

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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Natural Gas on the Farm.

Wonders are never ceasing! The succinct and interesting letter from Kent Co. (Ont.), published in another column (Dairy department), is a revelation as to the various uses to which natural gas can be put on the farm in those districts—of which there are several in Canada—where this product is available. Not only is it used for house heating, cooking and lighting, doing away with the need for ordinary fuel, coal oil, manufactured gas, or electric light, and the ingenious farmer attaches a whistle to the pipe through which the gas rushes up from the bowels of the earth to call his men to dinner, thus saving the lungs of the housewife, but he connects it with his churn for buttermaking, as described by our correspondent. Elbow grease is no more needed; the crank and the dash have passed away.

Hon. Sydney Fisher Interviewed.

HIS VISIT TO BRITAIN—NO PROSPECT OF EMBARGO
REMOVAL—DRESSED MEAT AND FAT CAT-
TLE—CANADIAN PRODUCTS POPULAR
—DENMARK DOWNED.

A representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE had an interesting interview with Hon. Sydney Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, who has just returned to Ottawa from a visit to Great Britain, where he went with the object of promoting the interests of the farming industry of Canada.

"There is no prospect of the early removal of the

EMBARGO ON OUR LIVE STOCK

imposed by the British authorities," said Hon. Mr. Fisher. "Everybody that I saw with reference to the matter told me that there was no possible means of removing the prohibition at the present time. Even the leading people of Dundee, with whom I had a conference, expressed the conviction that the admission of Canadian live stock, as formerly, could not be looked for in the near future, though in that district they were strongly in favor of admitting our cattle without restriction. The consensus of opinion was that nothing would be gained by a present agitation in Canada in favor of the removal of the embargo. I found ample ground for the conviction that there is room in Great Britain for a large extension of

THE DRESSED MEAT TRADE,

as well as the trade in live stock. I do not desire to belittle either branch of the industry. The live cattle trade, though handicapped by the regulation requiring compulsory slaughter within ten days after landing, can still be carried on successfully. But there is a class of smaller animals which can be fed to a high point of excellence, and sent over in the carcass when the proper arrangements for sale have been made. The large bullock can probably be sent over at present to better advantage

alive. I have completed no definite arrangements for the handling or disposing of Canadian agricultural products; but I have obtained a good deal of information which is at the disposal of the Canadian farmers and dealers in agricultural, dairy and other products, and which I hope will facilitate trade in these articles with the mother country. I devoted much attention to the British dealers in those products which we can profitably supply. I took over a pretty extensive list of men in Canada, engaged in the produce trade, to whom the British business men could write. That list was not complete, but Professor Robertson and I took every means that could be thought of to obtain names of reliable dealers, applying to boards of trade and the various associations throughout the country. Copies of that list we left in the hands of the numerous commercial organizations in Great Britain, and we told those whom we met in public meetings which we addressed that the list was available for them. I also tried to get as many of the names of reliable dealers in produce in Great Britain, to be placed in the hands of our people in Canada, so that when we are applied to we can aid those interested in getting a connection with these British firms.

"CANADIAN PRODUCTS POPULAR IN BRITAIN."

"I have thought, and my experience while I was in England confirmed me in my belief, that it is better for us to utilize the existing channels of communication and trade than to endeavor to start rivals, who would have a very uphill road to travel for some time. To pass over those who have been pioneers in the business would be expensive, and might lead to many failures before success was achieved. Canadian products are growing in favor all over Great Britain and Ireland. Within recent years the attention of the public has been so largely and so favorably called to the Dominion that British dealers deem it a popular expedient to attract attention to mark their goods 'Canadian.' While some of the older firms, less disposed to adopt advanced methods, may sell certain classes of Canadian products as 'British,' appealing to the old insular prejudice, many say frankly that they would just as soon mark an article 'Canadian' as 'British' for the purpose of attracting attention, and they back up their words with action, to the decided advantage of this country. We are destined, I think, to

VASTLY INCREASE OUR EXPORTS OF BUTTER

to Great Britain. Canadian butter has obtained a better reputation than it has ever enjoyed on the other side of the Atlantic, and many English dealers congratulated me on the improved quality of the butter we now ship. This result, I am satisfied, has been brought about almost entirely by the system of cold storage transportation which has recently been established. As a matter of fact, the butter we have been exporting recently is very little better in quality than it was two years ago, but it reaches the English market in better condition. I was glad to see it quoted, in a number of instances, in English shops, at the same price as best Danish. It has not generally quite reached that very high level yet, however. I am hopeful that, with the co-operation of all parties interested, it will vastly increase its hold on the British consumer.

"There is almost unlimited room for the expansion of

THE CANADIAN BACON TRADE

on the lines which our best curing establishments have been working for the last year or so. One large dealer in the British metropolis expressed himself to me as having fought out the battle between Canadian and Danish bacon, and having downed the Danes in that which they most excelled. I can certainly say that the best Canadian bacon is on a level with the best Danish to-day. There is also an opening for

A PROFITABLE POULTRY TRADE,

but we must learn to feed our poultry as we feed our steers and swine. The ordinary chicken caught in the barnyard, having foraged for its living all its days, is not fit for the English market. A few weeks of confinement and proper feeding is necessary, and from my observation of the French and English practice, I was thoroughly convinced that the system is an extremely profitable one to the poultry raiser. I found the dealers in Great Britain all spoke very highly of Canadian eggs, and there is a good demand for them when they are properly marketed, care being taken to send those of good size and strictly fresh. In growing and marketing all these products there is one cardinal principle to be kept in view, and that is, the British market is glutted with medium and inferior stuff, but a good paying price can always be obtained for first quality goods.

"THE PARIS EXHIBITION."

"I found that no final arrangements could be made as to our exhibit in the Paris Exhibition of 1900 while I was there. The Imperial Exhibition has a committee to deal with the Colonial exhibits, and that committee has been negotiating with the French Exhibition Commission, and has met with very great difficulties, which were not by any means solved when I left London. The demands for space at the Exhibition are much greater than the space available, and the French-Spanish Exhibition Commission appeared to be perfectly indifferent as to whether the British Colonies should be represented at all or not. I trust, however, that a fair amount

of space will be available. The final answer regarding the matter will, no doubt, shortly be sent to me by Lord Strathcona of Mount Royal, who represents Canada on the Colonial Committee of the British Imperial Commission, and is chairman of that committee, and its representative on the Executive Committee of the Imperial Commission. Lord Strathcona, I am glad to say, looks well after the interests of the Dominion in Great Britain. He is pre-eminently fitted to occupy the position of High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain. His Lordship is most energetic in his endeavors to do everything he can to advance the interests of this country, and from the prestige he has attained in London, both in the financial and social world, he is able to do a great deal more for the Dominion than it would be in the power of the Dominion to accomplish."

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

What with holidays and pressure of other duties, a long time has elapsed since last I sent some notes to the ADVOCATE. The time which has intervened has been by no means uneventful; indeed it has been crowded with incident, and difficulty is experienced in making a selection which would be of interest to Canadian readers. The visit of Hon. Sidney Fisher, your Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. James W. Robertson, your vivacious Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, has been full of interest to many here. Mr. Fisher made good use of his time, and spared no pains in visiting everything and everybody likely to be of use to the rank and file of Canadian farmers. He was here about the same time as the buyers of pedigree stock, and heard their grievances. There is a great disinclination on the part of farmers in this country to adopt

THE TUBERCULIN TEST

as a final and certain diagnosis of tuberculosis. This arises from a variety of causes; possibly the chief of these is the somewhat haphazard way in which the test has sometimes been applied. In Canada your Government officials took hold of the question at once and never allowed it to get beyond their own control. Here our authorities left it alone—never giving the matter any consideration—with the result that every man became, as it were, a law unto himself. The test was being applied privately, and stock was being quietly disposed of at the auction marts which the exposé knew perfectly well had reacted to the test, while the auctioneer and the public remained in total ignorance of what had been done. Sometimes such cattle on reaching their new quarters have been again tested without effect, and farmers, hearing about this, conclude that the tuberculin test is of no account. What the upshot of the matter may be is not at present very clear. The most disappointing thing is that the Government is not doing anything to carry into effect the recommendations of their own Royal Commission. If they did this an important step in advance would be taken; but there is reason to fear that those at the helm of affairs are lukewarm.

The heat of the past few days or weeks has given rise to much comment. Seldom, indeed, is such heat known in September as we have experienced since the beginning of the month, and harvest work has been prosecuted under very trying circumstances. The extent to which the self-binding harvester is now in use of course reduces the amount of field labor, but the heat has been very trying to the horses. This season more harvesters are in use than ever, and

THE MASSEY-HARRIS BINDER

seems to be the popular type. The Deering Pony Binder is also in growing use on hilly land, and the other types secure a large share of patronage. The state of the crops this year is calculated to increase the popularity of the self-binder. These crops generally are light, and the straw is standing well up, so that everywhere the mechanical system of reaping and binding is being received with increasing favor. One cannot view the transformation which has taken place in our harvest fields without regrets. All the poetry has gone out of it. Instead of a throng of men and maidens, we have an unwieldy-looking machine, a pair or, it may be, a trio of horses, their driver, and two men setting up the stooks. Doubtless there is, as of old time, the joy of harvest, but the expression of it in the crowded harvest-field is apparently gone forever. The nineteenth century is itself rapidly passing away, and one almost is glad to see its back, as no more ruthless destroyer of the poetry of existence has ever been witnessed. It is as true of agriculture as of anything else, that in it the nineteenth century has witnessed greater changes than have been witnessed in all the preceding centuries put together. How matters will stand at the close of the twentieth century it is not easy to forecast.

SALES OF PEDIGREE STOCK

have been very numerous during the past two months. All kinds—Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus cattle; Clydesdale, Hackney, and Shire horses; and the great ram sales of all kinds of sheep—have taken place. The best of the Shorthorn sales was that at Pittobury in Perthshire, where Mr. Donald Fisher had built up a splendid herd. It was dispersed on account of the expiry of the leases of