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OCTOBER 1, 1914

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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demanding a fixed and not a presumptive standard. Hitherto we have had a presumptive standard, that is to say—if whole milk, as sold to the public, was found to contain less than 3 per cent. butter fat, and 8.5 per cent. solids not fat, it was presumed, until the contrary was proved, that the milk had been tampered with. This threw the onus of proof that the milk had not been adulterated on the accused, and if he could establish that he sold the milk as the cow gave it, even although it fell below the above standard, the accusation failed. For a time administration went merrily forward, many of the county judges taking up the position that the standard was an absolute one, and that the man who sold milk below it was guilty of a statutory offence. This was the short and simple method of dealing with offenders, but it was not the law. The law is that there is no offence if the public get the milk as the cow gives it. But how is innocence on the part of a milk salesman to be established; what evidence will be sufficient to establish a negative? The prosecuting authorities boldly took up the attitude that the evidence of members of a farmer's household could not be taken, and a case that was fought out in the supreme court was fought out on this issue. The finding was that evidence which would be accepted in an ordinary police case could not be refused in a case involving a statutory offence like milk adulteration. The members of a man's own household would be competent witnesses in an ordinary case why not in this? The decision of the court was favorable to this argument, and the end of the presumptive standard was in sight. The next case was a very bad one in which admittedly very poor milk had been sold. The accused maintained that he sold milk as the cows gave it. He proved this by evidence from members of his own household, and his conviction in the lower court was quashed by a bench of seven judges in the Supreme Court. The authorities now maintain that the presumptive standard having been made of none effect, the best thing is to have a fixed standard. This has all along appeared to us to be the wise course, but it has certain obvious disadvantages. Unless the standard is fixed high there will be plenty of "toning down," because it does not admit of doubt that a well-managed dairy of Ayrshire cows in good keep and condition will yield milk of a higher quality than that fixed by the existing presumptive standard. However, there is little reason to expect any legislation or questions of this kind for many a long day. Parliament will have more serious problems to solve, and we will require to make the best of the milk standard as it is until brighter days have dawned.

The condition of Meat Inspection in this country is chaotic to a degree. There is no fixed or uniformity standard, and every inspector is very much a law to himself. The Sanitary Congress passed resolutions in favor of a uniform standard, and therein they were wise. The first step towards such uniformity is a common system of training for the inspectors. Unless they are trained alike they can hardly be expected to act alike. Whether such uniform training may be responsible cannot at once be determined, but a beginning should be made. The best inspector should be a fully-equipped veterinary surgeon, with some training in medicine. He need not be a fully-equipped physician, but he should know something about the human body and the action of poisons thereon. Much good food has been destroyed through ignorance, and much unwholesome food has been consumed, especially by the lower orders. A uniform method of inspection by a uniformly trained body of inspectors would do much to remove existing anomalies.

Flockmasters are having a successful season. Top breeders are making money, high prices being quite the order of the day. One great breeder of Blackfaced rams last week sold 130 shearlings at an average of £13 1s. each. This was a remarkable performance, especially in view of the fact that the total rent of his farm is little more than £400. These 130 shearlings are by no means the whole that this flockmaster has to sell, but his results are phenomenal for so great a number. The total worked out at almost £1,700. The particular flock is that of Oshershiels in the Lammermoors, and the sheep bred on this farm have for long held a unique place in the good opinion of flockmasters throughout Scotland. They are fine healthy, strong sheep, and brought out in natural condition. The farm has long been in the possession of the brothers Archibald, only one of whom now survives.

SCOTLAND YET.

### Dairy Cattle at Vancouver Exhibition.

After judging the dairy cattle and swine at Vancouver's Fifth Exhibition, D. C. Flatt, of Hamilton, Ont., has written "The Farmer's Advocate" thus: "Taking all classes and breeds into consideration it was the best exhibit of dairy cattle that I have ever had the privilege of judging. The grand champion female over all breeds

was a Holstein junior heifer calf, bred and owned by J. M. Steves, Steveston, B. C. The champion Holstein bull was a two-year-old, owned by F. J. Bishop, Duncan, B. C., and the same bull was made grand champion male over all the dairy breeds. My advice to our Eastern Holstein breeders, who may intend at any time to exhibit in British Columbia, is not to start out thinking that all the good Holstein cattle in the Dominion are owned in Ontario." Logan & Dickie, Edmonton, Alta., also came in for a large share of the prizes, winning many firsts and seconds.

The Ayrshires were not so numerous as the other breeds, but the herd exhibited by Joseph Thompson, Sardis, B. C., made up in quality what was lacking in numbers. His exhibit was a credit to the breed.

The display of Jerseys was possibly the best that has ever been brought out in British Columbia. Messrs. B. H. Bull & Sons were on hand as usual with a strong bunch, but they did not have everything their own way. A. H. Menzies & Sons were strong competitors, and considerable competition came from across the line.

The Guernseys also made a great showing, and judging from the number of exhibitors and the quality of the stock on exhibition the breed is becoming quite popular in British Columbia.

The award for best exhibit of cattle on exhibition went to Yule & Bowes, Calgary, Alta., on their Shorthorn herd.



The Late Sir James Whitney.

### Ontario's Premier Passes.

All Canada mourns the loss of Sir James P. Whitney, Premier of Ontario, who passed away very suddenly at noon Friday last at his home in Toronto. By his demise Ontario loses her leading statesman, and a most ardent worker for the good of her people. The late Sir James Whitney was born at Williamsburg, Dundas County, October 2nd, 1843. He was educated at Cornwall Grammar School, and was called to the bar in 1876. In 1890 he was appointed a Queen's Counsel. For ten years he was engaged in the practice of law in Morrisburg, after which he entered public life as a candidate for the Provincial Legislature in 1886. He was defeated but not beaten, and at the bye-election in 1888 he was elected and took his seat in the House. He never was beaten afterward, and his satisfied and admiring constituents increased his majority at each appeal to the country. During the late days of the Mowat Ministry Sir James Whitney was made leader of the Conservative Party, and fought a good fight during the time of the Hardy Ministry and the stormy times of the Ross Ministry, and was rewarded with the Premiership at the landslide of 1905. Since that time up to his death he was in supreme command of the situation, and at each appeal to the Province was returned with a very strong following. Early last January he suffered a very serious illness in New York, and even after his return to Toronto his life was almost despaired of but he rallied, and contrary to expectations appeared before a great public meeting on June 24th, giving them the final address of the campaign and what proved to be his final public appearance.

His indomitable energy caused him to take up his work, and until early in August he worked longer days than any of his colleagues. The

strain was too much and his health broke again, but though expected, his death was very sudden, those in attention believing that he was gaining rapidly. A fair fighter, a real leader, outspoken in manner and sometimes blunt, but always honest and straightforward, generous and large hearted, he held a place in the hearts of all his people. He was honored by the people and by the King, being made a Knight Commander of the order of St. Michael and St. George a little over a year ago. Ontario and Canada mourns.

### The Apples and the Poor.

By Peter McArthur.

Last week I did considerable gossiping about my apples, but since writing that article I have been to Toronto and I have changed my mind. Conditions being what they are I shall be glad of a chance to give away what is left of my apple crop. It is quite evident that unless something is done quickly a large part of our Ontario apples will rot under the trees. A few paragraphs that I wrote for the Toronto papers brought out a number of suggestions of which the two following are the most interesting. The News comments that the situation is one "that demands urgent action—attention is too poor a word at this juncture—on the part of the Canadian Government. It may be said with perfect safety that the Kaiser's Government under similar conditions would very quickly save the apples, but in our love of British freedom we have got it into our heads that government should have nothing to do with apples. The country should be given no rest until the gigantic, sinful waste of Nature's provision in this time of stress is stopped. The poor ye have always with you the Good Book says, and God alone knows how the poor are to live through this time of war. Let the Government throw aside its usual policy of non-interference and adapt unusual methods to an unusual situation and save the apples—and the poor."

This strong plea on the part of the News, an organ of the Government is endorsed by an editorial in the Star. Noting the fact that possibly a couple of million dollars worth of apples may go to waste this season, the Star says editorially:

"At the same time we are told that Belgium is sadly in need of food, and that representatives of Belgium are now asking if we can help them. Why not send some of those apples to Belgium. Of course, we should like to eat those luscious apples ourselves, but might we not help a sorely-pressed people who have done so much and sacrificed so much for our cause—the cause of humanity. Many Belgians have laid down their lives. Might we not help to give the survivors something to eat to sustain life?"

"There is the food going to waste. There are the people who need the food. To bring the two together needs only a little initiative, a little originality, a little courage, a little disregard of precedent. Are our Governments, our business men, our railway corporations lacking in these qualities?"

"The farmers are doubtless willing to sell their fruit at a very moderate price. The Governments of Canada and Ontario might make grants, not necessarily large, the railway companies might reduce their rates, all the middlemen who understand the handling of fruit might do it either freely or for a small reward. Nobody would lose a great deal, and the heroic Belgians would be greatly benefited."

In the hope of starting the ball rolling and getting someone in authority in action I hereby offer a contribution of fifty barrels of No. 1 apples, mostly Baldwins. If other farmers will part with their apples either by making contributions or selling at a fair rate it should be possible to assemble many carloads to send to Belgium within the next few weeks. If the Government would pay for the necessary labor involved, the scandalous waste of apples that seems almost inevitable could be avoided. Also, it should be possible to organize the people who are out of work in our cities, and send them to the fruit districts to pick and help to pack the apples. There is always a difficulty in getting the necessary pickers and packers to handle the apples in the fall, but if we could have the unemployed of the city to help it would be an advantage all around. Many of those who could be brought out to the country to do this work might get an understanding of country conditions that would enable them to move back to the land successfully.

Something must be done and done quickly. The waste of good apples that takes place in Canada every year is a scandal at the best, but on a year like this when food is scarce it is nothing short of a crime. I feel sure that many of the farmers and fruit growers will agree with me that at the present time the question of saving the fruit at all is more important than getting high prices. I should like to see it arranged that everyone would get a fair price for his apples, a price that would pay for the labor and