



Dominion and Provincial Affairs.

The Dominion Parliament

is once more in session and the country is likely to be treated to a flow of oratory for some months to come. The bill of fare as presented in the speech from the throne is not a heavy one, but the items it contains are likely to give rise to much discussion and the session promises to be a memorable one. The great issue will be the new policy of sending Canadian soldiers to take part in the wars of the empire. This is a vital departure from previous policy and is strongly opposed by a influential party.

The government announced in its speech that it intended to submit a bill to bear the cost of several contingents that had been sent out to South Africa. On the opening day, Mr Bourassa, who resigned his seat in parliament on the question, and was re-elected, startled the house by rising and demanding that all the papers in connection with the question should be laid on the table. The making of such a motion before the debate on the speech was entirely unprecedented, but the government agreed to bring down the papers and the house was adjourned in the meantime. The government's policy will give rise to a long and interesting debate, and there is no doubt that it will be supported by a very large majority, as a view of the early holding of the general elections each party is anxious to show how loyal it is.

A Strange Idol.

Shakespeare is credited with saying, "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood leads to fortune." Shakespeare was right, and the career of Lord Strathcona shows it. Strathcona in his youth was plain Donald Smith, and his occupation was swapping red handkerchiefs for skunk skins with the Indians on the coast of Labrador. He was for many years a clerk in the employ of the Hudson Bay Co. He had acquired a modest little pile when the Canadian government became anxious to build the C P R. Mr Smith and three or four more enterprising men agreed to build it if the people would put up the money. The government made arrangements to do this and the road became a glorious reality. Mr Smith and his associates bonded the road for about three times as much as it cost, and they all became multi-millionaires.

For being smart enough to work this racket to a triumphant consummation, Mr Smith was made Lord Strathcona, and the rest of the syndicate Lords something else. The "good tide" Strathcona got on top of was a railway franchise. Strathcona is now sitting out at his own expense, a regiment of horse, recruited in the northwest, for service in South Africa, and is being loudly praised for his munificence. In the meantime the farmers of

Manitoba are having the blood squeezed out of them to pay dividends on the watered stock which Mr Smith put on the market. When people are shouting the praises of Strathcona, they should drop a tear for the western farmers who have to give his railroad one load of wheat to take another one to market.

Free Rural Mail Delivery.

If Postmaster-General Mulock wants to do something to make himself immensely popular with the farming population, he should begin the delivery of mails daily by carriers to farmers' homes, just as is being done in cities. This should be begun at once in an experimental way, beginning in the more suitable and thickly-settled farm districts. Free rural mail delivery has proved an immensely popular thing among farmers in the states, and not very expensive either. Improved mail facilities mean more general information, more reading matter and a closer touch with the world. With daily mails and hardened roads who wouldn't live in the country?

Co-operation in Buying Corn.

It has been ascertained that to feed cattle, successfully, either for beef or milk, a good portion of the ration must be corn. Corn is not raised in Canada profitably, except in two or three counties on the shore of Lake Erie, and most of that fed has to be imported from the states. It is the custom of several small feeders to co-operate in the purchase of a carload and thereby save the middleman's profits. This practice has saved thousands of dollars to the farmers, and will save more in the future as the farmers are realizing, more and more, each year, the benefit they are deriving from co-operation in this particular line.

Beef Rings.

Another source of profit and health has been derived from the formation of "beef rings" among farmers for the purpose of supplying those co-operating with fresh meat. In some localities butchers do not call to supply farmers with fresh meat, and they are confined to a diet of salt pork at all seasons which brings a wrecked life and a miserable existence. There has often been found difficulty in forming these rings on account of the penuriousness of some farmers who thought they could not afford to eat wholesome food and enjoy good health. Now and then a man is found to use himself so meanly that he even sells the pork and eats the rind. But education and a higher ideal of life, a growing opinion that it is the duty of every man to take all the happiness he can while journeying through this vale of tears, is having its effect on the pork barrel and is inducing these narrow farmers to invest, occasionally, in roast beef.

Flying Chips.

Our Dominion farmers have more produce to send to the old country than the steamers at present can carry. The elevator at Sand Point, N B, is full and the yard is nearly blocked and a thousand cars of freight are on the sidings from St John to McAdam junction on the C P R. Besides men and money, the greatest thing our Canadian farmers can furnish England is an unlimited amount of the best quality of food, pure and unadulterated.

The people are sorry now that they gave great public franchises to great corporations. What the corporations have they hold. What few public franchises there are left should be kept for the people. Will they? That depends on the conscience and spine of the man who goes to congress.

There is an immense amount of freight from the states hauled over the Canadian railways. The shippers in the states pay for the axle grease; the Canadian farmers pay all the rest of the expenses connected with running the trains.

A ditches and water courses act should be passed at this session of parliament, one that railroads will respect. Every reader of F & H should write to his M P a red-hot letter—one that will burn a hole into his understanding.

Texas, more logical than some other states, has made its new anti-trust law applicable to combinations of the employed as well as of the employers, and the labor unions are "in a box." The keener of the labor leaders throughout the country saw this point long ago and counseled moderation in attacking the co-operative principle.

Kerosene has risen; Standard oil must not lower its 33 per cent dividend. Wire nails have risen from \$1 a keg to \$3.50, since the combine, though the trust sells the same kind in Europe at \$2.14 a keg.

Butter, Cheese and Live Stock.

The average Canadian farmer is great on butter, cheese and live stock. He thinks about it, talks about it and writes about it. He carries the trade and navigation returns in his pocket and has them marked at butter, cheese and live stock. He strokes his chin while he looks at his fine brick house and whispers, butter, cheese and live stock. They send his boys to college and keep his wallet fat. They buy loan company's stock and bank stock. The Canadian farmer wears a broad grin when he points out to his cousin from Uncle Samuel's land how he has scooped him in the world's markets and gets better prices for his butter, cheese and live stock. The first thing he will do after admission into heaven will be to brag about his butter, cheese and live stock.

Problems of the Day.

HOW ORGANIZATION PAYS.

Organized farmers soon become better acquainted with each other's nature, exchange ideas and experiences, sometimes forming life friendships, are better enabled to combat social evils, demand public improvements and better service of government officers, create instructive and entertaining social events, establish a library of useful literature, a museum of the different kinds of insects injurious to animal and vegetable life, keep on file the bulletins and reports of experiment stations and departments of agriculture, provide ways and means for the prompt circulation of weather bureau reports and mail matter, and the delivery of small purchases among the members.

Co-operation commands larger capital, greater energy, skill and intelligence, and thus increases the individual welfare. The number of persons thus uniting should be consistent with the profitable employment of each. They can buy the best kind of seeds, plants and animals, tools and machinery, household furniture, useful and ornamental, clothing, food and medicines, and building materials at wholesale prices. They need purchase but one male of each kind for breeding purposes; select the tract of land best adapted for the growth of each kind of vegetation and animal life, and develop it to the best advantage.

One system of steam power could be used for pumping, heating, cooking and milling purposes. They could have a common interest in the construction of buildings for properly housing the different kinds of animal life and storage of vegetable products, an ice house and cold storage building. They could employ a private tutor for their group of children. They could send their products to market in carload lots, thus saving the freight and other expenses. They would need less wagons, tools and machinery. There could be a great saving in time, material and labor in all that pertains to farm life.—[Alex W. Murray.]

The Farmer's Surroundings are better adapted to produce intelligence and breadth of thought than those of almost any other class. The farmer only lacks confidence in himself, individually and collectively, to become a leading factor in shaping not only his own destiny, but that of the whole people as well. This confidence will only come to us by mingling together in a fraternal way and broadening our intellectual faculties by taking part in the discussion of such moral, social, civil, political and agricultural topics as are agitating the world at the present time.

A Priceless Jewel—Intelligent citizens make intelligent voters. Educated mothers rear intelligent citizens. When you put money in education you invest capital that will give you ever increasing return and can neither be lost nor squandered. To secure efficiency in our common schools, three things are of paramount importance: The means with which to operate them, educated and consecrated teachers, intelligent and efficient superintendents.

The value of the farm lands of Ontario has fallen off \$100,000,000 in 15 yrs.