

a close. We have become so accustomed to singing "God Save the Queen" on festive and other occasions that we fail to comprehend the fact that the great Ruler of the universe has at last answered our prayer. But her benign influence that has moulded the life and character of a great nation, yea, shall we say it, of many nations, who have never called Victoria their ruler, will live as long as this country shall last, reminding its people of the greatest monarch of the world's greatest empire. Truly it has been a great privilege to have lived under so noble and wise a ruler.

It would be pleasing to recall some of the incidents in the life of the Queen that have shown her interest in and true regard for the welfare of the masses, and those in the humbler walks of life. But we shall leave that for others. Since becoming ruler of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, nearly sixty-four years ago, the constitution and the rights of the people have been paramount in all the affairs of the nation. As the long years of her reign have rolled by greater liberties have come to her subjects and more freedom for the laboring classes. Indeed, no people on earth have had greater liberties and more freedom from oppressive legislation than her subjects. For these benefits her name will ever be enshrined in their memories.

The Queen has shown a deep interest in all classes of her subjects and in the agriculturist in no lesser degree than the others. Her late Majesty's interest in agriculture took a most practical turn. The Queen's herds at Windsor have for years been the admiration and pride of every breeder in the Empire. Her practical interest in this line has exerted a wholesome influence in inducing farmers in all parts of her dominions to improve and raise the standard of their live stock. We in Canada, perhaps, have not felt this as much as the farmers of the United Kingdom. There, animals from the Queen's herds could be seen at every large agricultural fair. And they were there not on exhibition only, but were entered in the various competitions, carrying off many of the best prizes. At the great Smithfield show of December last, a report of which appeared in these columns a few weeks ago, animals from the Windsor herds captured the bulk of the championship awards. At Windsor also is to be found one of the most perfect dairies in the world, conducted in the most up-to-date manner, a most valuable object lesson to dairymen everywhere. Thus, by her direct personal interest in these two branches of agriculture our late beloved Queen has shown that the farmer's calling is not beneath the dignity of royalty itself to engage in. She has ennobled the vocation of the agriculturist and recognized it in a way that gives it precedence over all others. Farmers everywhere should cherish this in their memories and take a higher and broader view of their work and sphere of life.

Of the future we have little to say. It will take care of itself. His Majesty King Edward VII. has been trained in a good school. His devotion to his royal mother and his dignified and considerate words on succeeding to the throne stamp him as worthy to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor. He, too, has paid a graceful tribute to the farmer's calling by maintaining one of the best flocks of sheep and horse studs in the British Isles. We have every confidence that the power and prestige which have come to the great empire to

which we are so proud to belong, during Victoria's reign, will be continued for many years to come. And in the interest of peace and justice the world over long may it continue.

## Regulating the Apple Trade

The Hon. Sydney Fisher and Prof. Robertson met an important delegation of fruit growers and representative shippers and packers in Toronto on January 19th, to discuss with them the proposed legislation at Ottawa to regulate the shipping and packing of fruit, and to prevent as far as possible the fraudulent packing of fruit. It will be remembered that last session Mr. Fisher introduced a bill having these objects in view, but as many of the growers and packers objected to some of its provisions, it was thought wise to withdraw the bill and have it submitted to the fruit men for further consideration. During the recess the fruit-growers had drafted another bill, that was more in accordance with their views, and it was for the purpose of discussing in detail the provisions of these bills with a view to coming to some harmonious arrangement in regard to this legislation that the meeting was called.

When the two bills came to be measured up against each other, the essential features were the same, and the only difference seemed to be in some minor details. Mr. Fisher seemed willing to meet the wishes of the packer and fruit-grower alike, so long as they could be harmonized with what is just and right in the matter. In the views expressed there seemed to be a distinct mark of cleavage between the packer and the grower, as shown in the desire of the former to have each barrel of apples labelled so as to show exactly the quality inside, which some of the growers did not think could be carried out in its entirety. The pivotal point of difference appeared to be in the grading of the fruit according to size. There was a strong desire expressed by all parties for legislation of some kind, and we may confidently look forward to some legislation at the coming session that will, in a large measure at least, prevent the fraudulent practices of the past few years in apple packing. It will be in the interests of the packer and grower alike to sacrifice their own personal views to some extent, and agree upon a bill that will best meet the needs of the case and give a fresh stimulus to our growing fruit trade.

Some views were expressed in regard to a standard apple barrel, after which Prof. Robertson gave some valuable hints in regard to the fruit trade of the past year. A frequent examination of barrels of apples at Montreal had shown many that were at a temperature of 85 degrees inside the barrels and 50 degrees outside. Very often apples go on board ship too warm. About half the fruit went in ventilated compartments. Often barrels were stored in the holds of vessels 7 and 8 tiers deep, a practice that caused slacks. Many barrels had not enough hoops on. Shippers should take pains to keep apples cool and should ship in ventilated cars at a temperature of about 20 degrees. There should be ventilated compartments on all vessels for apples, and preparations were under way along this line for next fall. There should, if possible, be some regulation that would prevent the storing of apples more than 3 tiers