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EDITORIAL

Our Mis-spent Millions

It will have been noticed that the appropriations for the work of the Dominion department of agriculture amounted to something over one million dollars, including an item of \$200,000 for exhibition purposes and \$300,000 for the health of animal's branch, also \$120,000 for the administration of the meat and canned foods act. We suppose it does not make any particular difference which department expenditures of public money are listed under, but the \$620,000 voted for exhibitions and the preservation of the health of animals and humans should not be understood as an appropriation for constructive work in fostering agriculture, except that of the \$200,000 devoted to exhibitions, probably one-third goes to Canadian exhibition while the balance is used to advertise Canada's resources in British and foreign countries. The expenditures for the actual constructive fostering of agriculture may be said to amount to about half a million, and may be divided under the following heads: Experimental farms \$145,000, dairying, fruit and cold storage branches \$125,000, seed branch \$68,000, live-stock branch \$65,000, and about \$75,000 of the exhibition appropriation.

Without going into a discussion as to whether or not governments should foster individual industries such as agriculture, railroading, steel manufacturing, lumbering, etc., it is interesting to notice the difference between what we spend on our militia, and what we use to make our greatest of all industries still more important and capable of supporting in better condition a larger number of our population. The appropriation for militia purposes approximates \$6,000,000. This and a large part of the hundred odd million dollars which we expend upon different public works, bounties, subsidies, etc., is contributed indirectly by the people of whom the rural population is the larger part. Is public sentiment in favor of such a distribution of government money? If so, the government need not be advised differently, but if not, our politicians should be given an opportunity to know what the public thinks. Is it not reasonable that we should expend more of the public money upon the industry that contributes so largely to the production of food and life, than upon a social organization whose object is to destroy life and property?

Some Government Heresies

The establishment of a government poultry farm at Edmonton serves as a text for a protest against the tendency to demand of governments that they shall set an example in certain fields of endeavor which are clearly beyond the sphere of governments. There has been a growing tendency, in many instances amounting to actuality on the part of the public, to reply to government teachers "give us a demonstration," "show us as well as tell us."

Governments have been importuned to do almost everything that requires to be done to satisfy human desires, from the building of trans-continental railroads to the buying of a school reader for "Johnnie," and the governments, being composed of men swayed by popular impulses have been prone to adopt heterodox practices and principles. Or, they have frequently neglected to adopt any plan whatever, when a remedy of ill-advised measures would have remedied a spreading evil.

We do not wish to be understood as protesting against the establishment of experimental farms, or the carrying on of government experimental work, but we do lay it down as a principle of government that it is not the duty of the state to

engage in commercial enterprises, except in the management of public utilities, the nature of which makes them monopolies. This is a principle that should be applied to all commercial propositions that are laid before governments. It will serve to prevent undertakings, which, from their very nature, cannot succeed as government enterprises, or which work an injustice. There is a crying necessity on the part of present day governments to adhere to principles, and not to be carried away by popular agitation that has no ground in national statesmanship.

The evil of such participation of governments in various commercial enterprises is not simply that it is a mal-administration of public trust, but it develops in people a spirit of lackadaisical dependence upon government for the solution of problems that they should wrestle with personally. One of the first essentials in the development of a people with strong personalities, with grim determinations, resourceful and capable, is that they work out for themselves whatever salvation is necessary to their happiness.

This does not mean that governments should abandon the country to the piratical pillage of strongly entrenched corporations that are in positions to inflict injustice, but that they should endeavor to afford to each person justice without partiality, and allow personal enterprise to have its full sway. Nothing is so enervating to the national spirit as to continually pamper it with governmental solicitation, and nothing makes a man so strong as the overcoming of difficulties.

Constitution the Basis of Success

The most essential quality in any class of stock is constitution. It is even more important than type or functional development, for without it these are of little avail, whereas an animal that possesses strong constitution is almost sure to be capable of at least some degree of usefulness in its particular sphere.

Constitution is the basis of success in breeding. The limitations of every breed are bounded by constitution. Within these bounds there is scope for a great variety of attainment, from the meager capacity of the neglected, undeveloped scrub, to the marvellous production of the highly-developed, highly-specialized, abundantly-nourished, judiciously-handled Wisconsin Holstein cow that produced 27,532.5 pounds of milk, and 998.26 pounds of fat (calculated equivalent to 1,247.82 pounds of butter) within a year. Without constitution, a strain of stock is capable of but limited accomplishment, and must sooner or later run to weeds. It will not stand feeding for high development; it will not stand line breeding to fix a type or establish a tendency; will not suit a great variety of conditions; will not make the best use of its feed, and will not afford a large enough number of individuals amongst which to select and breed for high development, because the judicious breeder will require to reject so many animals outright for lack of thrift and stamina; otherwise, he might expect to find a large crop of defects, unsoundness, disease and culls amongst the progeny.

It is true that some individual animals—dairy cows, for instance—may, with care, yield liberally throughout a lifetime, even though seemingly lacking in constitution, perhaps even tuberculous. However, the chances are against their perpetuating their usefulness. Weakness of this kind commonly breeds on and on, eventually showing itself in a preponderance of culls. There are exceptions to this, as to other rules, but, generally speaking, a high average of usefulness is not to be looked for among a delicate breed or strain, while certain it is that the ultimate results which may be wrought with a breed, depend very largely upon the basis of constitution with which the foundation stock is naturally endowed.

One obstacle in the way of placing adequate emphasis upon constitution is the difficulty of discerning it. It is commonly considered that

ample heart-girth, allowing liberal room for the vital organs, such as heart, lungs and digestive apparatus, guarantees constitution. Needless to say, it does not, although animals of such build are more liable to prove robust, for the common-sense reason above indicated. While it is quite right, in judging stock, to lay much stress upon these outward indications of constitution, yet we must remember that mere size of vital organs does not in itself insure vigor. Wide, deep-chested animals may have tuberculosis, though undoubtedly less prone to it than those of opposite conformation. On the other hand, among horses, cattle, sheep and swine, as well as among men, some of the spare, tough, wiry ones, with but very moderate capacity of trunk, possess a very high degree of vigor and stamina. Constitution is not infallibly indicated by build. It cannot be certainly diagnosed in the show-ring. It is evidenced most surely by the health, vigor, thrift, breeding results, and wearing qualities of the herd. These signs the breeder knows better than anyone else, and it behoves him to observe them closely, and to make all possible effort to preserve and increase them, for constitution is the chief cornerstone of success.

Wanted—A New Outlet

Not even when the C. P. R. was first built across the country have the transportation facilities exceeded the requirements. Of late years there has been a constant race between railroad builders and wheat producers with the farmers always beckoning to the railroaders to "come on". Many of those who have thought upon the question have taken the production of the country as a basis of its railway requirements, and assuming that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are capable of producing 900,000,000 bushels of wheat, estimate that something like nine times the present transportation facilities will be required in the near future. Be this as it may, or even grant that there will not be any increase in the need of railway transportation in the West, the fact still remains that we haven't yet attained the most economical route to the world's markets. Nor will the opening of the Hudson's Bay route alone be sufficient outlet for the grain that will find a market in Europe and Eastern Canada. Always there will be a large volume of grain go east, via the Great Lakes and their connections. Hence the demand for the elimination of all possible expense in carrying grain by that route. The Georgian Bay canal is a national necessity. One of the first duties of the Federal government is to provide the best possible route between the grain fields of the West and the sea ports of the East.

A Natural Highway

Eminent engineers have pronounced the Georgian Bay Canal feasible; eminent transportation magnates have emphasized its strategic importance; eminent financiers profess willingness to risk their resources on its construction. Our astute American friends view with misgivings any move to exploit it. Had they such an opportunity to draw traffic to New York as we have to concentrate it towards Montreal, the Erie ditch would be forgotten in a day.

Briefly stated, the survey calculates that, by the canalization of the Lake Nipissing-Ottawa River route, a 440-mile waterway could be provided in ten years, at an outlay of \$100,000,000, having a minimum depth of 22 feet, and designed on such lines as to enable boats of large size (600x60x20 feet draught) to pass from Lake Huron, through pond after pond, and channel after channel, to Montreal, the head of ocean navigation. Starting at Fort William or Port Arthur, this would cut 282 miles from the present Welland-Canal route to Montreal, while it would be 424 miles shorter to Montreal than the present distance from Fort William to New York, via