

A striking illustration of the value of plant and seed selection, as advocated by Prof. Robertson, is reported in the Maritime Farmer of July 19th, by a New Brunswick correspondent. He says: "A few days ago, while visiting a neighbor, the conversation turned to berries, and then he showed me a patch. It was small, but they were plants to be proud of. His plan is as follows: He tells his children, when they are picking, to carry along some little sticks, pieces of laths, and when they find an extra strong plant with a good fruit stem and plenty of berries, to put a stick down alongside it. After the berries are picked, he takes up these plants and sets them out in a bed, letting them throw out runners in all directions. In the spring he has some fine plants to set, and his berries are improving every year."

W. A. CLEMONS.

Improvement in the size and quality of the gooseberry is one of the most noticeable features of our horticultural advancement. From the old-time small, acid-flavored berries to the pleasant-tasting large fruit of to-day is a far cry. Probably the largest of the latter we have ever seen was recently sent us by Mr. Wm. Dick, of Brant Co., Ont. In the sample were berries measuring from four to four and a half inches in circumference. This fruit was grown on bushes imported from Scotland two years ago.

King Christian, of Denmark, who is in feeble health, refuses to take the advice of his physicians, to seek quiet and rest.

It is reported that Russia has agreed not to send warships through the Dardanelles while the Far Eastern war is in progress.

The Embassies at Constantinople have been warned that the Macedonian revolutionists are planning to kidnap a foreign Consul, in order to force intervention.

Speaking at Sacramento, Cal., Governor Carter, of the Hawaiian Islands, declared that annexation to the United States had not been a commercial success so far as the islands are concerned.

The correspondent of the London Times, at Paris, says the Russian Baltic fleet is preparing to weigh anchor at any moment, and it is possible that its departure for the Far East has already taken place.

The Senate Chamber at Ottawa was recently the scene of a very sharp controversy. Several members of the Upper House claimed the floor at one time, and some very personal remarks were interchanged before the Speaker could restore order.

The Combes Government in France and the Vatican have come to open rupture by the recall of the Papal Nuncio at Paris and the French Ambassador to the Holy See. This will eventually mean the separation of the church and state in France.

Lieutenant-General Von Trotha, Commander-in-Chief of the forces in German Southwest Africa, wires that the second company of the 2nd Field Regiment was attacked at 8 o'clock on the morning of August 2nd, at Okateitei, by 150 Hereros. The Hereros were repulsed, leaving fifty dead. The Germans lost three wounded, besides two natives killed and one wounded.

The Ziegler relief expedition arrived at Vardo, Norway, on board the Frithjof, July 3rd, on its return from the north. Owing to ice and fog, the Frithjof did not succeed in reaching the America having on board the Ziegler arctic expedition. The Frithjof will sail north again as soon as possible, with coal for the America. The America sailed from Tronhajem for Franz Josef Land, June 23rd, 1903.

The British expedition into Thibet, headed by Col. Younghusband, has reached Lhasa, the capital and sacred city of the Thibetans. No recent fighting was necessary, the Dalai Lama fleeing to a neighboring monastery, where he threatens to remain three years. Food has been promised the British soldiers, and assistance in settling disputes in question. The appearances of the capital city are very prepossessing, and surroundings fertile and prosperous looking. Thibet, it is now expected, will be opened up for trade, so that it no longer will be the great sealed kingdom.

Judging by the despatches from the Far East, would appear that in their attack on Port Arthur on July 26th, 27th and 28th, the Japanese were severely worsted. The Russians report the loss of the Japanese at 10,000 men, but this is only half the number of the first report, and will likely be still further reduced. The Japanese are still very close to Port Arthur, so close, in fact, that the fleet in the harbor did the considerable damage in the recent attack. A renewed assault and the fall of the great fortress may occur

any time, or may be long delayed. In the north Kourapatkin has largely reinforced his army, which now numbers 200,000 men, and it is expected that he will give battle very shortly.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain reopened the fiscal campaign on August 4th by addressing a meeting of ten or twelve thousand persons from the surrounding agricultural counties in the Riding School of Welbeck Abbey near Worksop, Nottinghamshire. He maintained that the misery of their grandfathers was due, not to the price of grain, as alleged by the free traders, but to the lack of employment. It was, therefore, the duty of the people to ascertain what policy would give most employment and most wages. He proposed to give agriculture the same advantages as manufacturers by imposing an import duty on the chief products, namely, fifty cents per quarter on wheat, and such duty on flour as would result in the whole milling of wheat being done in this country. He would place a similar duty of fifty cents per quarter on every kind of grain except maize, which was an important foodstuff, and five per cent. on meat, dairy products, butter, cheese and preserved milk, poultry, eggs, vegetables and fruit.

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Russian credit at home has been seriously shaken since the war began.

Natural gas has been found in the neighborhood of Sheep Creek, near Calgary, Alta.

Russel Sage, the famous American financier, celebrated his 88th birthday on the 4th inst., by attending to business in his New York office.

The steamer Halifax recently landed three hundred and fifty French immigrants, accompanied by three priests, who will all settle near Winnipeg, Man.

The proceedings of the Canadian House of Common



were pleasantly varied on the evening of the 4th inst., by the presentation of a resolution expressive of the esteem in which Lord and Lady Minto are held, and of the regret at the necessity of their early departure from Canada. The address was moved by the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and seconded by Mr. R. L. Borden, Leader of the Opposition. His Excellency prorogued Parliament this week, and when it again meets his term as Governor-General of Canada will have expired.

Mackenzie & Mann have filed plans with the Minister of Railways, of their proposed Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Railway. The plans are for a road from a point on the Great Northern, near Quebec, across the new Quebec bridge, and up the valley of the Etchenun River to the international boundary. Crossing the State of Maine, an air line is taken, with Woodstock, N.B., as the objective point. From Woodstock the line runs to Fredericton, thence via Moncton, through the northern portions of the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland to Pugwash. From Pugwash the company propose utilizing the short line of the Intercolonial to New Glasgow, where they will connect with the proposed line which Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann are constructing to Country Harbor, N.S., the proposed new Atlantic port. A branch is laid down on the map from the main line down the valley of the St. John River to the city of St. John, N.B. Mackenzie & Mann, it is understood, have already secured connections between Quebec and the great lakes, via the Great Northern, which connects with the Canada Atlantic Railway, affording a very direct route to Depot Harbor, at Parry Sound. With such a connection in the east, and with the Canadian Northern already extending from Port Arthur to near Prince Albert, Sask., it will be a comparatively short time until Canada shall have a third transcontinental highway.

Dear Sirs,—Kindly renew my subscription to your valuable paper. I would not do without it for twice the price. Enclose find postal note for \$1.50.

Chapman, Ont. **HARRY FOSTER.**

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION AT OTTAWA.

Occasionally, the representative of the King in opening Parliament utters a forecast of some legislation that will directly affect agriculture, but no bills of this class were promised by His Excellency in his address from the throne on March 10th last for the session of nineteen hundred and four. Nevertheless, if all the measures introduced had passed through the necessary stages to make them law, the session would have been an important one from the farmers' standpoint.

When the session went into the fifth month the legislators decided to finish as soon as possible, and as a result half a dozen Government bills were struck off the order paper. Two measures of the Minister of Agriculture were included. One of those was a bill to control the sale of seed grain; another provided for the incorporation of Seed-growers' Associations.

The legislation which will affect the farming interests of the country considerably is Sir Richard Cartwright's Grain Inspection Act. The estimates provide for some expenditures for new work. The grants for exhibitions, both foreign and domestic, were larger than usual, and attest Mr. Fisher's faith in this kind of advertising. This article is written with a view to giving a survey of the session from the farmer's standpoint.

The grain inspection act consolidates many amendments that have been made from time to time to the General Inspection Act. Some of these amendments conflicted with others. All anomalies were removed, and some new features introduced. Sir Richard Cartwright's chief purpose in enacting an effective grain inspection measure is to maintain the reputation of the Canadian product on the other side of the water. Delegations from Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg appeared before a special committee appointed to consider the bill. The question upon which there was

The cartoon depicts a river scene. In the background, a bridge is visible with the text '75 YDS.' written below it. A large, irregular area in the middle ground is outlined with a dashed line and labeled 'PENNING SPACE'. A small rectangular sign with the words 'PENNS PENNS PENNS' is floating in the river. In the foreground, there are some trees and a fence. The cartoon is signed 'J. C. 1914' in the bottom left corner.

The new act has provisions for the East, the Manitoba division, and some regulations applying to both. A general provision states that a Chief Inspector, under the Minister, shall have general supervision and control of inspectors. The inspectors shall be obliged to act when called upon by the owners of grain. Boards of grain examiners may be appointed by the Government to test applicants for certificates as inspectors. At the beginning of October each year, the chief inspector shall furnish official standards of grain, and in cases where a considerable portion of a crop has been injured in a general way, a special grade may be established. On the recommendations of the Boards of Trade of Toronto and Montreal, the Government may appoint a Grain Survey Board, which shall act as a court of appeal from the official inspectors. The fees for inspection of grain in sacks shall be one-third of a cent per cental, and for inspecting grain in bulk, per cental, load, forty cents. The price for cargoes, per cental, thousand bushels, shall be fifty cents. It is provided in the special provisions for this section, that cereals and grains produced in the Northwest Territories and Manitoba, passing through Winnipeg going East, shall be inspected in Winnipeg or district, and that this test shall be final between the Western man and the Winnipeg dealer. Any grain not inspected west of Fort William must be inspected at that point, and grain not inspected in Winnipeg may be re-inspected there. Where the grain from any elevator is being systematically reduced in quality, the Chief Inspector shall instruct the officials that such grain will not be allowed to pass except on a lower grade. If the officers find grain of this character, they shall be obliged to take immediate action. The Grain Survey Board for the Western division will consist of twelve persons. Six will be appointed by the City of Winnipeg, three by the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba, and three by the Minister of Agriculture for the Northwest Territories. The Governor-in-Council will control this board, whose offices shall be at Winnipeg.

In putting the new law into force, all the provisions