

fully considered. He must know something as to the varieties best adapted to that particular soil in that special location, and to the market he has in view; and he must be acquainted with a dozen different ways of preparing the land for those varieties and planting them, and be able to choose correctly the best one. Then, when he has at length set his "factory" firmly upon its natural foundations, he has to do his utmost to improve upon nature and yet must conform to her teachings, all the while remembering that these teachings vary from month to month, from year to year, and must be dealt with and allowed for accordingly. And finally, after a long-continued course of applied science, in which chemistry, botany, entomology, meteorology, and toxicology all have their part, he should be a business man with a good all-round knowledge of his fellow-men, should be a judge of the best markets and should be possessed of a systematic method of keeping accounts and have besides an artistic eye for the right sort of packing and selection.

All this varied equipment of skill and experience on the part of the agriculturist is not always in evidence at the present time; but it is becoming more so every day and the time will surely come when it alone will ensure success. And the day will come, too, when many a promising young man from the country, looking now to the city for an opening for his ambition, will feel chagrined that he did not recognize the wonderful potentialities of the rural life until too late.

CANADA AND JAPAN.

The Monetary Times had the advantage last week of another interview with Mr. T. Nosse, Consul-General in Canada for the Empire of Japan. The subject apparently uppermost in this very intelligent gentleman's mind is the increase of traffic between his country and ours. Being asked how best a mutual interest can be stimulated, Mr. Nosse replied: "First by maintaining a continuous representation of Canada in Japan. It is not enough to send a commissioner every few years, for the impression made by one dies out before the advent of another. You should keep up the interest. It is like this—Suppose some of your people as Christian missionaries abroad, hold revival services among those you call heathen, and you make some converts in a certain district. Then suppose your missionaries go away 500 miles and do not come back for years—the impression they made is effaced and their converts have lapsed. But if some foreign or native teacher remain constantly, you have a chance to maintain a church.

"It is thus in commerce. You sent Mr. George Anderson, a good man, a man of good manner, with some enthusiasm: I wish he had stayed longer. You need a man who can talk and write and make himself agreeable. Then you sent Mr. Hodgson, of Ottawa, who made a good impression. Much benefit was produced by the visit of your Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Sydney Fisher, who, as a member of the Government, of course carries much weight abroad, but his pleasing personality also counted for much. In any case, your representatives do not want to imitate some English business visitors I have seen, who seem to avoid speaking to Japanese people, and who keep away even from the press.

"Your exhibit at our great Osaka Fair was of much advantage to Canada. Your building was regarded as one of 'The Sights' of the Exhibition, what you showed was good and the Government is to be congratulated upon it. These fairs are to be held every five years, and Canada ought not to neglect them. If your manufacturers will keep up their

efforts to get at our market, and the Government continues to send us deputies yearly, it will do much good."

At this point the Consul-General was asked whether it was essential that either our merchants or our governments should be represented by people who speak the Japanese language. "Not at all," he replied, "for every prominent native house there keeps intelligent clerks who know several languages, English of course. Your agents should study our market and get into close touch with our people. The foreign consuls do not all do this, but the agents for United States houses do it, and that is the way they are getting the trade. Uncle Sam is very attentive to us: he sends us *everything* beginning with expensive pianos and going down the list to pulpwood. He sends to Japan woolen and cotton fabrics, iron and steel wares, all sorts of machinery, furniture and desks—for Japan possesses no oak—and he would send us shoes only that our people make their own shoes. From Puget Sound there also come shiploads of American lumber.

"Now, we get lumber from you, shall we not also begin, by and by, to rely on you for pulpwood? At present we are importing pulpwood from Germany and even from Australia. I must explain to you that Japan is not treeless, although Corea, Manchuria and much of China are treeless countries. We Japanese have been practising forestry ever since Buddhism was introduced into the land. For every tree cut down we plant three new ones; our forestry laws are very strict. Of course we know your flour, the trade in which is growing: we also buy your butter, and your salmon. A trade in pickled salmon, not sockeye or coho, but a larger sort, has been begun at my instigation, and is doing well. I spoke of Australia just now; do you know that Australia is sending more merchandise into Japan than Canada is? You take from us half a million worth of silk and more than half a million worth of tea per annum, and some paper napkins and curios, and so on, perhaps, a million and a quarter all told, but our trade outward and inward might be much larger. What I recommend is a continuous representation of some sort by Canadians, no matter whether trade or Government officials, so long as they are intelligent."

THE UNION STOCK YARDS.

Any Toronto man who desires a pleasant walk with a pleasant surprise at the end of it, should take a Bloor and McCaul car as far north as it goes, and then walk over to the Stock Yards at the Junction. Or, if he does not want so much of a walk, let him take a Queen and Dundas car, which will land him at the C.P.R. subway, close by these stock yards, of which, and their importance, so little is known by the residents of this city.

At the time of the boom in Toronto Junction, some years ago, the site of these yards was residential property. Much of it consisted of graded and sewered streets, with brick houses and rough-cast houses built thereon. One of the enterprising and novel things that the Union Stock Yards Company did when they bought the property was to remove thirty or forty of these dwelling houses, on rollers, to distances of 100 to 300 yards, where they now receive a rent-roll of more than \$14,000 per annum. They then erected cattle sheds and sheep pens to accommodate thousands of head, storehouses and office buildings—in fact, 30 acres are covered with buildings. These are arranged along the drained streets, so that every cattle-byre, every sheep-pen drains into the sewers. Every alley-way is paved with brick. The buildings are furnished with troughs along which water can be supplied to each animal. Straw and wood-shavings are plentifully used for bedding. Electric light is everywhere, and there are alley-ways between the rows of pens of animals. The soil is sand and gravel, so that the sticky, black muck, so generally characteristic of stock yards, is nowhere seen. In fact, the place is a sort of temporary paradise for stock, where 1,500 can be housed at one time.

Along the southern boundary of these great ranges of sheds, some of which are 900 feet in length, is the track of