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## Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

### Gen Hutton Recalled.

Major-General Hutton, the Imperial officer, who was sent out to Canada a couple of years ago to command the Canadian militia, has just received his quietus. Frequent reference has been made in Farm and Home to the gallant major-general, and to the danger of some of his military schemes. His pet idea was to establish an immense standing army in Canada, for which the farmers would have had to pay the heaviest part.

A few days ago it was announced that the major-general had been recalled to England and that he was going out to South Africa. The matter was brought up in parliament and from the explanation made by the premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it transpires that the real reason why Major-General Hutton is leaving the country is that he was guilty of indiscretion and insubordination, two cardinal faults in a military officer. He apparently wished to run things to suit himself, without consulting the government or his responsible head, the minister of militia, and he was forcibly reminded that Canada enjoys responsible government and that its servants must obey orders.

It is rather remarkable that all the Imperial officers who have been sent over to Canada have got into trouble for attempting to run things with a high hand. There is now an agitation on foot to change the law so as to allow of a Canadian being appointed to command the militia. It is, at least, to be hoped that the next commanding officer will be one who understands the temper of the Canadian people better than his predecessors.

### The Grim Horror of War

It has been forcibly brought home to the Canadian people by the news that the first Canadian contingent was engaged in a desperate encounter with a force of Boers and that 20 of its members were killed and many seriously wounded. The casualties amount to about 100 or one-tenth of the total strength of the regiment. The intelligence has caused a wave of sorrow from one end of the Dominion to the other, as all portions of the country were represented in the list of the killed. The day, Feb. 21, the news was received was a sad one for Canada and flags were placed at half mast on the parliament buildings and on all the public buildings throughout the Dominion.

The only consolation that mingled with the national sorrow was that the Canadians had fought like men and fallen heroes, fighting the battles of the empire. The second Canadian contingent and Strathcona's horse, the special contingent raised by Lord Strathcona, have sailed for South Africa, and when they arrive the Dominion

will have nearly 3000 men in the field, helping to achieve success for the empire. It will not be surprising if before the war is over Canada will be saddened by the news of further casualties among her brave sons.

### The Dominion Parliament,

although in session nearly a month, has as yet done very little actual business. The address was adopted after an exceedingly short debate, a great deal of the speeches being devoted to the part Canada is taking in the South African war. The government has submitted resolutions providing for the payment of \$2,000,000 in connection with the equipment and sending of the troops to South Africa. The event has been an expensive one for Canada, but it has already proved a splendid advertisement for the Dominion, as it has drawn the attention of the whole empire to this country.

### The Socialists' Paradise.

The Canadian postoffice, modeled on the European system, goes far ahead of that of Uncle Sam. While 2 lbs is the limit as to weight of mail packages in the states, our 11-lb parcels post keeps down the ravenous appetite of the express company combination on excessive rates. Again, the postal savings bank feature at \$50 postoffices is a great accommodation. Every money order postoffice is obliged to receive deposits in amount up to \$3000, but not to exceed 1000 in any one year, on which 3 per cent interest is paid. Over \$162,000,000 has been received in these popular banks in 30 years, on which nearly \$15,000,000 interest has been paid. At present there is about \$35,000,000 deposited, with an average credit to each depositor of 24¢. The one place in which the Canadian postoffice department is slow is in the establishment of free rural mail delivery. Farmers' clubs and granges should investigate this subject and then demand its gradual introduction.

### When Doctors Disagree.

That Prof Robertson should see fit to minimize the splendid work of Dr Saunders at the Ottawa exper farm in the matter of "varieties of seeds" is regrettable. That the federal government should maintain a series of costly experimental farms, employing the best talent obtainable to carry on experimental work in the testing of the best varieties of seed grain suitable to the different parts of the Dominion and at the same time to have another man in the employ, as Prof Robertson, to belittle the work of the farms, and tell the farmers of Canada that all this experimental work of Prof Saunders and his able assistants is of absolutely no value, is to say the least inconsistent. Prof Robertson, on the other hand, advises farmers to go into their grain

fields and pick the "big heads" and save them for seed. The good professor might just as well tell the Canadian farmers to go back to the sickle and grain cradle or to the scythe and sheath and throw aside the binder and mower. This is retrogression with a vengeance.

### The Right Kind of Trust.

The raisin growers of California have raised prices from 14¢ to 50¢ per lb within three years, increasing the value of raisin lands by \$50 to \$125 per acre. They did it by pooling issues, stopping out prices, abolishing middlemen and reaching the trade direct. Now the prune growers are trying it. The milk producers of New England and New York are working with considerable success along the same line. The country produce trade generally ought to be reformed in much the same way. This would be a trust that we would all profit by. The loss, expense and shrinkage between producer and consumer of farm products is a disgrace that the twentieth century will reform.

### Hen Fever.

About this time of year look out for new cases of hen fever. The January and February poultry shows have a good deal to do with it. Wealthy men in different parts of the country are said to "have it bad" as a result of some good exhibitions, and the breeding of fancy poultry will be a fad with them for a while. This won't hurt the trade in eggs, fowls and incubators. Hen fever is so very catching that a good poultry show is worth while. The great American hen is worthy the attention she is at last receiving.

### The Farmers' Association Meetings

in the eastern provinces have had a phenomenal success. All were well attended and the speakers were the best to be had. The stockmen and fruit growers were especially enthusiastic. If any readers of F & H missed taking in some of these meetings, they missed an intellectual treat indeed, and no less can be said as to the social element.

### A Million Dollar Apple Crop.

The advantages of the maritime provinces as a fruit growing country are manifold. The soil and climate are eminently suited to the growth of apples. No part of Ontario or the United States can compare with the great Cornwallis valley, or even P. E. I., as an apple growing country. The contiguity of the maritime provinces to the English market is also greatly in their favor, and the fact that the apples can be carried across the ocean in ventilated steamers, rather than by the more expensive system of cold storage, is quite an item. Two counties in Nova Scotia, Kings and Annapolis, sold 500,000 bar-

rels of apples this year, which at two dollars a barrel represents a million dollars.

### Improved Transportation Wanted.

At the several farmers' meetings recently held in Prince Edward Island, the Dominion government was sharply brought to book for its neglect to provide improved transportation for the product of the Island farms. Girls and Tories spoke right out in meeting, and with one voice demanded better shipping facilities and a fulfillment of the promise made by the government leaders in this regard. It is a pleasing augury that farmers at last are willing to sink their party feelings and demand from the political powers their just and equal rights. Too long have farmers been politicians rather than farmers, and as clay in the hands of the political potter. This spirit of independence evinced by the farmer is significant of the times and denotes a forward movement of unlimited possibilities.

### Flying Chips.

All our readers should have a handy almanac and book of reference. Just such a one can be found in the Canadian Almanac for 1900, which is an acknowledged authority on all matters pertaining to the Dominion. Its 400 pages contain authentic information on many lines of business, educational and general affairs. We mail it postpaid in connection with F & H one year, for 50¢.

Now that by government aid the dairy industry has been put on a strong foundation, would it not be the proper thing to extend similar aid to hog raisers? By the establishment of central co-operative packing establishments much could be done to alleviate the condition of the swine industry. The cow and chicken are being cared for, why not our friend, the hog?

The Sussex (N B) dairy school opens March 1 for a special home dairy course. The factory course opens March 13. The provincial dept of agri has secured able and competent instructors. Dairymen should show their interest by attending, as the home course is but for eight days and the factory a month.

The sentiments of Friend W T Axford of Elgin Co. Ont. touch a tender spot in the Editor's heart. I wonder how many Farm and Home readers feel as does Mr Axford as to our efforts to make this the best farm paper in Canada. After years of reading, Mr Axford says: "Your valuable paper, F & H, has been coming to our home regularly for the past 19 yrs and during that time I think that it has brought more valuable information on almost every branch of agriculture than all the other journals put together that we have taken in that time"