

Sir Crossley (imp.).

Clydesdale stallion; brown; three years old. Imported by T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont., and sold to R. J. Norton, V. S., Owen Sound. Sire Baron of Buchlyvie; dam by Enigma.

every Ontario farmer, should deprecate the turning of the ratification of this agreement into a party issue. This has never been a party question in this country. Both political parties have most earnestly desired it in the past. From the time of the abrogation of the old Reciprocity Treaty, in 1866, that great statesman, Sir John Macdonald, spent his life sedulously endeavoring to bring about a similar trade arrangement. His very last appeal to the country was for a further mandate from the people along this line. And now, when we have it almost within our grasp, why should we allow the professional politicians of this country to divert us from the course?

In the past, a spirit of blinded partyism has been the greatest curse with which the Canadian farmer has surrounded himself. By it he has made himself the football of professional politicians to such a degree that, to-day, he has no effective voice upon the floor of Parliament. If he will only profit from the action of other industrial lines in this country, and give the timely warning that, henceforth, the true interests of Canadian agriculture are his politics, he will at once awaken the dawn of a better day, which will place the public life of this country on a higher plane, and enable himself to sufficiently vindicate the pre-eminence of his position as a member of this all-important industry.

This present issue furnishes the opportunity of a lifetime to the farmers of Canada, and if they will only follow the lead of the "big agricultural journals," they will be guided wisely through the storm, and into the free and open ports beyond.

Huron Co., Ont. THOS. McMILLAN.

Change Would Be for the Better.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your correspondent from Essex County appears to me to take a very narrow view of the reciprocity question, from the standpoint of a Canadian, and not simply a resident of Essex County. Take the horse question. He does not mention that there is not a year passes but some of our best draft horses find their way to Detroit and Toledo markets, though the duties amount to from \$50 to \$60 per head, but makes a point of the fact that horses 21 years old can be sold as high as \$100 each. What do these figures mean? Simply that the producer of good horses is under a handicap. The settlers in the Northwest, who are usually the purchasers of the cheap horses, or those termed "serviceably sound," has to pay two, or in the case of the man who bought the 21-year-old mare, three times what the animal is actually worth. And our Government are actually putting a hardship on those who are striving to wrest a home from the great bare prairie by not allowing him to buy his first team where he can get them the cheapest. The Government is spending large sums of money to settle the Northwest. The homesteader is usually a man of small means. Few of them can afford a really good team. At the present time, a "serviceably sound" horse, 21 years old, will cost him \$100 and send him to the Northwest.

Reciprocity would benefit the breeder of really choice horses, and be a boon to the homesteader who has to use cheap horses to get started in the world. Now, a patriotic citizen and loyal Canadian should be willing to sacrifice a little to help his brother Canadian in starting a home that will help to build up the empire. Would it not be better to assist in the growth and expansion of our country than to simply watch it for several decades, as your correspondent says he has done?

Then, when considering the fruit question, he does not take the broad view. Why should not apples and peaches be as free to enter Canada as oranges and bananas? How can our Prairie Provinces expect to get their fruit from a Province that has to import apples from California?

One would infer from your correspondent that Pacific Coast growers were dumping their apples on Essex County markets, and crowding our own product off the market, when, as a matter of fact, there are no Essex County apples. We have to buy Pacific Coast apples, or go without; and, at the prices being paid, Australia growers could ship to us at a profit. Essex can grow apples just as good and just as cheaply as California, but it doesn't. The fruit industry is not in its infancy in Ontario, but in its dotage.

If corn had not been placed on the free list several years ago, what consternation the corn-growers would have had. The measure was opposed, and ruin predicted. Cheap corn from the Western States would make it unprofitable for corn to be grown in Canada. But such has not been the case. In this year of scarcity in Canada, the corn-growers here are availing themselves of the cheap corn of the United States, and are bringing in great quantities. They would suffer a hardship if they were not allowed to do so.

And in other things we farmers can be made to fear the wily politicians, who have really something besides the farmers' interests at heart, that reciprocity would injure us. But it will not be the case. Should the negotiations be successful, individually we will see little change; but what there is, will be for the better. Two neighbors can get along without each other all right, but it is much better to be on friendly terms.

J. O. DUKE.
Essex Co., Ont.

Fire and Axe.

"That for every foot of timber which has been cut in Canada by lumbermen at least seven feet have been destroyed by fire," is the startling statement made in a bulletin by H. R. MacMillan, one of the assistant Inspectors of Forest Reserves, a technical ly-trained forester, and frequent correspondent to "The Farmer's Advocate." Senator W. C. Edwards, president of the Canadian Forestry Association, and one of the best-known and most successful lumbermen of the Ottawa Valley, is on record as saying that in that valley ten times as

much timber has been destroyed by fire as has been cut by lumbermen.

The bulletin concludes with a summary of Canadian forest fires during the year 1909 (in which, however, figures for Quebec are not included). This year was not a bad year for fires in the forest, the value of the timber and improvements destroyed being \$210,400 (timber being valued at \$1 per thousand). The expense of fire-fighting (Government and private) amounted to \$331,821.42. Except for this fire protection, the loss would undoubtedly have been much greater.

The C. P. R. as Farmer.

The Canadian Pacific is making use of about 400 acres of its farm of 480 acres lying about 12 miles east of Winnipeg for nursery purposes. The object of this large nursery is to grow trees, shrubs and hardy perennials suitable to Western conditions, for use along its line, the trees to be planted for shelter belts along the main line, and the shrubs and perennials for the decoration of station gardens of the West. These are to be shipped to section foremen and station agents, who will be instructed by an expert horticulturist how to plant the material, and how to lay it out to the best advantage. As a side line to the nursery, and for the purpose of crop rotation, vegetables and a small amount of grain are grown each year. As the C. P. R. is not accustomed to running any of its many lines of business at a loss, they wish to make this land produce to its limit. They are, therefore, subsoiling, liming, fertilizing, and keeping careful records, so as to determine whether these operations pay.

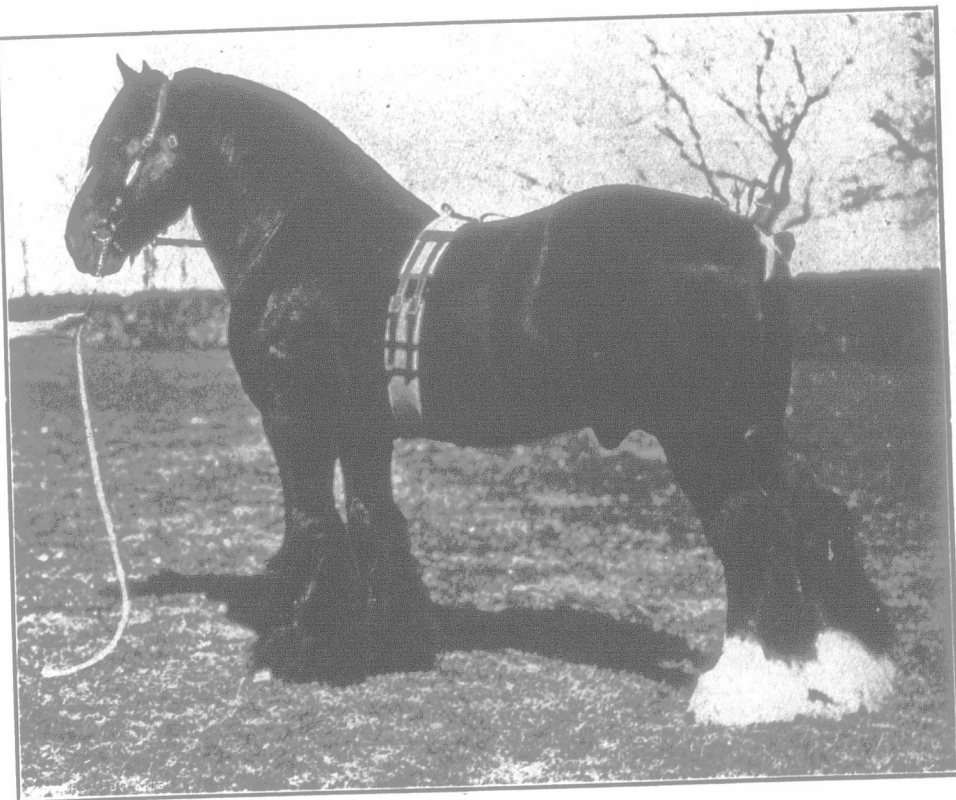
There is a greenhouse for propagating bedding material for the larger parks along their lines.

About 100 pure-bred Plymouth Rocks are kept as a side line to consume by-products at the nursery, and, incidentally, to supply eggs and chickens for the dining cars, and thus reduce the running expense.

HORSES.

Hair on the Shire.

A good deal of discussion is going on in England just now among Shire breeders as to whether or not the Shire should be bred with less hair. Opinion seems about evenly divided. Some breeders favor breeding clean-legged horses, believing such will find better sale, whether it be to work on the farms or in the cities, or for sale as breeders on this side of the Atlantic. By some it is claimed that hair is protection against such diseases as grease, scratches, etc., and an indication of plenty of bone, while those against the hirsute adornment claim that it really favors the diseases it is supposed to prevent, is more useful to conceal faulty formation of the foot and ankle than it is valuable as an indication of the quantity and quality of the bone underneath it. As a rule, hair is condemned as a useless ornament, detrimental, rather than advantageous, to the draft horse—a finishing touch that is useful for show purposes, but not yet shown to be of any commercial value. Says the Farmer and Stock-breeder: We are not unmindful that in the past all the great Shire sires have been horses very full of hair, and that naturally their produce



Gaer Conqueror (25218).

Shire stallion; bay; foaled 1905. Supreme champion London Shire Show, 1911. Sire Montford Jupiter.