

British Columbia Farmers' Convention.

The farmers have had their day at Agassiz according to their programme. Considering it was the initial farmers convention of the Province it was a pronounced success. Every part of B. C. was represented, and over 150 cultivators of the soil discussed questions of momentous interest to themselves.

In a nutshell the business was done as follows: The Dominion Government will be asked directly for aid in dyking the valley of the Fraser. The provincial Government will be invited to co-operate with the farmers in promoting a scheme of dyking and to aid in widening the channel where required. The Local legislature will be asked to stop the hydraulic miners dumping their refuse into the river and causing constant silting of the bed of the Fraser.

A committee was appointed to investigate the cause the and means of preventing the spread of tuberculosis among cattle in the province and ask the Government to reimburse those whose cattle are shot by the health inspector. They will ask the Dominion to send Professor Robertson's travelling dairy dairy through the province and all necessary supplies to work with.

The Dominion Government will be asked to irrigate the large tracts of land east of the Cascade Mountains for wheat raising.

The following important report was also presented.

To the Chairman and Members of the Farmers' Convention.

GENTLEMEN,—Your committee appointed to report upon the causes which most seriously affect the thorough development of the agricultural possibilities of this province are of opinion that any legislation, agitation or corporation that will lead toward the removal of the following will be beneficial. 1st Large areas of land suitable for cultivation and held for purely speculative purposes; 2nd. High prices at which land partially cleared is held; 3rd. The large size of many holdings and their partial cultivation; 4th. Agriculturist not adapting himself the needs of the country; 5th The lack of sympathy between town and country; 6th. Scientific education needed within the province; 7th. Necessity of small experimental stations in different portions of the province; and your committee is of opinion that a more thorough system of government and municipal taxation will tend to remove causes 1, 2, and 3, and recommend that a system of specific taxation having a low rate on land in cultivation as a basis be adopted, and that all speculative land be taxed at a rate which would make this class of tenancy unprofitable; and that all improvements be exempt from taxation, and that system be enforced throughout the province. Your committee hoped that careful observation and continued study of the products which are imported into the province and which might be profitably produced within the province, and the placing of products in such a marketable manner as will ensure profitable returns, will remove cause 4; the remedy suggested in previous clauses will in great measure accomplish this very desirable end; and your committee hope that the press of the province will agitate for the removal of the causes which so materially affect the agricultural possibilities of the province. Your committee are of opinion that the time is most opportune for the establishment of an agricultural college in the province, and your committee believe that there is a large number of young men in the province who are anxious to avail themselves of such education. In pointing out the necessity for small experimental stations throughout the province, your committee strongly recommend that the government be urged to expend a small amount annually toward this, as the large extent of the province and the different conditions under which horticulture has to be pursued points out that a number of small

experimental stations are essential to successful horticulture. Your committee recommended that the suggestions in this report, if adopted by your convention, be referred to a committee for presentation to the government. Your committee consider that a large attendance at this convention is a matter of congratulation, and having been so happily inaugurated may it continue and its usefulness be increased from year to year. All of which is respectfully submitted."

The hop ranches and the Dominion experimental farm were visited by the delegates during their stay in Agassiz. The farm now comprises three hundred acres, 115 acres of which are under cultivation, and seven hundred acres of mountain land. At the present time 150 varieties of grain are under test, 60 varieties of potatoes and over 500 varieties of apples, 150 of pears, 150 of peaches, 100 of figs, and 75 varieties of grain hybrids. The most noticeable in the fruit line were the plums and blackberries, the latter were of enormous size and magnificent flavor, and some of the plums were said to be ahead of anything of their kind in the world, the apples and pears lacked flavor. Almost in every instance the fruit high up on the mountain side was in splendid condition. The different varieties of cattle looked remarkably well. Strange that in British Columbia we cannot get good milk and good butter. Cattle thrive and we have magnificent pasture land. We need the traveling dairy very badly, it must be the dairymen themselves that are to blame. The hops on the adjoining private ranches were in splendid shape, they are a very profitable crop in this province, being preferred by the English brewers to almost any hops in the market, but they require great attention and skilled labor is required to bring them to perfection.

Cranberries.

The New York Journal of Commerce has the following about this important article of commerce: Cranberries appear in the market the middle or latter part of August, and after the first week in September the supply is generally large. As the time draws near for the season to open dealers commence to turn their attention to this fruit. From present indications it would appear that the yield is going to be unusually small this year at all producing sections, though growers are inclined to claim the crop a failure at about this time of the year, in hope of opening the market high. The first berries come from Cape Cod, and as a rule Jersey growers hold back their crop until the Cape stock is marketed, though moderate shipments are also made early in the season from Jersey. Leading growers in Cape Cod report that the late frosts last spring injured the crop to such an extent that there is only a very light yield, probably less than half a crop, and Jersey reports also indicate a partial failure. Ocean county last year is said to have shipped 150,000 crates. In some other sections reports are not so bad; but the continued unfavorable weather has hurt the crop more or less at all points, and the trade here do not estimate over half a crop from advices received from most heavy growers. The drouth west have cut down the crop in Wisconsin materially, and all indications point to a most limited supply for the coming year.

Last year prices ranged unusually low, owing to the large crop on the Cape, and growers and shippers made little money, though at the close of the season the position strengthened and prices ruled high. This year, should the crop be as light as generally promised, prices will certainly range high and it will doubtless be a very satisfactory season.

According to the Montreal custom house returns, no less than 5,280 French Canadian families, estimated at 41,400 souls, returned to Quebec province from the New England states during 1893.

Increasing Gold Production in Australia.

The revival in gold mining continues. This revival of course owes much of its importance to the depression in trade, which forces so many men into mining, but the fabulous finds in western Australia, while in part an effect, are also a most potent cause. As a result of the much larger force at work and the new fields opened, a considerable increase in the output of gold is confidently expected this year. The official statistics of gold production in the various colonies for the six months ended June 30, 1894, are as follows:

	Ounces.
Victoria	300,350
Queensland	206,100
New South Wales	110,263
New Zealand	47,493
Western Australia	82,764
South Australia	16,655
Tasmania	20,970
Other Sources	6,625
Total	941,307

On the basis of these results for the half year, and after consultation with eminent authorities in Australia, the following estimate for 1894 is submitted, comparison being made with the official figures of 1893:

	1893. Ounces.	1894. Estimated ounces.
Victoria	671,126	710,000
Queensland	618,940	632,000
New Zealand	226,811	195,000
New South Wales	179,888	200,000
Western Australia	110,800	200,000
South Australia	23,820	31,000
Tasmania	37,037	40,000
Total	1,976,592	2,001,000

It will be seen that the estimate for Western Australia makes the production almost double that for the previous year, 1893.

In Victoria, though few new fields have been opened, an increased output is already apparent. A belt of country in the eastern district, once unpopular by reason of the occurrence of lead and iron with the gold, is now being worked with considerable success. In some directions tailings are being worked over again by one or other of the many processes in the market, and, generally, mining is being carried on in a more scientific and economic method than ever before.—Financial Chronicle, Melbourne Letter.

Lives of Women and Men.

The relative longevity of men and women is a subject in which interest has long been taken. Some statistics bearing upon it are furnished by Mr. Brandreth Symonds, an insurance company's medical officer in the old country. From these it appears that the toughness of the elderly women, which has become a proverb, is a fact as well, and exists indeed throughout later life.

The female makes a better showing, in the matter of longevity, than the male. It appears from Mr. Symonds' figures that even from birth the mortality of boys is greater than that of girls, the lines crossing at one point only during a critical period of development from twelve to sixteen. At that age the mortality among girls is 1.68 per 1,000, and of boys only 1.18. From sixteen to twenty, however, the position is reversed, the mortality being 1.70 for females and 2.21 for males. From that point onwards the difference is gradually diminished, and at the age of forty-five years the sexes are practically neck and neck, the mortality being 11.11 in each. The record of the decade which follows is curious, as being unexpectedly bad in the case of men, and unexpectedly good in the case of women, for which it is usually supposed to represent another critical period. They fall off, however, in the race for longevity, between 65 and 80. At this the men are nowhere in the struggle for existence, and women (especially widows and pensioners) are easy winners in the comparison.