

# The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD

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## A WISE APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Hon. Nelson Monteith, having decided definitely to retire as Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, Hon. Mr. Whitney must soon select a new colleague to fill that important position. The selection is one that will have to be made with great care. Hon. Mr. Whitney realizes this. During the recent Provincial elections, no criticism against the present government was made more frequently than that the agricultural interests had not been given the consideration, during the past four years, that their importance deserved.

Great pressure will be brought to bear on Hon. Mr. Whitney, by the friends of different members of the Legislature, to ensure their appoint-

ment to fill the vacancy in the Cabinet.

Fortunately, Hon. Mr. Whitney has shown repeatedly his ability to withstand pressure of this sort both from within, as well as from without, his party. It is imperative that he shall take such a stand at this time. Services that have been rendered to the party, or the geographical location of constituencies, are questions that should not be taken into consideration in the selection of a Minister of Agriculture.

Dairying is the chief agricultural industry of Ontario. It is rapidly growing in importance. The new Minister of Agriculture should have a thorough knowledge of the dairy industry. In addition, he should be actively engaged in agricultural work, and have an open mind, and the executive ability, that will enable him to grasp, and deal effectively with the thousand and one questions pertaining to agriculture that confront the Minister of Agriculture. He must, also, be a man of progressive ideas, capable of initiating and carrying through the important measures relating to agriculture that must be dealt with by the government during the next few years.

No member of the Legislature is as well qualified to fill the position as Mr. J. R. Dargavel, the member for Leeds county. Mr. Dargavel owns and operates a 250-acre dairy farm, on which he keeps a large herd of pure-bred and grade Ayrshire cows. He is the president of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, and has been a director of that association for many years, during which period he has rendered much valuable service for the cause of agriculture. It is generally known that Mr. Dargavel was largely instrumental in drafting and having passed the sanitary legislation relating to the dairy industry that is proving so beneficial. Mr. Dargavel is better known throughout the province in agricultural circles than any other member of the legislature. His appointment as Minister of Agriculture would be popular and would add a strong member to Hon. Mr. Whitney's Cabinet.

## A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER CLOSED

The late Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, who passed away in Stratford last week, was one of the most enterprising, unselfish and far-seeing public men Canada has known. The dairy industry, now our most important branch of agriculture, owes more to the late Mr. Ballantyne than to any other man. Our older dairymen are familiar with the manner in which he strove year after year, to interest Ontario farmers in dairying, at a time when few had a good word to say for the industry. Our younger dairymen may well hear the story re-told, if only in brief, that they may see what one determined, progressive, public-spirited man can accomplish.

In co-operative dairying Mr. Ballantyne fought the battle alone for many years. In 1867 he built the

Black Creek cheese factory, which has long been recognized as a model, but for years his work was tedious. About 1870 he felt that he would have to forego the work. He had expended from his private funds all that he could afford. He appealed to Hon. John Carling, then Minister of Agriculture, and received \$800 per annum. This gave him new hope, and in 1877 he brought to Perth county the gold medal for the best cheese made on the American continent.

During 1867 he attended the first dairy convention and was elected director, and was subsequently elected nine times president, being also first honorary President. At one time he attended and addressed meetings in all parts of the country, and at his own expense, in order that he might create a greater interest in dairying.

It was Mr. Ballantyne who suggested the principle of employing instructors to improve the quality of dairy products, and upon one occasion when the association was unwilling to retain the services of Prof. Arnold, then instructor, he retained him at his own expense for a year. Largely through his efforts he has seen the cheese factories of Canada increase in number to several thousand, and nearly all of which are managed by farmers themselves. He has seen also the system of dairy instruction extended until it covers not only Ontario, but several other provinces as well, and the industry has grown until Canada has become one of the greatest dairy countries in the world.

Co-operative dairying has been introduced in Scotland, and for this Mr. Ballantyne was directly responsible. In the south of Scotland he visited farms, and interested the Scottish farmers in the movement.

Those who heard Mr. Ballantyne address the members of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association at their convention in Stratford three years ago, will long remember the fire and energy the grand old man put into his words, and the inspiration he gave to those who were present to fight the good fight for improvement in agriculture.

Much could be said about the splendid work Mr. Ballantyne accomplished in the commercial, municipal and political world, and particularly of his work in the Ontario Legislature, of which he was a member for almost twenty years. During that period he was a foremost champion of the agricultural interests. After all, however, the late Mr. Ballantyne's chief pride was his splendid family of seven sons and one daughter. All of his sons have made honored and even distinguished names for themselves in their respective lines of effort. Two of them, Robert Ballantyne, of Montreal, now senior Canadian partner of Lovell & Christman, one of Canada's greatest exporters of butter and cheese, and Thomas Ballantyne, Jr., of Stratford, to their father's delight, have on different occasions, been chosen by their brother dairymen, in Western Ontario, to act as president of the dairymen's association. A third son,

M. W. W. Ballantyne, of Stratford, is well known, by name at least, to our readers, as a successful farmer and breeder of Ayrshire cattle.

Upon such a life of unselfish effort, the fellow Canadians of the late Hon. Mr. Ballantyne can repeat only the scriptural verdict, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

## HONOR BEFORE SELF

We recently spent a few hours at the home of a farmer who does not dress as stylishly as many farmers do, or as is customary among city people, but who has a heart that beats true, and a sense of honor that would put many men of greater pretensions to shame. Our friend some ten years ago, invested all his earnings in real estate. At that time there was a boom. Suddenly the boom collapsed. He found himself not only penniless, but in debt some thousands of dollars. Unfortunately the firms who held his notes failed, as a result, in part, at least, of the same boom. Had it not been for this, he might have been able to have paid the interest, and later saved considerable of his property. As it was, he lost everything.

He was getting up in years. Many men would have gone into liquidation and left their creditors to realize what they could. Instead of doing this, our friend set to work resolutely to pay off his indebtedness. His only method of doing this, was by means of his dairy farm. He keeps a herd of Jersey cattle. For ten years he has been paying off his indebtedness. Some years he has paid off as much as two hundred dollars a month.

During this period he has not been able to put on much style. He has not wanted to. It is possible that some people, who have not known his circumstances, judging by his appearance, may have concluded that he was an unsuccessful farmer, and pitied him. How mistaken they would have been! This man has had a success of his life. He has put honor ahead of riches, and saved his good name. Now, he has his indebtedness about all paid off, he is not ashamed to look any man in the face. All honor to him.

## LOW STALLION FEES ARE COSTLY

Nothing has done more damage to the horse breeding industry than the fact that stallions of low breeding, a large percentage of which are unsound, are offered for service at low fees. In many cases the low service fee is almost their only recommendation. Those of our farmers who cannot see beyond the cost of the service fee find this low fee wonderfully attractive. It serves as a snare to lure them from the paths that years of experience have shown to be the only safe ones to follow in horse breeding.

There are certain facts that bear almost endless repetition and one of these is that it is folly to pass by a good pure bred stallion to use a grade, no matter how fine a look-