

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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EDITORIAL.

Postage on Papers.

Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, has introduced a Bill in Parliament by which it is proposed to impose postage to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ a cent per pound, beginning next year, upon newspapers published in Canada, except those circulating within a ten-mile radius of the point of publication. Power is also asked to proclaim a two cent letter rate, which will be appreciated, but no date is mentioned. Though Canadian papers will have to pay for the use of the Canadian mail service, the Yankee periodical will travel free, unless present arrangements are modified. In 1897 the postal department carried papers to the extent of 16,500,000 lbs., which for the cost of bags and post office and railway service is regarded as becoming a serious matter for the revenues of the country. By the proposed Bill it is expected to collect over \$80,000, which must either come out of the publisher, the reader, or be shared by the two. The not unreasonable theory of free transmission is that the press, like the railway, is a quasi public institution rendering public service, and is based upon some such principle as the State undertaking to print and distribute gratis vast quantities of literature in the form of reports, etc., at public expense, but, unfortunately, much of the latter is simply wasted, for obvious reasons.

We presume the papers carried include a great deal of political campaign literature, fake advertising sheets, and also some legitimate periodicals, which, being subsidized as organs by Provincial Governments, are thus given an unfair advantage as compared with self-sustaining journals carried on by private enterprise. Now, if such abuses as these are corrected, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is not disposed to object to paying a fair rate for the postal service rendered, though it will certainly prove a considerable tax, and indirectly to that extent prejudicially affecting agricultural interests. The Finance Minister, Hon. Mr. Fielding, in his budget speech, the other day, told Parliament that the prosperity of the nation was due to the condition of agriculture; and here is a proposal adversely affecting the greatest agency for promoting this very industry. Though we notice the point is not being urged, yet it may be mentioned that for years past and at the present time we have scores of enterprises heavily protected, but free transmission has been the one concession granted publishers. The imposition of postage will fall mainly upon the papers of greatest merit and value, those which circulate throughout the whole country, such as the big dailies, an agricultural journal like the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, going to every section of the Dominion, and the religious or church papers; but we fail to see why the last mentioned class should be exempted altogether, as an Ottawa journal suggests. Let us have no class legislation. Treat all fairly and alike, and the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and its constituency will not complain; but if the vexatious and discriminating ten-mile radius and other exemptions are made, it greatly weakens the effect. Iveness of the Bill, and we very much fear that when the expenses consequent upon the extra trouble and labor involved in working the zone feature are considered, the prospective revenue (which is apparently based upon the total weight of papers carried last year) will prove disappointing to the Administration; while if the ten-mile and other exemptions are allowed, and the abuses above referred to are not remedied, then taxing the few remaining papers will be an unfair proceeding.

The press of seasonable articles on our table has rendered it necessary to make the present as well as the previous issue a twenty-eight page edition, instead of the usual size of twenty-four pages. We need hardly apologize to our readers for this surfeit of good things, though one or two have protested that we are giving too much for the money.

The Horse Show and Horse Breeding.

The announcement for the holding of the fourth annual Canadian Horse Show in the Armouries, Toronto, May 4th to 7th, in connection with a grand military tournament, presents a fine opportunity for lovers of the equine race to witness what promises to be the greatest display of saddle and harness horses that has ever been made in Canada. The date of the show may possibly be too late to ensure a large entry of the breeding classes, though we are assured that the entries in these classes have already exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the management. To those who are interested in the breeding of harness and road horses generally, the exhibition will doubtless prove a rare opportunity for the study of the class of horses needed to supply the market's demand, both home and foreign. In this connection we commend to the perusal of breeders the observations of our Scottish correspondent in his letter in this issue with regard to the class of horses required for the British market, and the principles of breeding indicated as likely to produce the desired type. "Scotland Yet" is an acknowledged authority on horse-breeding, a close observer and a good judge, and his opinions on this subject are worthy of careful consideration.

The decided advance in prices paid for high-class draft horses in the past year, and the acknowledged scarcity of such in the country, may well lead those who have mares suitable for breeding this class to consider the advantage of mating them with sires of the stamp calculated to produce horses of the weight and quality required for farm work and especially for the export trade, which will take at paying prices all we can produce as long as they are good enough and up to the standard of that market for the best. Mr. B. H. Bull, in an excellent article in this issue, deals with this phase of the subject, as well as the care and management of farm horses, and the time is opportune for an intelligent consideration of the topic in order that a proper selection of sires may be made, keeping in view the essential qualities of size, soundness, action, and endurance.

Model Farms by the Dozen.

A deputation consisting of Messrs. James Conmee, M. P. P.; Hugh Blain, of the Toronto Board of Trade; Messrs. Wood, M. P., and MacPherson, M. P., Hamilton's smelting interest; Mayor McKellar, Fort William; Col. Ray, D. F. Burk, T. Marks, J. P. Donnelly, and Rev. R. A. Burris, immigration agent, representing the Rainy River country in north-western Ontario, waited upon Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa, recently, asking that a model farm be established near Fort William, in view of the C. P. R. and the proposed Ontario and Rainy River railway, so that travellers might see it in passing, and thus attract attention to the good agricultural district said to exist there, and become the nucleus of a settlement such as that which occurred in connection with the Ontario Pioneer Farm at Wabigoon. The first cost was to be about \$10,000, and the annual cost, if operated without frills, about \$1,000 per year afterwards. Mr. Fisher told the deputation that he had to be careful about making promises, as he already had requests for model farms in no less than eleven constituencies! At this rate the model farm business would soon degenerate into a costly fad. There are too many frills in connection with some of the Government farms already in existence, and Mr. Fisher will do well to set his foot down firmly upon such propositions. The best and most successful of Canadian farmers were not of the spoon-fed sort who had to wait till the Government set up a model farm next door to show them "how to do it," nor did they wait to be carried

into the country in parlor cars with ornamental farms along the way to tickle the fancy. Such proposals will, no doubt, be welcomed by parties anxious to dispose of sites at \$10,000 apiece and the officials who are to operate the farm with or without frills, but we do not think they will be approved by the general mass of farmers who help largely to foot the bills.

Tree Planting and Forest Preservation.

In our issue of April 1st in a short editorial note we drew attention to the deplored fact that our country is being rapidly denuded of forest trees. Since then we have received a number of stirring letters, some of which we publish in this issue, and hope they will have the effect of awakening a live interest in forest preservation, restoration, and the planting of trees generally. The ground is so thoroughly covered by our correspondents that we will not do more than refer to a few facts regarding the rate at which the timber is being removed from the land and sawn into lumber for various purposes in the vicinity of London, Ont., taking this district simply as an example.

We find upon inquiry that four of the largest concerns, viz., those of Mr. Adam Beck, The Columbia Handle Co., Gillea & Sons, and the London & Petrolia Barrel Co., situated in the City of London, work up annually from logs cut within a radius of some 40 miles, with one firm reaching out about 100 miles, about 1,800,000 feet (board measure) of oak, ash, elm, maple, butternut, birch, basswood, etc., for the manufacture of boxes, barrels, handles and other purposes. We are also aware that within 40 miles of London there are four other similar mills that together cut annually about 2,100,000 feet of timber. Besides these there are a large number of smaller mills sawing up to 150,000 feet annually. When it is remembered that this entire amount, besides the thousands of cords of firewood, is being taken each year from the farms of so small an area of Ontario, while practically nothing is being done to counteract the destroying influence, surely it is time to wake up to the gravity of the situation and endeavor to preserve what still remains, and to systematically make a move in the direction of reforestation. Again, we learn that throughout south-western Ontario a number of extensive black ash forests have been completely destroyed by reason of the land being drained by government ditches. There have been losses from severe storms blowing down timber, and in many localities we find that valuable blocks of timber are being sold at auction in half-acre lots to individuals, by whom they are soon stripped. Acres and acres have completely died out and are tumbling into a conglomerate confusion because their natural and necessary conditions and surroundings have been removed. We commend the letters to our readers and trust to hear from others who feel an interest in this very important subject. It is one of the most serious confronting the country to-day.

Canadian Butter and Cheese in England.

The letter we publish elsewhere in this issue from Messrs. Hodgson Bros., of Liverpool, Eng., one of the oldest and most widely known of British importing houses, conveys encouraging information regarding the standing and price of Canadian creamery butter in that market. The outlook is most promising. A couple of years ago it was hardly ever mentioned in their quotations; subsequently it figured for best at about 75s. or 80s., but now we find it practically at the top, quoted at from 100 to 105, with "scarcity of supplies." Canadian cheese is also held in higher esteem every day, but in regard to both products our correspondents throw out several important suggestions in their letter that Canadian butter and cheese makers will do well to consider.