

A Sweepstakes Winner.

The Yorkshire Coach horse is not so well known in Manitoba as he deserves. In England in anti-railway days this very valuable breed performed the work of the iron horse of to-day. It was he that hauled the heavy coach with its passengers and boxes, and such merchandise as required rapid transit, and conveyed His Majesty's mails at a speed which, all things considered, seems marvellous at this day, having been bred for generations for this particular work. Since introduction of steam these horses were for many years kept to run coaches where no railroad had found its way.

It was by a judicious selection of sires, and careful mating them with suitable mares, that the three essentials, weight to haul the load, pace to go the distance within a limited time, and constitution to endure for years, were combined in this splendid breed. A cut of a typical Yorkshire Coach horse is presented in this number—Stamford Bridge Swell, owned by Alfred & Joseph B. Chambers, of Wawanessa, Man. Stamford Bridge Swell was imported by Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., of Brandon, in 1891, who purchased him from John Kirby, of Stamford Bridge, Yorkshire, as a two-year-old. This gentleman is known in the North Country as one of the very best breeders of Cleveland Bays and Yorkshire Coachers, and his reputation as a keen judge of horses is equally well established. Stamford Bridge Swell was sold to Messrs. Chamber Bros. in the spring of 1892, and since going into their hands has made an enviable record. He was first at the summer show, 1892, at Glenboro; at Brandon Summer Show, 1892, he was first in the carriage class as a three-year-old, a diploma as best carriage stallion any age, and also winner of diploma for sweepstakes stallion, including thoroughbred, roadster and general purpose horses. At the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1892, he won first in the carriage class as a three-year-old, and silver cup for the best carriage stallion any age, beating Yorkshire Lad, winner in aged class, a horse that won sweepstakes at Toronto Industrial Exhibition in 1888. Stamford Bridge Swell was sired by Lord Westbrook 883, C. B. S. B., dam by Palestine 613, granddam by Inkerman Herb 237, great granddam by Engineer (773). His sire, Lord Westbrook, is only seven years old, but already gives promise of becoming one of the greatest sires in England, while a close student of the Yorkshire Coach stud book, who examines the extended pedigree, will find the names of Encouragement 705, Richmond Lad 258, Wonderful Lad 361, and Paulinus 947, names that are as celebrated as the Hermit, Gallop and Ormond among the thoroughbreds; Fireaway, Denmark and Danegault among the Hackneys; Prince of Wales, Darnley and Lord Erskine among the Clydesdales; Big Ben, Hitchin Conqueror and Vulcan among the Shires. Individually he is a great horse, he stands 16.3 hands, and weighs in good condition about 1550 pounds. He is a solid bay without a white hair, black points, mane and tail, which latter just sweeps the ground. He is of commanding appearance, head and eyes denoting courage and intelligence and a strong individuality, superb rein, short back, powerful loin, long, smooth quarters, muscles and sinews as hard as whip cords, legs and feet of the very best quality. While perhaps his action is his best point, altogether he gives one the impression of having any amount of power in reserve. He should be invaluable to this country. Mr. Joseph B. Chambers has also a very select lot of Clydesdales. Laird Blackburn, a son of Lord Erskine, dam a granddaughter of Prince of Wales, is at the head of this stud; he is a capital specimen of the low down, muscular, active, clean legged Clydesdale, and just the sort the country needs. He was respectively first and second at the Brandon Summer Show, and third at Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1892. Two mares in the stud are Nell of Greenhead and Garnet of Greenhead, daughter of Garnet Cross, the first mentioned being winner of silver medal for best mare any age. Yellow O'Neil, Nell of Greenhead's horse foal, was first at Brandon and first at Winnipeg. Garnet of Greenhead has a late filly foal which was too young to exhibit. All are wintering well, and will no doubt be to the front again in the coming summer.

Pork packers are busy circulating a petition among members of the Dominion Parliament, requesting that they may be allowed to import and slaughter in bond American-fed swine. The product therefrom will doubtless be sent to Europe as Canadian goods. This certainly is not in the interests of Canadian farmers, who should strongly oppose such a course. If Canada is to build up a bacon trade, the fat, lardy pork from Western corn-fed hogs will not help to do it. Canadian packers have spoken strongly against the Canadian farmer feeding corn to the hogs that are intended for this trade, and have given us figures to show how much more valuable is the Canadian product. Then why ask for what they have spoken so decidedly against themselves? The Central Institute, the Grange, the officers of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association and the Patrons of Industry should let their voices be heard in protest on this question.

Duties.

Farmers throughout the Dominion are taking great interest in the parliamentary debates, and through the medium of the Central Farmers' Institutes, Patrons of Industry and Agricultural Societies they are sending to Parliament many petitions. The burden of the requests is that the duty may be taken off corn, fencing wire, agricultural machinery and coal oil. These petitions come from all parts of Canada. Mr. Pope speaks for the eastern section, and especially for Quebec; Mr. Davin represents western agriculturists. Mr. McCarthy has also presented petitions signed by many thousand farmers. The Patrons of Industry sent an able deputation to Ottawa, and were received by Mr. Foster and Sir John Thompson, who listened to the forcible and able arguments of the delegates.

The budget speech gives no special encouragement to farmers. A small reduction has been made in duty on coal oil, and 12½ per cent. on binding cord. Minister Foster has promised that he and two of his colleagues will visit various sections of Canada and study the trade question, and before next session will be in a position to recommend necessary changes in the tariff. Manufacturers will in the meantime strengthen their position, and with might and main will struggle to maintain the duties. If farmers wish their interests looked after they must during the interval look alive, and not only move resolutions and sign petitions, but they must work together for their mutual benefit.

A recent number of the well-known Toronto publication, "Grip," contained a short article so much to the point that we reproduce it in part:—

"The Central Farmers' Institute has passed a resolution in favor of free trade with Britain, and reciprocity with other nations. This is all well enough in its way, but the farmers should remember that it is only votes at the polls that count. Until farmers learn to put their own interests before those of either party, and vote the way they talk, they can 'resoloot till the cows come home' without any practical result."

Farmers must take a leaf out of the manufacturers' book; these gentlemen have an association which received the support of all the leading machine men. The policy of this body is to devise means to be left the members financially. When a course has been mapped out the members support it, deputations wait on the government, but oftener the government wait on the leading manufacturers, and learn their desires and grant them, because the manufacturers and their allies, acting as one man, wield an influence which cannot be exerted except by union. 'Tis said that the manufacturers contribute handsomely towards election fund; even if they do, these funds only represent so many votes. If the farmers will determine on a course of action and present a united front, they need not fear the efforts of the "Red Parlor."

The fact is in the case of many articles of prime necessity to the farmer the duty is prohibitory, and therefore hardly any revenue is derived from these, for the simple reason that only in incidental cases are these articles imported. The government therefore is no gainer, while the farmer has to pay just what any ring of monopolists choose to place on their goods. Again, the duty on implements and machinery used on the farm ranges from 35 to 50 per cent., but it must be remembered imported goods are not only liable to the duty, but a percentage is also added to this duty; for instance, a wholesale dealer buys goods, the original cost of which is \$100; duty, \$40—total \$140. On this he must make a profit of at least 20 per cent., and the retailer a profit of 20 per cent. The price to consumer would be \$201.60, or more than double the original cost.

We advise farmers to obtain a full list of custom tariffs, and go over the goods used by them and see just what the duties are. In every case reckon the duties on the wholesale price of goods, then consider whether it will be wise for farmers, who represent seven-tenths of our population, to continue to pay that a few manufacturers may become millionaires. Now that our infant industries have become gigantic corporations—for instance, the Massey-Harris firm of Toronto—and farmers are losing rather than making money as a class, is it not time to look this question fairly in the face, and ask that attention from our rulers that the condition of the farmers and the magnitude of their interests demand? We must not deceive ourselves; unless we show our strength and a determination to obtain our rights as a class, we need not expect redress, nor can we hope to obtain more from the one party than the other. What we hope to achieve must be accomplished by united efforts. As soon as politicians see a united yeomanry, instead of spurning us they will court our support and good will.

We trust all our readers will carefully follow the debates which are going on in the House. By these we can judge who are really representing their constituents, and who are merely representing themselves by blindly following a party, hoping thereby to by-and-by receive a reward from the party commander. It is wonderful how few M. P.'s represent their constituents, and how many represent themselves.

Tariff Reform.

With the political aspect of affairs, with free trade, or any other phase of the trade question, we do not purpose to deal, as none of these come within the province of an agricultural paper. But what we want to emphasize is, that all articles, upon which directly depends the production of any of our agricultural exports, should be placed upon such a basis, as regards the arrangement of the tariff, that they may be obtained at the lowest cost price, or rather that they may be purchased free of duty in the cheapest markets of the world. The Canadian farmer has competitors in every country that is producing the same line of agricultural products, the principal market for which is Great Britain, whose ports are free to all countries alike. The only plan by which the Canadian farmer can be given advantage, or placed upon an equal footing with his opponents, is to furnish him with the material required in production at the cheapest possible rate. By imposing a duty upon any articles required, whether it applies to grain production or stock feeding, adds just so much to the cost of producing them. The turf winner has to carry weight in a handicap; in order to give his antagonist the advantage. If the Canadian farmer is hampered with a duty on these articles, he is placed in the same position.

For a length of time the agriculturists of Canada have been clamoring for tariff reform, and on this subject they have spoken with no uncertain sound. Every industry and profession, with the single exception of agriculture, have made their wants known and brought influence to bear, through their organizations, and by this means have obtained legislation suitable to their requirements. At the same time, the associations representing agricultural interests have spent their time in quibbling over party politics or the trade question from a political standpoint, and, by so doing, have lost the influence they otherwise would have gained. The representative of agricultural interests in the Ottawa House of Commons, elected from rural constituencies, are sent there as political partisans. They consider themselves bound to support or oppose any measure according to the political stripe of the mover, and find no time to look after the interests of their constituents, or make a study of their requirements. Like the badly broken team, each baffles the other in his efforts to outdo his colleague, instead of pulling together with a determination of removing the load.

Arguing from a farmers' standpoint, we claim that agriculture deserves the same privileges as any other industry, and that free raw material applies with double force to this cause, as it is from this source the majority of the country's exports are derived. For instance, corn or any other cattle feed should be admitted free of duty, to enable our feeders and exporters to compete with those from other countries, and thus stimulate the export cattle trade. At this particular time, when Canadian cattle are restricted from being moved from the point of debarkation in Great Britain, it is all the more imperative that we should be given all the advantage obtainable. At present corn is lower in price to the British cattle feeder than in Ontario. If we could import corn free of duty it would do more to finish our cattle and encourage feeding than all the talk that has been indulged in concerning this question.

The exports of Canadian cattle and cattle products have already aggregated over \$20,000,000 annually, and are capable of still greater development in the near future. But numbers of our weak-kneed politicians claim that free corn would lower the price of our coarse grains. Now the average sum of these, taking the exports for the last five years, hardly reaches \$4,000,000 annually, and have probably already attained their highest limit—at least, they show decrease rather than increase. In this case which of these is of most value to the country, and which are the most deserving of legislative assistance? Or why foster a declining \$4,000,000, when it is at the expense of the \$20,000,000 industry that is yearly becoming greater.

Binding twine is another article which has aroused a great deal of discussion, and, in fact, is one of the burning questions of the day. We only have the figures relative to Ontario in this case, but they will illustrate what we require. From Ontario we annually export grain on which twine is used to the value of \$4,580,000, and it is computed that we use 8,000,000 pounds of twine to bind what is grown in Ontario, on which the farmers have paid a duty of 25 per cent., which at 10 cents per pound would be 2½ cents on every pound used; or, in other words, the farmers of Ontario are paying a duty of nearly 5 cents on every \$1 worth of grain exported.

We cite these as two instances where assistance is urgently needed. If our legislators will only take the trouble of looking up this question, they will find that many of the items on which our export trade depends are similarly handicapped, and it remains for them to show a disposition to assist or retard that branch of industries in which the greatest number of the people are engaged, and by which the whole of our enterprises are supported.