

sion in England. Little serious disposition has been manifested thus far to modify the existing Canadian tariff. One significant fact in this connection deserving of consideration is this: That by reason of the present Canadian tariff, and to secure advantages under our flag, we find the greatest agricultural implement manufacturing enterprise in the world, outside of Canada, establishing itself on a large scale in the Dominion, and other American enterprises are prepared to follow that example if need be. This demonstrates the faith of shrewd Americans in Canada and its future, and in the perpetuity of the British Empire. It was faith of a similar kind that conceived and projected the first great Canadian transcontinental railway. It is building the Canadian Northern, and is at the foundation of a still greater and more far-reaching enterprise, so far as the future development of the country is concerned, viz., the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Premier Balfour sums up the situation in a nutshell when he says the British nation finds itself face to face with three great phenomena, viz.: 1st, huge tariff walls against her, and the enormous growth of aggressive trusts behind them; 2nd, the determination of these protected countries to push their export trade with Britain and her colonies; and, 3rd, the desire of the colonies for a closer fiscal union within the Empire, making more secure to their products the great imperial market. Changes in the historic trade policy of Britain may not be wrought suddenly, but the real statesman foresees the signs of the times, and crystallizes a policy that will appeal to the aspirations of the nation and prove enduring in its character by being in right relation to the economic conditions of the times.

Taking off Honey.

The time for removing honey from the hives is largely a matter of convenience. It is done at intervals during the season, or all together at its close. Comb honey is usually tiered up on the hives, and removed after the honey flow. Extracted honey is often taken off as fast as it is ripened and capped. This requires only one extracting super for each hive; but more help is needed to attend to that and swarming at the same time. To tier up, as with comb honey, each hive must have two or more supers; but swarming is greatly reduced, and the work of extracting comes later. For extensive beekeeping, there is no doubt but the latter is the better plan, as combs are cheaper than men.

To avoid travel-stain, the sections must be gotten off just as soon as the appearance of robbers around the honey-house windows indicates that the flow is ended. Extracted honey should all come off at the same time, or, in any case, before buckwheat or other fall honey plant blooms. All white honey should be off by the first or not later than the middle of August.

For getting bees out of section supers there is nothing like a good bee-escape. All supply dealers handle them. It is put on between the supers and the brood-chamber, and is so arranged that the bees can go down through it, but cannot get back. In a few hours the supers are practically free of bees, and can be carried directly into the honey-house. The few remaining bees will fly to the windows, where they may be liberated. Escapes work well for extracting supers also, with some limitations. The least bit of brood in the super will hold the bees, and the escape is useless; or if the weather is at all cool the deserted honey soon chills, and is harder to uncap and extract than when warm.

All considered, perhaps, the most expeditious way to get off extracting supers when robbers are about is to proceed as follows: Lift off the super, set it down in front, and close up the hive. Robbers are now prevented from getting into the hive, except at the entrance, which is well guarded. Lift a comb out of the super, shake and brush the bees from it at the entrance, and set it into an empty super ready for the purpose on a wheelbarrow directly behind the hive. Repeat the operation with all the combs in the super. If two are working rapidly at this, you have the honey inside screen doors almost before the robbers know you are there.

MORLEY PETTIT.

How a Gentleman Milks.

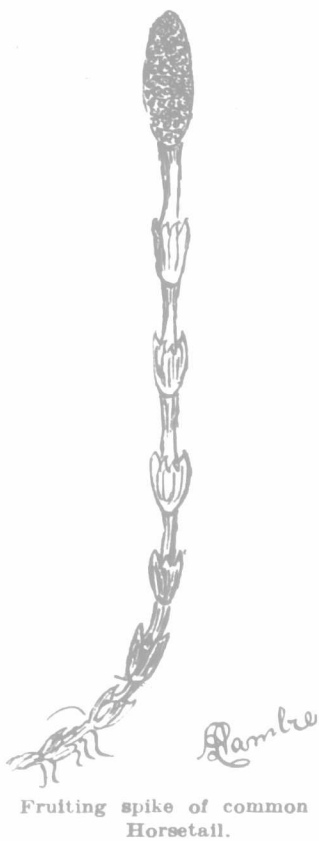
A contributor to a South Dakota exchange, in an article on swearing, very properly maintains that it is not gentlemanly to swear, and says a gentleman will talk like one to his cow in fly-time. It has been claimed by dairymen for years that to get the best results from a cow she should be treated gently and talked to softly, and this article from the pen of the Beresford gentleman bears out the contention. There may be times when a man is tempted to use profanity, and one of these times might be when the cow takes a whack at a fly on her ear with her hind right hand foot at milking time, but if he will remember that harsh language will decrease the flow of milk and stamp him as a rude fellow, he will simply get another pail and start over again.

Some Hints to Land-hunters.

It is rather surprising that land-hunters generally, and homesteaders

in particular, should pay so much attention to the quality of the water and the nature of the subsoil on their prospective sections, and yet be so utterly regardless of the kind of vegetation distributed around. Since nature has adapted plants to every variety of soil and situation, and has distributed them with such unerring precision—the silver-weed (*Potentilla anserina*), for instance, being found in the same position to-day that it was in the days of Ovid—the man who neglects to make a complete inventory of what he finds in passing over the land is very much in the position of the judge who would pronounce judgment before the chief witness has given evidence.

"Give me land with plenty of succulent weeds of the composite order," says an Old Country farmer who has made some excellent purchases in the Northwest for himself and his friends. Indeed, the homesteader who is lucky enough to have a plentiful crop of these on his land may readily take his chance about all the rest. In spite of this, we know of a case where a young man from Boston—the erstwhile hub of the universe—broke ten acres of virgin soil, and ran away when he found that his weeds stood at



Fruiting spike of common Horsetail.

farmer who has made some excellent purchases in the Northwest for himself and his friends. Indeed, the homesteader who is lucky enough to have a plentiful crop of these on his land may readily take his chance about all the rest. In spite of this, we know of a case where a young man from Boston—the erstwhile hub of the universe—broke ten acres of virgin soil, and ran away when he found that his weeds stood at



Cyperus-like Carex.

twelve inches, while his oats were only six. A little knowledge, the sages tell us, is a dangerous thing, but in his case it might have made his fortune, for there is no question that a soil capable of growing such an abundant harvest of weeds would, with proper treatment, yield a rich increase of grain.

Probably about the only kind of plants to which the prospective settler gives heed at all

are those of the leguminous or pea-flower variety, and, strange to say, there is no type upon which less reliance can be placed. The average land-hunter has heard something about the wonderful propensity these plants have of utilizing the nitrogen of the soil atmosphere, and immediately concludes that a plentiful crop of pea-bearing plants means an abundance of nitrates in the soil. Now, as the whole reaching of these plants can grow where nitrates are non-existent, any land



Black Carex.

showing an inordinately

large crop must, of necessity, be poorer in quality than that in which the balance is more equally adjusted. It should be specially noted, therefore, that your section does not bear an undue proportion of peas or vetches.

Have nothing to do with land that bears even the smallest proportion of horse-tails—the Equisetaceæ of the botanists. Their presence is always indicative of poor or badly-drained land, and in a country like this, where the settler has so much to choose from, no man need have anything but the best. Horse-tails appear first as spore-bearing stems, afterwards these give place to taller barren stems, with branches arranged in whorls. They can never be properly eradicated, the rhizomes lying too deep to be touched by farm implements.

The whole tribe of carices likewise denote, if not extreme poverty, at least a condition of soil quite incapable of yielding in the hands of the husbandman a satisfactory percentage of bushels. In the hilly districts of Scotland, where they most abound, only five sheep per acre can be grazed. Beware of them!

Rushes invariably indicate trouble, except, perhaps, where they appear around the edge of a slough. Their stems creep at considerable depths below ground, so that even although the surface appears dry you may be assured that it is too cold and wet for agricultural purposes.

Close attention should always be given to the grasses, for, after all, the plants which we wish to grow in their stead, namely, oats and wheat, are of the same nature and origin, and the soil that is suitable in the one case must be fairly well adapted to the other.

Ranchers, especially, should take note of the grasses. For this purpose it is better to see the land in early summer. If, at this time, too many have reached the "flowering" stage, you may depend upon it you have not seen the best for grazing purposes. Grasses that vegetate for a considerable period are always better than those that flower early. For this reason, when a plant begins to seed it may be said to have entered into an entirely new line of business. The nutriment that would otherwise go to form new roots and shoots is transferred to the ear; and where this is taking place to too great an extent, your pasture can never be so good. Of course we are aware of the difficulty of judging in this case, but we hold it to be the duty of every farmer, and more especially of every rancher, to make himself acquainted with the various natural grasses, and to know the agricultural value of each. They differ as widely as chalk and cheese. Any knowledge he possesses, therefore, of their individual characteristics, will not only enable him to secure a good homestead now, but pave the way to fortune in the time to come.

Dundurn, N.-W. T.

ALEX. LAMBIE.

The Hand Separator System.

Time, or some person endowed with supernatural power of predicting future events, only can tell whether the hand separator system is eventually to become the chief system in the manufacture of butter, but, nevertheless, this system apparently is on the increase. If the conclusions as to the advisability of this system are to be drawn from the advantages, considered numerically, in contrast with the "hauling-milk system," then the hand-separator system will certainly come out ahead. The chief advantages of the hand-separator system are as follows:

1. Better skimmed milk for feed.
2. The milk can be skimmed and fed at regular hours.
3. Not so much to haul to the creamery, hence less time and less cost.
4. The capacity of a plant can be increased.

The chief disadvantages are:

1. A poorer quality of butter.
2. The application of hand power in the separation of milk.

If the hand-separator system is the coming one, and no effective and systematic restraint can be wisely administered, then it is time for the friends of good butter to come out and give a helping hand toward improving the quality of cream, so that a quality of butter suitable to the taste of consumers and commanding the highest market price can continue to be manufactured. —[Iowa Agriculturist.]

[Note. In farm buttermaking, the use of the hand separator has resulted in better cream and better butter; but under the cream-gathering factory system it is complained that cream from different patrons lacks uniformity, and many of them do not take proper care of the cream before it goes to the factory. Where the fresh whole milk is taken to the factory daily and there separated, the resulting cream is more directly under the buttermaker's control.]

Elsewhere in this issue appear announcements of really beautiful and useful premiums which may be obtained by sending new subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate."