

The Farming World

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A Record Harvest Likely

THE harvest upon which our farmers are just entering is likely to go down to history as a record one. Reports from all points, east, centre and west, indicate a bountiful harvest. There are rumors of rust in the west, but so far as we can learn rumors they are still, set on foot, perhaps, by unscrupulous speculators to influence the market. While western Canada is more in the people's eye when crops are referred to, Ontario is not taking a back seat this year. So far as our memory serves us prospects were never brighter for a good average yield of cereals in this province than at the present time. If weather conditions are favorable for the next few weeks our farmers will have their granaries full to overflowing. The scarcity of help is a difficulty that will not be lessened by a big crop.

What a bountiful harvest means to the country at large need scarcely be dwelt upon at length. So closely is Canada's prosperity allied with agriculture that plenty in the granary means plenty for the manufacturer and the merchant. Another season of prosperity is assured, providing no serious injury results to the crops before it is gathered in. Favorable weather and plenty of help are the contingencies upon which success hinges at the present time, and every day lessens the probability of injury.

Lavish With the People's Money

On July 19th the second longest session of the Canadian Parliament on record was brought to a close. The important feature of the session was the calling into existence of the two new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. They will come into the Dominion on September 1st.

So far as agriculture is concerned there was comparatively little legislation bearing directly upon it. Mr. Fisher's seed bill is the most important measure of this nature. It will come into effect on September 1st. Briefly, it establishes a standard of seeds which shall be sold as No. 1, of extra quality, and provides for the absolute prohibition of the sale of seeds which contain certain well-known and widely spread weeds. Another measure introduced by the Minister of Agriculture provides regulations for the apple export trade. When apples are packed in Canada for export by the box they are to be put up in good and strong boxes of not less than ten inches in depth, eleven inches in width and twenty inches in length. The penalty for violation of the provisions of the act is twenty-five cents per box.

A feature of the session of more than ordinary interest to farmers was the in-

vestigations of the telephone committee. It is to be hoped that the final deliberations of this committee will be productive of legislation that will facilitate the growth of the rural phone and relieve the country to some extent from the monopoly enjoyed by existing concerns.

Matters military have some interest for the farmer, but any increased expenditure in this direction, especially leading to the imposing of a modified form on this country of the military institutions of Europe, as intimated by the Minister of Militia near the close of the session, should be strongly protested against. This is a peace-loving country and we desire to be free from

EXHIBITION NUMBER

The eighth annual exhibition number of THE FARMING WORLD will appear on Sept. 1st. This number is THE FARMING WORLD's big issue of the year and is always of interest to every farmer. The coming one will be equal if not superior to those that have gone before, and we can promise something real good in agricultural journalism.

An extra large edition will be run off for distribution at the fall fairs. If subscribers will kindly send the names and addresses of friends who would be interested in this number we will be glad to send sample copies free of charge.

Advertisers requiring space in the exhibition number will do well to apply to the business office early in order that good positions may be secured.

anything savoring of the pernicious militarism of the old land.

The session will go down to history as one in which the Government was most lavish in its expenditure of public funds. Though the revenue is still buoyant, it does not afford a sufficient reason for many of the expenditures made. Lean years may be on the way, and instead of increasing the public debt, part of the surplus at least should be applied to reducing it.

But what shall be said of the last act of the session, when the members, seemingly finding no other outlet for the surplus, took a big slice into themselves? Some of the increases made we can heartily approve of, but not the indemnity or pension part of it. The old indemnity of \$1,500 should well repay the average member for all the time and attention he gives to his parliamentary duties, even if the session is six months long. To the casual observer there appears to be only about a dozen members on each side who pay strict attention to business during the session and really do the business of the country. The

remainder appear to be "hangers on," who saunter in when they feel like it. Conduct parliament on business principles and there will be fewer long sessions and less "loafing" by the members.

The Bacon Hog Question

No discussion in these columns in recent months has aroused more general interest than that on the "Packer and the Bacon Hog." Nearly every correspondent has expressed the opinion that unless the packer or drover is prepared to pay more for select bacon hogs than for lights and fats the quality of our bacon products is bound to deteriorate. A premium of 50 cents or even 25 cents a cwt. guaranteed the farmer for the select bacon hog would insure his being produced in larger numbers and of the quality desired. Under the present plan of paying the same price for all kinds there is no incentive to produce the desired quality.

It cannot be denied, however, that the very existence of our export bacon trade depends upon the ascendancy of the bacon hog. It is because our farmers have produced the bacon hog in increasing numbers during the past ten or fifteen years that Canada is to-day exporting bacon products to the value of \$12,000,000 annually. Perhaps it is because the packer feels that the farmer must produce the bacon hog in order to retain our export trade at its present proportions that he is unwilling to pay a sufficient premium for high quality. If so, we can assure him that he is living in a fool's paradise. Wisely or unwisely the farmer will produce the kind that he can make the most money out of.

At \$6 and \$6.25 per cwt. it will pay well to produce the bacon hog, someone will say. And so it will. But that is not the point at issue. No matter what the trade can afford to pay, reason and common sense demand that choice quality should command a higher price in the open market than inferior quality. If \$6 per cwt. is all the packer can afford to pay for select quality, then let the price for inferior stuff be put down to \$5.50, or better still, \$5.00 per cwt. If this were done for a year or two there would be a revolution in the trade. The drover would be compelled to discriminate, and would soon have learned a valuable lesson in selection that would be useful ever after. Quality would be recognized in a dollars and cents way and the trade placed upon a better footing.

There is no reason in the world why, if the packer had played fair, he should need to import hogs from the United States to keep his establishment going, as he is doing to-day. We have