contract and for the various breaches of it committed up to the final repudiation.

While the main issue has thus been settled, the litigation is far from at an end. There is more than a possibility that the matter may again come before the Privy Council for it will be a very difficult thing to determine the amount of damages that should be awarded the Steel Co. and the National Trust Co. for the thirty years that the contract has yet to run.

This will have to come before a referee, his decision will have to be affirmed by the Supreme Court here and an appeal from the decision of that Court can be taken to either the Supreme Court of Canada, or the Privy Council.

In one respect only does the decision differ from those of the Nova Scotia courts. Judge Lennox, before whom the case was tried, found that the contract was still in force and ordered the Coal Co. to carry it out. This decision was also upheld by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. However, the Privy Council have decided that the contract is not in force and specific performance, and have decided that the violation of the contract by the Coal Co. abrogated it.

OLD TIME SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL MASTERS

Interesting Reminiscences by Mr. Benjamin Starratt Concerning the School-days and Customs of Some Seventy Years Ago

My first introduction to a school house was when I was about four years of age.

The teacher was Miss Maria Boehner, afterwards Mrs. Phineas Bent.

I remember her taking me up in her lap one drowsy summer afternoon and rocking me to sleep.

The little, old, unpainted school-house stood at the mouth of the Balmor road, nearly in front of the residence of George Pearson, Esq.

The exterior was not particularly inviting from an architectural point of view—grey, weather-beaten, and unpainted, crowded close up into the road, as though the land begrudged it space upon which to stand.

It was not an object especially attractive to the boys and girls, who assembled there to take in and assimilate their daily rations of the three R's.

The interior was far more interesting.

A huge chimney, jutting out, occupied nearly the entire north end of the room.

An immense fireplace, high and wide, enough to take in a quarter of a cord of wood, which when filled with green hard wood logs and smoking furiously, as it had a persistent and obstinate habit of doing, was the most noticeable feature of the place. A row of desks lined three sides of the room. These desks were sharply and elaborately carved by the dean's jack-knives of the boys, disclosing much latent talent in design and execution.

The seats were made of rough slabs originally unplanned, but now well smoothed and polished by years of friction of the grey, woolen, homespun trousers of the boys and the skirts of the girls.

No blackboards, no maps, no globes—not even a desk and chair for the master—noting but the smoke-painted walls. This constituted the furniture of the building.

There was no intermission, but scholars could go out by applying the stereotyped formula, "Please master, can I go out?" of which all took the fullest advantage.

Following Miss Boehner came Israel Morse, William Whitman, Edward C. Foster, afterwards postmaster at Ferwick, Mr. Foster and his cousin, James P. Foster, were two of the most successful end up-to-date teachers of their day. Both taught a long time, the latter twelve or fifteen years, after which he engaged in trade and shipbuilding at Port Lorne and is still living there at the good old age of ninety-five years.

I think the last teacher in the old school-house at Paradise was Asah Marshall, Esq.

Mr. Marshall was an exception to the general rule. He had original methods of teaching and of punishing as well.

He was eminently successful in arithmetic, particularly interest, not using books much, giving sums and questions orally and in such a way as to make them easily understood and very interesting.

But it was in his methods of punishing that he most excelled. He used an instrument of torture called a ferule, shovel-shaped, made of hard wood and quite heavy, the blade being about four inches square, three-quarters of an inch thick, with a handle eight or nine inches long.

This was applied to the palm of the hand and when laid on heavy, as he well knew how to do, especially

Address on Game By Dr. Breck

Dr. Edward Breck, a wealthy United States physician, who has taken a great interest in the game and inland fisheries of the Province and has taken up his permanent abode at Annapolis, has consented to give an address regarding the game and inland fisheries of the Province to the members of the Halifax Board of Trade and others interested in the subject at the Board of Trade offices probably this Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock. Dr. Breck is now publishing a sporting guide of the Province, in which he is being assisted by the authorities in all parts of the Province, and from the interest he has taken in the matter and the outlay, it is believed the publication will prove of considerable benefit to our sporting resources.



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Absolutely Pure

The Only Baking Powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar—Made from Grapes—
A Guarantee of Pure, Healthful, Delicious Food

Repeat it:—"Shiloh's Cure will always cure my coughs and colds."