

**Tariff Reform.**

The Trade and Labor Council of the City of Toronto met recently. The meeting was well attended by delegates from the various labor unions of the city. The subject which had been appointed for the special consideration of the meeting was taken up. This was a resolution and amendment to it, both of them submitted at the last meeting of the Trades' Congress and not then voted on, but forwarded to the labor organizations of Canada for consideration and action, so as to enable their delegates at the next annual congress to vote in accordance with the expressed desire of their constituents in the event of such a resolution being offered. The resolution and amendment were as follows:—

Moved (at the Trades' Congress) by Mr. Jury, seconded by Mr. Carey:—

"With respect to the rights of labor we affirm the following:—

"The earth, with its lands, forests, mines and other natural opportunities, is the gift of nature, not to a part but to the whole of humanity. While they have an unquestionable right to charge for the crops they raise, the houses they build, the services they render, we denounce as utterly unjust that any man should be allowed to charge for the land and other natural gifts that he never made. The value that accrues to land from the presence and concentration of population should not go to the enrichment of speculators and collectors of ground rents, but should be applied to public purposes.

"To impose taxes on improvements is to discourage the beneficent use of capital in the employment of labor and enrichment of the country, while encouraging its use injuriously in speculation and monopoly. Therefore, be it resolved, that we urge the Provincial Government to grant municipalities the power to remove all taxes from the products of industry."

Moved in amendment by Mr. Hastings, seconded by Mr. March:—

"That the following words be added after the word industry: 'And be it resolved further, that we urge upon the Dominion Government the removal of all duties and imposts levied on the products of industry, either imported or manufactured in the country, except such as are levied with a view to restricting the use and consumption of any article or product held to be injurious; and the substitution thereof, as a means of raising the revenue required for the government of the country, of a single tax on land and natural opportunities.'"

The amendment and the resolution carried unanimously amid much applause. The discussion was very full and intelligently conducted. It was noticeable that among those taking the largest share in the speaking were old members of the council, and men who but a few years ago were strong and uncompromising supporters of the National Policy. Now those gentlemen, one and all, spoke in favor of the removal of all duties and imposts levied on the products of industry, either imported or manufactured, except such as are levied with a view to restricting the use and consumption of any article or product held to be injurious.

Our present tariff was formulated to benefit the very men who are now voting for its abolition; farmers willingly taxed themselves that cities and towns be built up, thus providing a home market for their produce. As far as increasing the population is concerned the experiment has been a failure. True cities like Toronto have grown, but this growth has been made by draining the surrounding country. Farmers' sons and daughters, and their male and female servants, have been drawn towards and swallowed up by these centres. Thus the population of the country towns and villages and municipalities have steadily decreased—to such an extent in many districts that it is difficult to obtain sufficient help to properly till the land. While the price of farm produce has decreased, the cost of farm labor has increased. What Canada most needs to-day is a denser country population.

**What to Feed Cows, and How Often?**

We extend an invitation to dairy farmers in all parts of Canada to send us concise, practical letters, giving the results of their past year's experience in feeding dairy cows.

1st.—In winter feeding, what have you found the best foods, quantity and quality of milk and economy of production considered?

2nd.—With what do you supplement pasture in summer and fall feeding?

3rd.—In winter, do you feed twice or oftener per day, and why? Give particulars of your method.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best article embracing answers to the above questions. Other articles used will be paid for at our regular rates. Write on one side of the paper only, and bear in mind that the merit of an article or essay does not depend on its length, but on its practical ideas and the clearness with which they are stated. Essays to reach this office not later than July 1st.

**Economical Building.**

The request in the *ADVOCATE* for articles on the building of concrete walls brought in a dozen and a-half of essays, nearly all well written, and as a rule practical. There is no doubt but that an immense saving can be effected by its use in building, especially where lumber is scarce and dear, or regular mason work with brick or stone expensive. Attention has not been sufficiently called to its merits heretofore, hence the space we devote to it. Not only is it useful for walls, but for cellar, milk-room and stable floors, though in the latter case Portland cement should be used (mixed one part to four and a-half or five with good sharp sand; a little gravel will not hurt, though the surface must be perfectly smooth). Among so many good essays it was difficult to select, but we give what seems to cover the subject best. Some of the writers give excellent points not touched upon by others. For example, Mr. Alex. T. Thomson, of Douglas, Man., says the inside of the boxings should be planed, and clamps and wedges used about midway to prevent them from springing. Lack of time to have sketches which Mr. Thomson sent engraved prevents their use, and they are essential to his article. Several suggest screw bolts to hold boxing firm. Mr. R. A. McLennan, of Minniska, Man., gives us a pithy paper, in which he differs from most others in favoring a scantling framework bedded in the concrete wall. On top of foundation he beds a plank in mortar and sets on it 2x4-inch scantling flush with outside of plank, the two-inch side out. He sets them four feet apart, and braces them all round with 2x4 stuff (as girts) below windows and above windows and doors. Inside he puts up another set of scantlings midway between the outer ones, spiking them to the girts. The roof may be put on before the walls are done. The uprights will save putting in "bond" timber. The boxing boards he nails to this frame, not driving the nails quite home. For hoisting the concrete he uses a rope about three times as long as the building is high, run over a pulley as high as top of wall, fastening snaps or hooks to rope so that when one bucket is at the ground the other will be at the height required.

Mr. Wm. Rendell, of Camperdown, Ont., says when the wall is within ten inches of the top small blocks of scantling should be bedded in every three feet at the outside to nail the cornice to. Several writers recommend plastering the outside, coloring the plaster with lamp black and marking off in squares to imitate stonework. If plastered with lime, Mr. W. R. Riddington, of Foxwarren, Man., suggests a wash—three-fourths pound of mottled soap to one gallon water—applied boiling with brush (not to be frothed). Leave twenty-four hours; then mix one-half pound alum with four gallons water, dissolved for twelve hours, applying as before in hot weather.

"Canadian," writing from British Columbia, recommends as the proper proportion for concrete materials:—One measure lime, two measures good, clean, sharp building sand, and four measures clean gravel, in size from a pigeon's to a hen's egg. In building, to this may be added, he says, eight measures of broken stone.

To prevent rain from beating in, it is thought better by some that the window and door sills should project an inch or so outside the walls. The excavation for cellar or foundation walls should be below the frost line. Builders generally do not favor mixing Portland cement with common lime. There are cheaper "Canadian" cements on the market, but they have not the strength of "Portland," which is an Old Country cement.

One of the most important points in the whole process is to mix materials thoroughly. In making a cement floor, the cement and sand should invariably be mixed dry first, keeping up the stirring process with hoes or shovels as the water is applied by degrees till a mortar (not too soft) is made. Cobblestones may be used in the bottom, but there should be laid at least three inches of the cement mixture above them.

Do not hesitate to try concrete building. Try it this season.

It will be of interest to Canadian breeders to know that the efforts which have been made to induce the Exposition authorities to extend the time for the entry of horses and cattle from the United States and Canada from the 15th of June until the 15th of July has proved successful. The time for the entry of sheep has also been changed from July 15th to August 1st. The present rules, which require that animals should be owned at least 60 days before the date of application, will most likely be modified so that the time will be changed to 30 days previous to the closing of entries.

**Potatoes.**

A light, rich soil, moist but not wet, and a moderately cool climate are the most favorable conditions for the successful growth of the potato. We find all the above conditions in the natural home of the plant, which is half way up the slopes of the Andes. The nearer that we approach these natural conditions by artificial means, such as draining, plowing and cultivation, the better success we may expect. Potatoes may be grown with profit on almost any soil, but they do not do well on heavy, wet clays. Perhaps the heaviest crop can be grown where considerable vegetable or alluvial deposits are found, but still the finest quality, if not the heaviest yield, is produced on dry, sandy loam. A sod will give good results. The preparation of the land largely governs the yield and quality. Apply, if possible, plenty of manure, either in fall or spring as may be most convenient. If applied in the fall plow under lightly, cultivate and plow deeply again before winter, and again as early in the spring as possible cultivate thoroughly. Sow the early varieties about this time; for the later varieties cultivate again after you are through with the other roots. Plant either in hills or drills—other things being equal, the yield will be much the same in either case, but though some very successful potato growers prefer to plant in hills the majority plant in drills. Planting and harvesting can be more easily effected, for horse labor will largely take the place of hand work, and therefore less work is required. Plant with a light furrow; try to cover about two or three inches deep. A common and very successful way is to plow the ground lightly, planting in every third furrow.

In order to obtain the best results good seed must be chosen, cut directly through the centre, and if large split again. If the potatoes are of moderate size split in half lengthwise. Some experimenters say it is better to throw away the seed end, because this part produces small potatoes. Thirty inches apart in rows is a good distance for the smaller varieties, and thirty-three to thirty-five for the larger, dropping from twelve or fifteen inches apart in the rows, harrow the ground as the potatoes are coming through. It is wise to repeat this once or twice. Start the horse hoe as soon as the plants are all above ground, and continue until in full bloom. Shallow, flat cultivation gives the best results, except in very heavy or wet soils.

What is known as the Bordeaux mixture is being used with good success in combating the potato blight. At a recent agricultural meeting in England members reported satisfactory results from the use of that mixture; the Irish land commission also reports great success with their experiments in the same line, while most of the experimental stations on this continent, as well as prominent growers, have reported in its favor. When the plants are a foot high or less spray with the mixture made as follows:—Dissolve six pounds of copper sulphate in sixteen gallons of water, slack four pounds of fresh lime in six gallons of water. When cool mix, strain through a coarse piece of sacking. By the addition of two ounces of Paris green the potato bug can be destroyed at the same time. Potatoes should be sprayed at intervals of about two weeks. This is the standard Bordeaux mixture, but Prof. Fletcher recommends the above diluted to forty-five gallons with water. If this is done, add sufficient Paris green to still keep up the original proportion of one ounce to eleven gallons of water.

Never plant potatoes in a field where the crop was formerly affected by either the rot or the scab, for there will be a sufficient number of spores left in the ground to spread the disease for several years. The corrosive sublimate treatment for scab is reported by the experimental stations, and also by well-known potato growers, to have given reliable and satisfactory results. It is as follows: Dip seed potatoes in a solution of two ounces corrosive sublimate and fifteen gallons of water.

The Beauty of Hebron, White Elephant, Burbanks, Rural No. 2., Summit and Empire State are the varieties which have given the most general satisfaction over the country. The last named variety is third among forty-eight sorts experimented at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, while it and the Summit occupy first and second places respectively, both for best average crop for three years at the Ontario Experimental Farm, and also the same relation on the list in the co-operative test conducted by the Experimental Union in all parts of the province of Ontario. The Everett, which heads the list at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, is mentioned by one experimenter, from Durham county, in the co-operative work as being the best of the lot, which shows the influence of climate, soil, etc., on crops.