

which land values are the highest are those where rural depopulation is the greatest and where the percentage of tenant farmers is the highest. Watch and see if this is not the re-

sult. The remedy is to tax land according to its value. This discourages speculation in land and forces land into full use. In no case should buildings or improvements be taxed.

WHAT ABOUT MARKETS FOR EXPORT POTATOES?

Why the price jumped 10 cents last week. A Review of the Canadian and United States Crop Situation. Removal of Countervailing Duty Advisable.

On Monday, October 13th, potatoes were quoted on the Buffalo produce market at 80c to 90c a bush, which is equivalent to 70c to 80c a bag. On the same day potatoes were quoted at 85c a bag in Toronto. The week previous Toronto quotations had ranged around 75c a bag, the increase of 10c being due to the activity of United States buyers, who have been showing greater interest in Canadian potatoes since the reduction in duty from 25c a bushel to 10c.

In 1912 Canada produced 79,500,000 bushels of potatoes. Of these we consumed at home 78,735,574 bushels; the balance of 764,739 bushels we exported. It is yet too early to give definite figures for the potato crop of Canada this year, but it has been estimated by competent authorities at around 80,000,000 bushels, or a trifle better than last year. Consequently we will have to look for a market for almost a million bushels of potatoes outside of Canada.

One million bushels of potatoes is not much over one per cent. of our total production, and hence the marketing of our surplus does not on the face of it look like a very important proposition. As every good market man knows, however, the money that we can receive for these potatoes that we export practically sets the price for the greater proportion consumed at home. Viewed in this light the finding of a profitable foreign market is a question of as much importance to the man who markets his produce in the nearby city as to the dealer who handles the surplus. The following figures in bushels will show what we have done with our exports in former years:

	1912	1911	1910	1909
To U.S.A.	724,530	971,794	679,428	279,004
To others	28,460	22,854	1,344,762	906,178
Total	752,990	994,648	1,424,190	1,185,182

In 1912 the duty levied on our potatoes going into the United States has been 25c a bushel. This year there is a countervailing duty of 10c a bushel, which may be removed at any time by Act of the Canadian Parliament. It would seem, therefore, that crop conditions in the United States will have a big influence in determining the price of Canadian potatoes. The Orange Field Crop Reporting Bureau, whose estimates in past years have always proved substantially correct, places the total United States crop this year at 250,000,000 bushels, as compared with 267,000,000 in 1912, 279,000,000 in 1911, and 315,000,000 in 1910. That is, the aggregate crop of both Canada and the United States this year is only 309,000,000 bushels, as compared with an aggregate crop of 442,000,000 bushels last year.

WE HAVE THE MONOPOLY

Another factor that will influence the market is that potatoes from European countries are practically barred out of the United States by the quarantine against disease tubers. The United States market, therefore, must depend solely upon the domestic and Canadian supply.

In the past three or four years the range in prices between United States and Canadian points have been from 5c to 35c in favor of the farmer. The difference has averaged around 10c and 12c a bushel, or

just about the amount of the countervailing duty now ruling. It would seem, therefore, that the extent of the trading in potatoes between Canada and the United States will depend largely on whether or not the Canadian Parliament sees fit to remove the duty on United States potatoes coming into Canada, which would secure for Canadian growers a similar privilege on United States markets.

U. S. PRICES NOT FALLING

To date there has been no noticeable influence exerted by the new United States tariff towards reducing the price of potatoes in this country. We have only a small quantity to offer them at best, and even were the duty removed entirely, it is doubtful if United States quotations would be lowered, appreciably as a consequence. Even with a duty of 10c there will be large exports of potatoes from this country. If the crop has been marketed, farmers may look for a further increase in potato quotations on this side of the States tariff to thank for an increase running from 10c to 15c.

Probably the Maritime provinces of Canada will derive more benefit from access to this new market that will open other sections of Canada. These provinces produce an immense number of potatoes for export, in some years supplying as much as 75 per cent. of the potatoes consumed in the city of Toronto. The New England and New York states are nearer to them than are the Montreal and Toronto markets. In addition, Maritime growers can take advantage of cheap transportation by water in reaching the United States, instead of paying heavy freight bills to reach Canadian markets. When we state that last year potatoes were selling in Prince Edward Island for 30c a bushel, the benefit that that province may receive from easily accessible and profitable markets may be easily realized.

Items of Interest

The Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association, Canadian Building, Ottawa, announces that the report of the Fifteenth Annual Convention held in Winnipeg, on July 8, 9, is now available. Copies may be had free upon application to him.

Colic is the expression of intestinal pain from whatever source. There is no specific remedy for colic, but if the treatment of what is usually included under the name, is followed, remedy may be obtained: (a) Relief of pain; (b) Evacuation of intestinal contents; (c) Elimination of intestinal gases. It is best to have treatment by a properly trained veterinarian.

This measure of local option in taxation that is being asked for would be a step in the right direction, and helping along the work the Hon. Mr. Duff is so ably doing through his department—inducing the farmers to improve their land. No reasonable man thinks that because a farmer improves his farm he should have to pay additional taxes for doing it; for doing something that will benefit the whole community.—E. C. Drury, Simcoe Co., Ont.

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