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MONTREAL, CHICAGO and SPRINGFIELD MASS JAN 15 1900

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## Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

### A Healthy Condition.

The report of the Ont bureau of industries shows that agriculture in that province has advanced the past year by leaps and bounds. Apparently the long depression in land values is over, and the increase in this respect is of itself an indication that agriculture is prospering. A reference to the figures shows an increase of \$2,000,000 in round numbers. The increase in value of farm buildings is \$4,000,000 and in agricultural implements \$1,500,000. The total valuation of farm property all around is \$923,000,000, an increase in one year of \$18,000,000.

The advance in the cheese industry still continues and the increase is nearly \$500,000 over the previous year. Notwithstanding this the value of live stock killed and sold over the province shows an increase for the year of \$4,750,000. This indicates that the boom in dairying lines has not been at the expense of other cattle industries. The total increase in all live stock was about \$10,000,000. Probably more has been added to land values in the province by the fruit industry than from any other source. The increase in the last 6 yrs has been about 145.00% and land in the fruit sections has increased 20 per cent over other sections. A notable fact deduced from the report is that those counties which used the general purpose cow and produced cheese and beef have more dollars to their credit than counties which give either their whole attention to dairying or beef.

There is one feature the report does not discuss which must be taken into consideration when fixing the farmers net income for the year, and that is his outgo. In the beginning, articles required on the farm were cheap, but before the year had advanced far, the railroads, the monopolies and the combines, big and little, raised prices, doubled them on many articles, and when farmers had projected extensive improvements their increased income for the year went into the maw of those who were able and did squeeze them for the last dollar. It is safe to say that a large part of the total increase in farm crops, \$3,500,000, will not be placed to the credit of the farmers. If the values of what the farmer has had to buy had been governed by the alleged law of supply and demand, his wallet would present a more healthy appearance than it does at the present time.

### New Methods in Teaching

are to be introduced in the schools of Ottawa by James Wallace, who has been induced to leave Scotland by Commissioner J. W. Robertson for this special work. Ultimately manual training teaching must be introduced in the other cities of the Dominion. Great strides are already being made in this direction in several of the more progressive cities of the states and such

schools are overcrowded with pupils. Training of the hand and mind must go hand in hand and the tendency of education for the professions diminished. One of the best books published on manual training for public schools and nature studies has very recently been placed on the market through the Orange Judd Co of New York. It is by Prof J. Liberty Tadd, director of the Philadelphia school of industrial art. It contains 456 pages and 478 pictures and sells for \$3.

### The Dominion Parliament

has been summoned to meet. As it will be the last session of the present parliament and as the country is on the eve of a general election, it is expected to be a particularly lively and interesting one. The principal business will be the sanctioning of the expenditure in connection with the South African contingents and the estimates. There is likely to be a long discussion on the first subject. Many of the members of parliament are strongly opposed to the government having undertaken to put the country to enormous expense by sending soldiers to South Africa without having first consulted parliament.

There is no doubt that from a constitutional standpoint this view is the correct one, but in the present feeling of the country the constitutional aspect is likely to be overlooked and the government's action will no doubt be sustained. Any further steps, however, to saddle the country with a high military expenditure will meet with the most determined opposition. The government will no doubt endeavor to have the estimates passed as quickly as possible and as soon as the session is over parliament will likely be dissolved and an appeal made to the country.

### Great Activity in Militia Circles

was manifest during the past month as the result of the government's decision to send a second contingent to South Africa. The various detachments which will compose the contingent have been completed and are now on their way to Halifax, whence they will sail about Feb 1 for the seat of war. The contingent, which will be composed of artillery and mounted men, will be a splendid body of men and will reflect the highest credit on the Dominion. Many of the Northwest mounted police will be among them. They are just the kind of men that are required in South Africa to successfully meet the Boer tactics, and they may be expected to give a good account of themselves.

### A Gigantic Military Machine Not Wanted.

Of course while the present military fervor is at its height it is almost absurd to sound a note of warning. Canadians would be ingrates if they did not show in some tangible manner that they appreciate what Britain has done

for this country, which has had the festering care and the protection of the British flag without giving anything in return. Canada has nobly done its duty in the present emergency, but there are certain interested parties who are prepared to take advantage of the prevailing feeling to foist gigantic military schemes on the country. This will mean additional burdens upon the taxpayers and the farming community will have to pay the greater part. The representatives of the farming interests in parliament should keep their eyes open to this danger.

### Our Money Making Industry.

Reports of Canadian cheese factories for the cheese season, June 1 to Nov 1 of the past year, are now coming in. The price netted the patrons for milk averages for the season about 87c p 100 lbs. This is the highest average price received for milk at the cheese factories for 10 years. No doubt the number of cheese factories will greatly increase in the country next season. Events already point that way, for from all parts of the Dominion come the reports of movements on foot and about completed for the erection of new factories.

### All Can Help.

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### Keep Farmers on the Upgrade.

Twenty-five years ago when the people met in large numbers to deliberate upon important questions, farmers generally sat around and waited for the professional men and merchants to tell them what to do. Farmers were not expected to know much, and as a matter of fact, a good many of them didn't. Time and circumstances have brought a great change. Let the people assemble now to discuss great questions affecting their interests and it can be jotted down for a certainty that there will be farmers present who can give as clear ideas of what should be done, and in as intelligent a manner as the professional classes. The intelligence of the farmers has gone up by leaps and bounds during the past 40 years, and, in the interests of human liberty it wants to be kept on the up grade. Farmers know their rights, now, and have the power to maintain them if they pull together. The first use they should make of their power in the new century is to batter down combines and monopolies and to keep all valuable franchises for the benefit of the common people. Power and intelligence are no benefit to a

farmer or anyone else, unless the men who possess them are alive.

Country merchants report holiday trade the best ever known. One feature of it was farmers bought a better class of goods than in former years. Cheap, shoddy and damaged goods of all descriptions, which are usually put in stock to supply the farmers' trade, didn't move off the shelves to any great extent this year. Many merchants had to duplicate their stocks of first-class goods to supply the demand. Then another feature was the fat condition of the farmer's wallet. He paid cash mostly for what he got and was therefore able to put in his voice when making a deal. The rising statistics in the butter and cheese trade show where the farmer got most of his ability to pay. The hog ring want him to believe that he got some of his money from hogs. Not many farmers will take the word of the hog ring on any question, much less on hogs.

### Our Foreign Trade

as a whole is evenly balanced between the mother country and the states. While a preferential tariff of three-quarters rates has been in force the past year favorable to trading with England, yet it appears that legislation does not annihilate time and distance. Our merchants sending orders to England are obliged to wait weeks for their arrival, while orders placed in the states are filled in a few days. Of course equally as noticeable differences in transportation charges exist. Even under preferential rates, increase of imports from Great Britain were only \$5,000,000, while increased imports from the states mounted up to \$18,000,000. Including American produce (valued at about \$12,000,000) shipped from Canadian ports, the total import and export trade of Canada with Great Britain amounted to \$136,000,000 last year, while exports to and imports from the states amounted to about \$134,000,000. The statement below in millions of dollar, is of peculiar interest at the present time:

Year	Imports		Exports	
	U.S.	GB	U.S.	GB
1889	51	42	44	38
1890	52	43	41	48
1891	54	42	41	49
1892	53	41	39	65
1893	55	43	44	64
1894	53	39	36	69
1895	55	31	41	62
1896	59	33	44	67
1897	62	29	49	70
1898	77	32	46	100
1899	93	37	41	99

The average mechanic has less to show for the past ten years than the average farmer. 'Twill be so in future. Doubt it? Think it all over—you'll see that I'm right.

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