

The  
**Farmer's Advocate**  
and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED"

ESTABLISHED 1866

Vol. XL

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., JUNE 22, 1905.

No. 665

EDITORIAL.

**Co-operation Prospects in Export Fruit Trade.**

The instance of British conservatism cited below by Mr. P. B. MacNamara, Canadian Commercial Agent in Manchester, Eng., reveals a difficulty that will be met in the contemplated plan of getting Old Country firms to send representatives among the Ontario Co-operative Fruit-packing Associations to buy the crop f.o.b.:

"In view of a circular letter, dated March 24th, 1905, from the Chief of Market Division of the Department of Agriculture, regarding the sale of 50,000 barrels of apples, to be packed by the co-operative apple-packing associations in Western Ontario, I called on the leading wholesale apple firms in Manchester and in Liverpool, for an expression of their views anent this plan of sale, for the purpose of presenting same as succinctly as possible. It is not looked on with any degree of favor. None of them would buy on the trees. The expense of sending an expert buyer on a problematical purchase is a deterrent. They take the ground that the individual orchards entering the co-operative packing association will produce 100 to 500 barrels of varying fruit, and that the packing of same involves the same difficulties as to grading as obtained heretofore in the hands of packers, and they offer the suggestion that the output should be disposed of to leading Canadian apple exporters, and that after the brand of apples packed by the co-operative association is known to be uniform and reliable, and is sought for by the British people, they would entertain the proposition of buying direct from the packing association."

The paternal suggestion to sell to Canadian exporters is hardly worth considering. Once organized, our growers will be disposed to reap the full reward of their enterprise by selling direct on the foreign markets, thus cutting out the middleman, and at the same time obtaining the advantage of the reputation which each association may work up for its brand. If dealers were to buy the output, they, rather than the growers, would get the credit for any superiority in packing or grading, and since there might be more or less diversity among the packs of different associations, the dealer would still be unable to guarantee uniformity in his turnover, which is one of the strong points of co-operative packing and sale. With their usual aptitude for misunderstanding things, the Old Country firms assume that the pack of each grower will vary. This, as our readers are aware, is the very thing that is avoided by the central packing-house system, which has been adopted by most of the co-operative associations.

It is at least encouraging to learn that the British buyers will be prepared to "entertain the proposition of buying from the packing associations" after their brands are known to be uniform and reliable, and are sought for by the British people. Incidentally, it strikes us that this day would be a long time coming if we left it to the exporting firms to exploit our brands. However, if the market will not come to us, we can go to the market. Supposing we should fail in an energetic canvass for trial orders, there would still be the chance of consigning to the Old Country merchants, as did the Iderton (Ont.) organization last year, with comparatively good results, and, perhaps, after a season's experience, the British houses, like the Western merchants last summer, will find it to their ad-

vantage to buy direct from the packing associations. Growers who are enterprising enough to organize may be depended upon to find some means of getting next to the British dealer.

**Canada's Opportunity in the Orient.**

At this moment, when the eyes of the civilized world are turned admiringly towards the little Island Empire of the Orient, it is opportune to reflect upon the commercial changes that will follow the war. The overthrow of Russian power will mean a new Asia. It is reasonable to expect that the qualities which have contributed to Japanese prowess in war, will manifest themselves also in commerce, and if the Japs succeed, as they bid fair ultimately to do, in rejuvenating the four-hundred-million nation of Chinese, opening up that immense country to the commerce of the West, the commercial map of the world will be readjusted, and the Pacific will become the highway of a traffic vaster than that of the Atlantic. For Canada, especially for Western Canada, the importance of the change can scarcely be realized. Not only shall we be in the direct line between the East and the West, but, situated more conveniently than any other modern-civilized nation except Russia, we should be able to capture a large share of the new trade that will develop. Japan will afford a growing market for many of our products. She is yearly becoming more of a manufacturing nation, importing large quantities of raw material and other articles required for native manufacture. From figures to hand it appears that her imports for the first three months of 1905 totalled \$65,250,000, against \$46,500,000 for the corresponding period of 1904. This increase, while partly ascribed to impending tariff changes, is largely due to extensive purchases of raw cotton, in which we note an increase of \$6,250,000 for the quarter year, to half a million more in imports of iron and steel, and to \$1,750,000 more in machinery and engines. These figures seem to presage an industrial development.

It is significant, too, that the question of food supply is commencing to engage the attention of the Japanese public. The trade returns show that the imports of rice exceed the exports, besides which there is imported a quantity of wheat flour, the value of this in 1903 being \$5,162,000. Meanwhile, the population, now computed at close upon 47,000,000, is increasing at the annual rate of half a million, so that, in spite of attempts to augment the production of rice by extension of the fields and introduction of agricultural improvements, it is evident that Japan will become more dependent upon foreign countries for food supply. This is Canada's opportunity. It opens up a great possibility in supplying the Japanese with flour, for instance. It is true the consumption of flour in that country, as compared with rice, is still insignificant. A greater part of that now imported is used in the manufacture of macaroni and other paste foods, which accounts for the demand for the lower grades. But the use of bread is becoming more general, and the demand for wheat flour of better quality is bound to increase. Likewise in butter and other commodities, an expanding trade undoubtedly lies at our Western door. Last year our Japanese exports amounted to the respectable item of \$418,246, an increase of more than 70 per cent. over the previous year, and it is not over optimistic to expect that within a few years this may be multiplied many fold. It will pay us well to keep our eyes on the East.

**Some Notes from the O. A. C.**

Those who have this season visited the Ontario Agricultural College Farm, or those who purpose doing so before the end of the month, will be interested in a few observations made by a member of our staff while on a recent visit. Without pausing to dilate on the annual improvement in grounds and campus, which now form one of the loveliest spots imaginable, a few remarks on the departments, in turn, may be offered.

Commencing with the stock, a trip through stables and fields shows the animals to be in thrifty condition, evidencing good care and oversight. At the time of our visit, a bunch of calves were running in a shady paddock near the barn. Among them were noticed a number of youngsters after the Shorthorn bull, Scotchman, all showing the stamp of the sire, which is turning out to be an excellent breeder. Incidentally, a noteworthy illustration of the law of atavism is seen in the color of his progeny. Though a roan himself, and mated successively with cows of all colors, including a goodly proportion of the same color as himself, almost all his calves have turned out either red or red and white. The bull himself has developed well, having got down somewhat closer to the ground within the last couple of years. The stock of pure-breds is annually increasing in numbers, and improving decidedly in quality. Though it is impossible for the College, with its multiplicity of breeds, to breed a first-class pure-bred herd economically, Prof. Day has succeeded very well, considering the handicap, the herd now comprising a very good bunch of Shorthorns and a creditable representation of the other leading beef breeds. The sheep we were pleased to see looking better than we have ever found them before, the lambs coming lusty and strong, with few losses. In hogs, a series of experiments with tankage and blood meal and skim milk is being repeated. It is also purposed to carry on some work to investigate the cost of producing pork from birth to market age. In these experiments they will use crosses of the Tamworth and Yorkshire, and Berkshire and Yorkshire, each way, in the hope of securing some data on the suitability of various breeds and crosses for economical pork production.

On the farm, crops, as usual, are looking fine. Indeed, the soil is getting so rich in humus and nitrogen that an excessive growth of straw is often produced, causing more or less trouble from lodging. It is rather a novel thing in Ontario agriculture for an old-cropped farm to become too rich, and the increased fertility is certainly a tribute to the system of manuring, shallow plowing, rotation and cultivation instituted by Mr. Wm. Rennie, and practiced so successfully since by Prof. Day. Passing a field of oats which showed a thick, even carpet of green, Prof. Day remarked that they had tried some different thicknesses of seeding to see whether anything could be done in this way to prevent lodging. Instead of the usual 1½ bushels, part of the field was sown at about two bushels, and on one acre the drill was set at about three bushels. We shall watch with interest for the results at harvest. Another test is to be seen on that part of the section of new seeding lying to the northwest of the dairy buildings, where a comparison is being made of tall oat, meadow fescue and orchard grasses, sown at the rate of six pounds per acre along with the usual seeding of timothy and clover. Instead of cutting hay one year and pasturing the next, the plan now followed is to cut hay two years on the area remote from the stables, and pasture two years the part most convenient; hence it is desired to find some good