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EDITORIAL.

American Live Stock Tariffs.

Following the editorial reference in our last issue to the folly of the extreme protectionist customs tariff of the United States Government, which is recoiling upon themselves after the manner of a boomerang, we call attention to another phase of their customs regulations which is particularly vexing, not only to Canadian stockmen, but also to many of their own people, and that is the taxing of pure-bred stock going into their country for breeding purposes and the improvement of stock, except such as are imported by American citizens and registered in American breed records, while Canada admits duty free all pure-bred stock registered in reputable records, whether brought in by Canadian citizens or those of other countries. While Canadian stock-breeders are not disposed to deal with this question in a spirit of retaliation, acknowledging as they do the value to them of the trade with our neighbors in these lines, the feeling is certainly growing that, unless a reasonable reciprocity in the pedigreed stock trade can be arranged, Canada should meet the present conditions by imposing duty on all stock from foreign countries not registered in our Canadian records and imported by Canadian citizens. The establishment of the National Pedigree Records makes it possible to have Canadian records opened for any breeds for which we have none at present, and if it is considered that others are needed, it is open to friends of such breeds to organize an association and apply for a charter under the provisions of the Dominion Act on that behalf, so that no injustice or hardship would be imposed by meeting our neighbors with a reciprocity of tariffs in this line, where we have not reciprocal trade. A resolution requesting the Canadian Minister of Agriculture to adopt practically the same customs regulations regarding the importation of breeding stock from the States that they impose upon Canadian stock going into their country, was unanimously passed by the convention of breeders at Ottawa last year, when the national records scheme was accepted, and that this memorial has not been acted upon is probably due to a sense of the narrowness of the scheme and the hope that our neighbors would reconsider their regulations and adopt a more liberal prescription, which they might safely do, since authorized Canadian records are of quite as high a standard as the American, and, indeed higher than some of theirs which are accepted under their customs rules. But it is a question whether the patience of our stockmen has not been tried to the limit of reasonable endurance by seeing stock brought into the country duty free by aliens and sold for good prices at our doors, while we are debarred of the same privilege of doing business with the country from which this stock is coming.

For an example of protectionism gone mad, the action of the executive of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association in exacting a registration fee of \$100 each for animals imported from Great Britain, takes the cake as an evidence of neighborliness, as it is evidently aimed at and intended to tie the hands of Canadian breeders who have shown greater enterprise in importing high-class stock in recent years than have American breeders. It is, we believe, true that the rank and file of the Shorthorn breeders of the United States disapprove of this tax, but the control of their herdbook being in the hands of a clique who by the use of proxies elect them-

selves to succeed themselves in office, the society is practically helpless, and the treasury is being unnecessarily augmented, an enormous surplus being piled up for some one to steal some day, as was done on a former occasion in the history of the same association.

While our neighbors across the line have shown splendid business enterprise in many lines of trade, they appear to Canadians to be afraid to meet our people on equal ground of competition, and many features of their tariff and live-stock regulations seem to us more befitting a Chinese government or corporation than a great agricultural and manufacturing country.

To Wed or Not to Wed?

In this issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" we publish another instalment of communications upon that perennial and popular theme, the non-marriage of the farmer's son, or the prevalence of old bachelors on Canadian farms. Since we suggested the subject for consideration a couple of months ago, the interest has never once abated. At the supper tables and by the firesides in every agricultural community in the land it has been the favorite topic for discussion. Old and young have alike shared in the enquiry, Why doesn't the young man marry? And why this alarming drift into bachelorhood? The subject has spread into the newspapers, one Toronto scribe gravely attributing the situation to the terrors of the country charivari, which the rising manhood of the land dared no longer to face! From all quarters letters have poured into the editorial mail-basket, but it is worthy of note that the individual most seriously concerned, viz., the old bachelor himself, has had the least to say. Just why we shall not try to disclose, though we have our surmises. Everybody has assumed that the complaint is well founded; at all events, nobody has proposed a Royal Commission to determine its real prevalence, and to report as to how a reform could be brought about, with the probable suggestion, among others, that the bachelor Dominion Minister of Agriculture might be setting a better example in that respect to the agricultural rank and file.

In the discussions, the blame has been very generally distributed among the young farmers themselves, the young ladies, and the hard-hearted or indifferent fathers. Summing up all that has been said, it must be confessed that most complaints have centered about the want of parental encouragement to sons who purpose to be farmers, in the matter of remuneration, or some tangible interest in the farm and its operations after reaching years of discretion. At the same time, sons should not forget what, as a general rule, is due their fathers, and which can never be altogether repaid. Matters of this sort require tact, patience and forbearance in their adjustment. One lesson seems to us very clear, and that is the imperative need for a more general manifestation of mutual confidence between parents and children. If fathers and sons, more particularly, frankly shared with each other their hopes, purposes and plans, there would be fewer heart-burnings, the wheels of life would run more smoothly, and young men would develop more self-respecting and self-reliant characters, and the ever-recurring complaints of young men leaving the farm would be less frequent.

The correspondence indicates, also, that the daughters of the farm do well to keep in their mind that homemaking is an ideal to be cherished as one of the very highest to which any woman

can aspire, and that the best training and the best gifts are none too good for its proper discharge. The sons of the farm, too, have been reminded—and no one should forget this—that the calling of the farmer deserves to be more highly respected than it apparently has been by a good many engaged in it. Among the secular occupations of this country none rank higher, and in its demands upon capability it is unequalled. Morally and intellectually, and in their personal habits, young men must now equip and acquit themselves in a manner to command the respect of the community and enable them to take their proper place in the world, rendering their fellows some service worthy the name. Other essential conditions being mutually fulfilled, the gaining possession of what the "Old Cynic" describes as an "Ideal Partner," is not the summum bonum. The young man must obey the law of self-sacrifice, without which his nature never can come to its best, and nowhere else can this be better learned than amid the amenities of domestic life when established according to the principles laid down in the correspondence, which might now fittingly conclude.

A Forward Policy Needed in the Post-office Department.

For several reasons Canadians are particularly interested in the recent public utterances of Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, the new Dominion Postmaster-General, before the constituency of North York, which will be taken as indicative of the direction he expects to follow in the administration of his important department. One is an anxiety to know his attitude towards the high-handed salary grab last session at Ottawa. As a man whose integrity and ability are esteemed, and whose skirts are so far clear as an administrator, any promises made by Mr. Aylesworth will be received with confidence that he will endeavor to give them effect. It is gratifying that in his opening campaign speech at Newmarket, Ont., on Nov. 2nd, he took emphatic exception to the indiscriminate pensioning of ex-Ministers of the Crown, promising to use his influence to have introduced an amendment to the provision that every ex-minister who had served five years should be entitled to a life pension, no matter how big a rogue he had been, or how disgraceful the crime for which he might have been retired. That such an amendment would carry seems quite likely in view of the strong and vigorously-expressed public feeling on the indemnity bill, as a whole, which has doubtless already led the Government to perceive the wisdom of making some modification to appease to some extent an outraged public. Mr. Aylesworth's accession to the Cabinet is timely, and calculated, in some measure, to give effect to the will of the people.

Referring to the Post-office Department, Mr. Aylesworth very modestly held up Sir William Mulock as a model, stating that his highest hope was to carry out the plans and policy inaugurated by his predecessor. One of them was the extension of the rural telephone, anent which he said, with noncommittal circumspection: "Just so soon as the progress of the country warrants it, either the business men or the Government will undertake the extension of the telephone into the very thinly-settled parts of the country, and into, it may be—and I hope some day it will be—the household of every farmer in the land."

A question of greater or at least equal importance, was rural mail delivery, for which he suggested using the annual surplus in the Post-office Department. However, he professed an