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Note and Comment

THE cool weather has continued well towards the end of the month, and there is no little anxiety as to the crop prospects for 1907. Recent reports from the West are more favorable and indicate that the seed has been sown in better prepared soil than usual, an advantage no doubt in insuring a good crop. In eastern Canada people are not so optimistic. Fall wheat in Ontario, except in a few favored sections, is a partial failure. But more serious, perhaps, is the hay crop, which has been very much injured in many sections. Of course everything will depend upon the season from this on, and there is nothing to prevent a fair crop of spring grain if growing conditions in June and July are favorable.

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The power question is assuming definite shape, and in the near future many of the cities and towns within reasonable distance of Niagara will be supplied with electric power at a fair price. The terms arranged by the Hydro-electric Power Commission with the Ontario Power Company provide for a supply up to 100,000 horse power with a minimum quantity to be taken of 8,000 horse-power, the price to be \$10.40 per horse power per annum up to 25,000 horse power, and thereafter at \$10.

The distribution of this power to the different towns interested should enable a great many farmers en route to take advantage of it. The Power Commission should make provision for them to secure a supply if they so desire at the same price at which it is furnished to municipalities. With electricity on the farm many problems will be solved and the farmers' business made more profitable.

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A change is to be made in the location of the pioneer farm in the clay belt of Northern Ontario. A site was selected some time ago, but owing to a change in the route of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, it has been found necessary to select a new place, as it is most desirable that the farm should be adjacent to the railway.

The Hon. Mr. Monteith will make the new selection.

Interest is centered on the West these days. A pioneer farm that will show what the clay belt will do in the way of agriculture should help to divert this interest somewhat and direct it towards developing the fertile farm lands of New Ontario.

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The important business transacted at the recent Colonial Conference was the endorsement of the principle of an all-British service from Great Britain via Canada to Australia and New Zealand. The plan in brief is to have a fast service to Halifax or to some other Canadian port equal to the existing service across the Atlantic to New York, thus saving two days. On the Pacific Ocean a service of at least 18 knots will eventually be established. If carried out it will mean a four day trip across the Atlantic, four days across Canada, and twelve to fourteen days from Canada to Australia, making about a twenty day service in all.

While a fast mail and passenger service would be of great benefit to Canada, the freight service should be in no way sacrificed in order to obtain it. Of the two we believe that greater permanent benefit to the country at large will result from an efficient freight service than from a fast mail and passenger service. If we can get the two so much the better, but if not, the fast service might better wait a few years. Our perishable food products must be got to the consumer in the best possible condition. On this the future prosperity of the country largely depends.

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The importance of the Amendment to the rules governing the registration of imported Clydesdale horses is just beginning to be realized. For a number of years Canadian importers have been urging upon the Clydesdale breeders of Scotland and those who control their stud books the need of having their eligible stock registered, but all to little avail. The majority of the fillies that have been brought to this country during the past few

years have had only the Scottish export certificate to show as evidence of breeding. Though all of them might qualify, no registration certificate has been given to the purchaser, who if he desires to record in the Canadian record, is put to a lot of unnecessary trouble and expense. The Canadian breeder before committing himself to the purchase or use of imported Clydesdales, should demand that the Canadian pedigree of the animal should be shown him.

One of the difficulties in the way of facilitating the recording of imported animals is that ancestors recorded in the Scottish stud book have to be recorded in the Canadian book at a cost of 50 cents for each animal. This makes the total fee which the applicant will have to pay somewhat of an uncertainty. His application is forwarded to Ottawa, and he receives word to remit the amount required before the pedigree is sent him. This may be not more than two dollars or it may cost as high as six dollars. If the Clydesdale association could fix upon some flat rate for recording ancestors it would simplify matters very much and save those who desire to register imported animals a lot of trouble.

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Live stock has never played a very prominent part in Nova Scotia agriculture, though that province can boast of some excellent breeds of pure bred stock. Of late years more attention has been given to this branch, and systematic efforts are being made to induce the farmer to keep better stock and more of it. Expansion just now seems to be turning more in the direction of the horse raising and sheep breeding branches of live stock husbandry, for which the province is very well adapted. There is a strong feeling among legislators and others that the local government should import horses and sheep particularly, and have them distributed over the province.

There is, however, a difference of opinion as to the best means of doing this. Some favor the auction sale, while others say that