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London, Ont., Thursday, April 27.

Purebred Stock.

DURING a debate at Ottawa when the house was in committee of supply for the department of agriculture, Hon. S. F. Tolmie from Victoria, B. C., went extensively into several matters, the best of his remarks being to show that the big chance for the Canadian farmer was in getting a better grade of cattle, and doing away with the "average" animal.

"As to cattle, we have about ten million head altogether, three and a half million of which are dairy cows. It is an astonishing fact that at our abattoirs, where inspection is carried on and cattle are slaughtered for export and for home consumption, less than 10 per cent of the animals slaughtered are good enough for export across the Atlantic. A great many of them are too small, too poor in quality, and altogether unsatisfactory in condition. The farmers thus suffer a tremendous loss by reason of the low standard of quality of the animals they ship to the market. Just the other day in the Toronto market, for example, the cheapest steer that was sold fetched 4½ cents per pound, compared with 10 and 11 cents for the best and, in one instance, 13 cents for an animal of first-class condition. Farmers who send animals to market in poor condition lose heavily, first in the lower price they receive, and, secondly, in the lower weight of the animal as compared with stock of better condition. This trouble is due largely to the fact that farmers crowd animals on the market in the fall of the year, thus making conditions much worse than they would be if their shipments were spread over a longer period.

"Out of 3,500,000 dairy cows last year produced wealth to the extent of some \$260,000,000; and in this connection I might remark that I was very much interested the other day to hear, on the floor of the house, the statement that our dairymen could not hope to succeed unless they worked their wives and families in the dairy. I do not think that this statement is applicable to the dairy districts of Ontario or British Columbia. I know that in British Columbia we are able to import our bran and shorts, the rough feeds, such as barley and oats, from the prairies, in many instances get our alfalfa from Washington, paying duty, in addition to freight, and are able to make a profit and, as well, have a hired man to help us. We cannot, however, hope to accomplish this with poor quality cows.

"These 3,500,000 cows average only about 4,000 pounds of milk per cow per year. Now, we have certain animals in Canada that have made records of over 32,000 pounds per year, or eight times as much as the production of one of these average cows. This means that the man who wants to produce 32,000 pounds with scrub cows will require to maintain no fewer than eight of these animals, providing housing and feed, and giving them all the general attention necessary in a dairy. At the end of the year the man with the 32,000-pound cow will have made a substantial profit, while all that the other man gets with his scrub cattle is simply the fresh air and the exercise. This shows how necessary it is for us to improve the quality of our animals. And if there is any farmer in any part of Canada who requires more information along these particular lines, if he is anxious to improve his herd and feed it at a profit, all he has to do is to make inquiry of these much-criticized establishments, the Dominion experimental farms."

When Hon. Mr. Tolmie uses the phrase "much-criticized" establishments in regard to experimental farms, he speaks the truth, as any person who has had occasion to have experience in that line knows.

At the same time in the above extract from Mr. Tolmie's speech in the house he puts up a case that is hard to get away from, except on the plea that it may take money and a little time for dairymen to get into the purebred stock class. If there is any argument to show that his line of reasoning is not correct we would be pleased to hear it.

A Fine Spirit.

THE London fire department is going to be reduced by six men. The six slated to go are, we believe, men who have been on the department for some time, and who are now nearing the time when they are not as active as they used to be.

The discussion as to who is to be laid off and who is to remain has afforded an opportunity for six of the firemen to show about as fine a spirit as could be desired.

Six of the younger men, with not such great family responsibilities as those who were slated to go, voluntarily went to the chief and stated that they would give up their positions if the older men were permitted to stay.

If some such thing happened in another city or another country we would probably hear more of it, but when these things take place right at home we are apt to pass them by as everyday happenings.

This action on the part of the six younger men gives a concrete example of a spirit that is far too scarce in this selfish day and gen-

THE KIND OF COMPANY HE HAS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.



eration. These younger men need the employment, as some of them are married. At the fire hall they have steady employment, and would likely have such for some years to come, but they were willing to go out into an over-stocked labor market and take their chances at looking for something else by which they could earn a living, in order that some of their older friends might not be thrown out.

It is a mighty fine spirit, and should not be allowed to go unnoticed.

IN THIS same connection it should be noticed that a fireman has not a very long period of service at best. The nature of the work they are called upon to perform requires young men, full of action, strong and capable. A man's strength, physical fitness and youth are about the greatest assets he has. These are things that cannot be retained indefinitely, even with the greatest of care and the most careful living. Years are bound to assert themselves, and every year that a fireman serves is one year nearer to the time when he will be looked over by the head of his department some day and informed that it is time for him to retire from that work.

The attitude of too many people toward a fire department is similar to the idea that money paid out for insurance—life or fire—is simply a necessary and somewhat of a compulsory expenditure. When a man sees fire attacking his premises he realizes the fact that his insurance policy and his fire department are about the two best assets he has in that time of need. In that hour he can see the wisdom of the expenditure he has made to keep them up.

London should think very carefully about the wisdom of practicing economy by cutting down the strength of the fire department.

Reminiscences.

MAGISTRATE HUNT of St. Thomas was one of the pioneer newspapermen of that snug little city to the south of us. At a gathering of Ontario newspaper publishers in that city a few days ago the veteran gave some of the reminiscences of the days long since passed and gone, and took his hearers back with him to the days of simple pure personal journalism.

Reporters and editors of today seem more or less removed from the pure, unadulterated joy that used to travel hand in hand with a day's work of 50 or 60 years ago, for he remembered that MAGISTRATE HUNT goes back many years, as he said he had sworn off delivering speeches after he reached 80 years of age.

Imagine this for a day's work. The scribe, HUNT, was on the streets of St. Thomas one evening when he witnessed a man hugging and kissing another man's wife with a great deal more vim and vigor than any man would ever burn up in paying the same sort of attention to his own wife. While all this was going on the husband of the hugged wife put in an appearance, and there was a fight right there. The outcome was that the amorous admirer licked the husband, so he was victor all through the performance from first to last.

Well, next day the old St. Thomas Journal carried a very fine story, telling all that had taken place, and the chances are that the event lost nothing at all in the telling.

Shortly after the paper had made its daily appearance a very indignant man came to the office—he was either the hugger or the licked husband—we forget which. He wanted to know who wrote the story, and met with the reply that the Journal wrote the story.

But that would not do, and he informed the place that he wanted to find the man who wrote the story, because he was going to give him the worst licking any man ever got in St. Thomas. This led to the remark of the inference that he wanted to see the fighting editor, and the signal was given: "Hunt, get off your coat

and throw this man downstairs." MAGISTRATE HUNT takes only a small portion of the glory in the words: "Which I did."

To the newspapermen who were fortunate enough to hear the veteran journalist in his reminiscent mood, it was indeed a treat to be brought into touch for a short half-hour with the ways, experiences, the joys and the sorrows of the men who built the papers of 50 and 60 years ago. Few of them are left with us now, as most of them have passed over the Great Divide, and as MAGISTRATE HUNT remarks, they ought to be entitled to reserved seats, every one of them, for what they had to put up with when they were here.

LITTLE 'TISERS

Montreal music teacher is up for forgery. Uttering false notes, as it were.

Baked young monkey is considered a fine dish in centre Mexico. Regular cannibals down there.

The German-Russ combination will bring forth a fine assortment of chin whiskers and pointed moustaches.

The mayor of a neighboring town is said to be a very good violin player. If he stays in public life very long, though, he will find out that wind instruments are more effective in getting votes.

Funny, but true. Many a man will sit down on a Sunday night with his radio attachment and harken to a sermon being preached by some person away off in Pittsburgh, Detroit or New York, while a team of oxen couldn't budge him across the road to hear a sermon at home.

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