

JANUARY 21, 1904

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE.

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GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

The Popular Fruit Box.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—As the fruit Provinces of the Dominion have thoughtfully considered the adoption of a uniform size box for the carrying of our apples to local as well as export markets of England and the Continent, I would like to throw out a suggestion for horticultural societies or exhibition committees to adopt or enlarge upon, whether local or provincial. As the size and material of box have been well defined, there is another and very important part to consider, viz., the placing of the fruit in these boxes so as to carry safely, as will present the fruit in the boxes on opening to best advantage. To my mind, the best way to find out the most acceptable way would be to have a class arranged by exhibition committees, giving say five prizes—\$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1—for the best box of apples for export. This would be a splendid object lesson for many in the trade. As no one will compete unless he thinks he has an ideal way, therefore the very best methods will be brought out; whether it is best to place all fruit in layers, stem end down, or blossom end, or on sides, or promiscuously poured in, or to have some material between each layer? The judge should be a thorough expert, and should consider every point, even the design of stencil used to set off the package in compliance with the Fruit Marks Act. My idea was taken from an exhibition on the other side of the Atlantic, where there was a great array of boxes in keen competition for prizes. This part of the exhibition will not only add to the scientific success of the fruit trade, but will draw many fruit men together to consider the commercial value of up-to-date fruit packages for our markets.

E. H. WARTMAN,
Montreal, P. Q. Dominion Fruit Inspector.

Uniform Apple Barrels.

Apple shippers should arrive at some agreement among themselves as to the size of apple barrels to be used for export in future. It will be the cause of considerable loss to the trade if some continue to use the larger size and others use the minimum size. The law prescribes the minimum size, which is a barrel 26½ inches between heads, inside measure, and with a head diameter of 17 inches and a middle diameter of 18½ inches, representing, as nearly as possible, 96 quarts.

W. A. CLEMONS.

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

Latest despatches, at the time of going to press, contain nothing definite in regard to affairs in the Far East. The situation, however, seems to be becoming each hour more tense, and notwithstanding occasional rumors of conciliatory measures, the outbreak of war seems to be at hand. Japan has not receded in the slightest degree from her stand regarding Korea and Manchuria, and Russia is not likely to stoop to any concessions. Preparations in Japan appear to be on the verge of completion, although she is still buying vessels in various quarters. Russia, on the other hand, is making ready feverishly, in apparent apprehension of an immediate attack from Japan. Her whole fleet is now in fighting trim, and she is rushing soldiers through on the great Siberian Railway. Some difficulty, however, is being experienced in transporting these across Lake Baikal, which is now frozen over.

It is rather interesting to note the attitude of the other powers toward the situation. On all hands it is admitted that in event of war other nations may be dragged into the struggle. In the meantime, there are declarations of neutrality from all quarters, coupled with a firm intimation that each nation will, if necessary, take steps to protect her commercial interests in Eastern waters. The United States has signified this intention. France has let it be understood that she will not fight for her ally Russia, as long as the present French Government is in office. Denmark is fitting out four of the largest battleships to protect her interests in the East, if necessary. Germany is a little more decided than the others in her avowal to maintain a strict neutrality. Great Britain is joining with France in endeavors to bring about peace, but the depression in England, due to the fear that she will be involved in the struggle, is marked. China is already enrolling recruits and preparing to join with Japan, unless Russia evacuates Manchuria at an early date. Great importance is being attached to the recent ratification of commercial treaties between the United States and China, and between Japan and China, Japan being thereby put in the advantageous position of championing a cause which is also that of the United States. It is reported that the news of the ratification of these treaties came as a decided shock to the Russians.

In the meantime, Korea is in a pitiable plight. The Korean soldiers are on the verge of disaffection, owing to arrears in their pay, and the Emperor, from his palace at Seoul, where a veritable panic reigns, has issued an edict stating that his country is likely to be lost, counselling his people to act for the best in their own interests, and warning his army not to fire in the event of a collision between the Japanese and Russian troops. It has been arranged that the Emperor, on the outbreak of war, may find shelter at the French legation.

Rudyard Kipling has published a letter advising that military drill and target work be systematically taught in British public schools.

A series of submarine bell alarms are to be placed at danger points along the Canadian coast and the St. Lawrence River for the better protection of shipping. Five Marconi wireless telegraph stations will also be established in the gulf of St. Lawrence.

The latest radium sensation in England arises from the announcement that it has been discovered in the waters of the Spa of Bath, and that it is believed to exist in quantities sufficient to make it a veritable treasure-trove, somewhere beneath. Various physicians are now asserting that the rather mysterious cures affected by the waters may have been due to the presence in them of radium.

The first shipment of Canadian iron to Glasgow for two years reached that port on January 12th. During that period no iron was sent because better prices could be secured at home and in the U. S. This arrival has caused considerable interest because it is held to mark the drying up of British shipments to America.

An incident that recalls the old state of affairs in Siberia was the trial, last week, at Ekaterineburg, of Col. Foss, late Governor of Nikolaieff prison, for embezzlement and cruelty to prisoners. It was shown that he had a regular chamber of horrors fitted out, in which, with his own hands, he put the prisoners through the most diabolical torture. It is, perhaps, characteristic of Russian justice that the sentence upon this fiend was three years' penal servitude.

Harassed Armenia is making another struggle to gain the sympathy and protection of the European powers. This time, her people wish to have the story of their woes brought up before the Hague Arbitration Tribunal, their main grievances being: (1) The massacre of their priests and people; (2) the confiscation of their church property; (3) the taking of loot to the value of \$100,000,000. Their bitterest complaints are launched against the Russians, whom they accuse of duplicity, injustice, and cruelty. They assert that the Russians have been chiefly instrumental in the looting of their church treasures, and they also give them credit for being at the back of the Turks in the horrible massacres that have taken place in Armenia. It has been no rare thing, so they say, for Russian Cossacks to take part in these scenes of butchery in the provinces adjoining the Caucasus.

The labor problem is assuming formidable proportions in South Africa, where the work of the mines, as well as that of the farms, is suffering for want of laborers. It appears that the British, during the war, spoiled the Kaffirs by engaging them as scouts and messengers, and paying them so well that, when the war ended, they were money in pocket. Now, rather than go back to work again, they prefer to beg and sell curios to travellers. Moreover, according to Mr. Jardine, Canadian Commercial Agent, who arrived in Canada recently from S. A., all the whites there want to be "bosses," or inspectors, and refuse to do manual labor side by side with the black men. To meet the emergency, the magnates of the "Progressive Party" have suggested the advisability of importing Chinamen, but this plan is strongly opposed by the Dutch, or Opposition party. Premier Seddon, of N. Z., whose voice is much heard nowadays, has expressed an opinion that the introduction of Chinese laborers will cause trouble if persisted in.

Another fray is reported from Somaliland. At Jidballi, Jan. 11th, the British forces, consisting in all of 3,200 men, made an advance upon 5,000 of the Mullah's hordes, routing them most completely, and chasing them for ten miles. The British lost two officers killed and nine wounded, and nine privates killed and twenty-two wounded; while the Somalis, chiefly during the pursuit, lost 1,000 Dervishes killed and many wounded. The British also gained possession of 400 rifles. It may be interesting to note that no Englishman has ever seen the face of the Mad Mullah. He is a religious chief, and a Mohammedan, and is by no means "mad." On the contrary, he is held in great esteem by the followers of the Prophet. He is said to be about thirty-three years of age, eloquent, learned so far as Oriental learning goes, and well versed in the art of conjuring, an accomplishment which, in the East, is of material use to him in the absolute ascendancy which he holds over his men. On the whole, the Mad Mullah is a personage who is likely to form a rather troublesome thorn in the flesh to Great Britain before he is finally disposed of.

Seldom has the closing of an old year and the opening of a new been marked by a more appalling list of disasters than those which occurred between Dec. 23rd, 1903, and Jan. 9th, 1904. Upon the first of these dates came the terrible accident at Laurel Run, Pa., in which the "Duquesne Limited" crashed into a pile of timber, killing sixty and seriously injuring thirty more. On Dec. 27th, twenty-two people were killed in the collision on the Pere-Marquette Railway, near East Paris, Mich. December 30th was marked by the horrible holocaust in the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, in which upwards of six hundred lost their lives. On Jan. 6th an accident to the Rock Island - California Ex-

press at Willard, Kansas, sacrificed twenty and injured many; and, on the same day, the boilers of the British cruiser, Wallerose, then two hundred and thirty miles south of Sydney, Australia, blew up, leaving, as a result, a death-roll of forty-three. On Jan. 9th, the news came by telegraph that by the wreck of the steamship, "Clallam," in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, B. C., over sixty men, women and children had gone to a watery grave. Besides these calamities, there have been innumerable tragic accidents reported from every part of the world, in which human lives, singly, or in twos and threes, came to a sudden end. Notwithstanding the progress made by medical and surgical science, the death-list seems to hold its own.

Whether Britain will eventually help Japan in event of war between that country and Russia is a question upon which, as yet, but little has been said. All the world knows, of course, that she is keeping a keen eye upon the course of events in the East, and suspects that she will scarcely suffer the Japs to receive a crushing defeat at the hands of the Russians, should the possibility of such a contingency arise. That her forces may, however, come into collision with those of the Russians in another quarter of the Great Continent is, if recent reports prove true, a possibility that may materialize at a much earlier date. That quarter is Thibet, China's mysterious, tributary province to which, it will be remembered, a British expedition under Col. MacDonald was dispatched last November. In the words of a recent writer: "Thibet has become a pawn in the great game which Britain and Russia are playing in Asia," and confirmation of this statement would seem to be given by the report which came to us via the Chinese, on the 11th of January, that Russia is even now dispatching strong reinforcements to Thibet. This report has not been officially confirmed, but that some trouble is brewing in Thibet is evident. On the same day came word that the Chinese residing in Lhasa are raising troops in the Province of Sze-Chuan to check the British advance.

The cause of this "British advance," as briefly summarized, is as follows: Thibet, hitherto, has been a sealed land. No white man has ever succeeded in penetrating it to any distance, or else those who did never returned. But it is reputed to be a rich land, hence, must not stand in the way of English commerce. Last summer, Col. Younghusband was sent to demand that representatives of the Grand Lama should meet him to confer concerning measures for removing hindrances to trade between Thibet and India. At the border of the unknown land he was told that he must send his military escort back if he wished to go further. He refused, and returned to India, whereupon Col. MacDonald was dispatched with a second expedition.

Thibet is governed, to some extent, by its priests or lamas, at whose head is the Grand Lama. Chinese soldiers, however, are in all the towns, with Chinese generals at their head. The Grand Lama, it has been learned, never leaves his palace at Lhasa, "The Mysterious." Superior to him in power is a sort of Premier, who appoints each Grand Lama. That this ceremony is required at frequent intervals may be gathered from the fact that the Grand Lama is always a child. When he reaches fifteen years of age he disappears mysteriously, whereupon the Premier appoints another child, into whom, he asserts, the spirit of the last Lama has entered. These are the fanatics then, who, it is not unreasonable to suppose, may be Britain's next enemies.

Give the Boy a Chance.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of January 7th, you say it is very humiliating to think that some boys have an idea that knowledge of scientific farming could not benefit them in the least. Now, I don't think the boys are altogether to blame for this state of affairs, as many fathers think that what was good enough for them is good enough for the boys, so the boy has no chance, as the father does not want him to leave the farm, and still he keeps on farming the way his grandfather did. There is a farmer in this section who milked seventeen or eighteen cows during the past season, and fattened eighteen pigs. He pitched all his hay by hand, and then grumbled about the times and how hard he had to work. If farmers would invest a little more money in buildings, farm improvements, home comforts and education, instead of putting it all in the bank, they would get double the interest.

Prince Edward Co. "ONE OF THE BOYS."

Canadian Speakers at St. Louis.

At the meeting of the Plant and Animal Breeders' Section of the American Association of Agricultural Colleges, held in St. Louis last week, addresses were delivered by Dr. Wm. Saunders, Ottawa, on "Wheat-breeding in Canada: Its Objects and Results"; and by H. H. Groff, of Simcoe, on "Breeding from Tame vs. Wild Species." Mr. Groff's specialty is floriculture, in which he has attained a continental reputation.

Stock Judging in the Maritime Provinces.

A two-weeks short course in stock-judging will be held at the new Agricultural College, Truro, N. S., commencing about the end of January. Dr. J. H. Reed and M. Cumming, of the Ontario Agricultural College, will have charge of the classes.