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## EDITORIAL.

Would it not be a paying branch of live-stock husbandry to make the rearing of dairy heifers a specialty on certain farms in every dairy district?

"We view with apprehension." How often we see this phrase used in petitions, and how appropriate it is! Nine times out of ten the apprehension is pure nervousness.

At the present rate of forest destruction in Ontario, said Peter McArthur, in a recent address, a woodpecker flying across this country will have to take his provisions along with him.

Everybody we have ever spoken to who has kept individual daily milk records states that the information thus gained about his cows surprised him. Especially is this the case where milk is periodically tested for fat, as well as weighed.

Canadian wool producers, says Dr. Rutherford truly, must exercise vastly more care in growing, washing, shearing and marketing. Wool produced in Canada to-day is full of all sorts of foreign bodies. Success consists largely in the little things.

The annual drovers' chase all over Ontario for cows to supplement the herds in the dairy districts is now in full swing. As a policy, this may suit the dealers and the railway companies, but is it a good and economical plan for those dairymen who might rear their own cows? And most of them believe they could raise better ones.

In moving a vote of thanks to T. B. Caldwell, of Ianark, who addressed the Dominion Sheep-breeders' annual meeting so acceptably, a naive suggestion was thrown out that Mr. Caldwell should acquaint fellow manufacturers who use nothing but Canadian wool with the fact that they would be equally welcome to address the Dominion Sheep-breeders' meeting another year.

Read over once in a while the standing announcement on the second page of reading matter in each issue. Many readers apparently never look at it, and consequently ignore rules, to their disadvantage. For example, hundreds of questions a year make a fluttering descent to the waste-paper basket because unaccompanied by the full name and post-office address of a subscriber. Read the rules.

The fact that wool was not placed in the reciprocity schedule, while wheat was, is attributed to power of the organized United States woollen manufacturing industry. In order to retain their own greater protection, the woollen men stand to sustain the smaller duties of the wool producers, who are, in effect, used as a cat's-paw. But the day is coming when, organized or unorganized, the axe will fall upon the woollen tariff in the interests of the woollen wearers.

Free trade is fair trade. There are some meritorious arguments against a young nation like Canada adopting free trade, while an older, contented nation, like the United States, maintains high duties, but these arguments do not apply to reciprocal free trade. Subject only to the wise necessity of conserving our natural resources, the more freely we trade with all nations, the better. Reciprocity in farm products is an unquestionable advantage to Canadian agriculture.

By means of the Canadian Railway Commission, service and transportation rates have been materially improved in this country; but it will probably be found that reciprocity will prove a still more effective spur in accelerating a downward tendency in East and West transcontinental rates and improved freight and express service, particularly needed in the live-stock and fruit-growing interests.

The resources of fuel in the peat bogs of the central Provinces of Canada are enormous, says Dr. Eugene Haanel, Director of Mines, Ottawa. He estimates that there is contained in the known bogs, covering 12,000 square miles, fuel sufficient to supply over 5,000,000 families for 100 years. A peat-fuel plant, such as is used in Sweden and Russia, has been erected on a bog near Alfred, Ontario, which last season manufactured 1,600 tons of peat fuel in fifty days. The cost of this fuel on the field should not be more than \$1.50 per ton.

According to friendly newspaper reports, the packers of Ontario and Quebec expressed to the Government a fear that, in seasons of high prices across the line, they would be unable, under reciprocity, to secure a supply of hogs in Canada, and would have to close down their plants. They had better not said that aloud. If the United States tariff is preventing us making the most out of our hogs, it is another good argument for reciprocity. We'll take all chances with the Big Four. American farmers find them first-class customers.

One of the best incidental advantages of the reciprocity discussion in the United States is that it is further disrupting one of the established political parties. We would welcome in every country a state of flux that would re-align political parties, causing electors for once to cease adhering to certain groups merely because they were born into them, but to make choice according to their judgment. Even though the judgment be warped, it is better to exercise it than to follow vacantly for life the crack of the party manager's whip. Parties do make fools of us all.

Every time we travel over the Grand Trunk between Brantford and Hamilton, those steep, bald hills fairly shriek out the word "alfalfa." There is no shadow of doubt but that it would do magnificently on those clay hillsides, protecting the soil from destructive erosion, obviating the gymnastic exercise of cultivating them, and furnishing an immense quantity of the best hay or pasture produced on our farms. There are a few moderate-sized hills of this kind on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm, and they will grow alfalfa as soon as they can be gotten into proper condition for seeding.

As illustrating the tendency of commerce to flow towards certain heart centers, which act as grading and distributing points, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, discussing the question of wool-marketing at the Dominion Sheep-breeders' meeting in Toronto, remarked, incidentally, that when the foot-and-mouth embargo was applied a couple of years ago, he found that they were closing down the tanneries in this country, and also boot and shoe making establishments. It developed that the calf skins were purchased from the other side. Manufacturers complained that they could not buy Canadian calf skins with any satisfaction, but that all the calf skins in America go to New York State, and are soaled and graded there.

## The Farmer's Park.

In a certain city park of considerable size, situated a few miles outside of the corporation limits, there are several large blocks, and many smaller clumps, of natural timber—maple and beech, oak, cedar, and other sorts—each left to grow pretty much as it will. A great deal of tree-planting has been done on the sections of the park that were bare when taken over by the city, and there are also many large and well-kept flower-beds, laid out, no doubt, in the most artistic style. It is interesting to watch the crowds who go there for an outing select the place where they shall have their picnic meal. The groves of natural timber are invariably preferred to the situations which have been adorned artificially. There seems to be a charm in nature which all the art of man cannot equal. The flower-beds are admired, of course; so are the rows and clumps of planted trees; but for quiet rest and enjoyment, the city dwellers, and those from the country, as well, instinctively choose the places less adorned and trimmed, where nature has largely had her own way. The ground is not level, the trees are not of even size, some of them are gnarled and ugly, and they stand utterly without regularity; but, in spite of these seeming defects, or, perhaps, rather because of them, such spots are preferred. As Goldwin Smith used to say, "No one wants the world rolled flat and painted red."

Letters and articles have appeared in our columns pointing out the fact that merely from a monetary standpoint, it would be a good policy for a farmer to spare and care for his wood-lot. As in the early days pine timber of the finest quality (now worth a fortune) was thoughtlessly cut and used for the commonest purposes, as if the supply were inexhaustible, so a similar mistake in regard to removing hardwood timber is being made when a farmer decides not to wait for the inevitable rise in price, but to realize on it at once. But sentiment should also have weight. To slaughter a block of forest is to take away a great deal of the charm from a landscape, and to blot out a spot of natural beauty which cannot for generations be replaced. A rich man will spend great sums in order to have his gardens and grounds kept neat and trim, no money return being looked for. A block of protected natural forest, with its tall tree-trunks and dense shade, its tender undergrowth, and the varied flowers and herbage of early spring, needs no gardener to keep it beautiful, and yet it exceeds in charm the finest artificial surroundings, no matter how expensively kept up. Such a luxury is open yet to most farmers. Is there any reason why they should not enjoy it?

These remarks have been called forth by a private letter from an esteemed contributor who bewails the fact that in his neighborhood "several good wood-lots have been sold outright this winter, and other farmers are thinking of selling theirs." He confesses that, "I value the trees more from the æsthetic standpoint than any other, but I would like to see more done to get the mass of the people, the farm-owners, interested in the preservation and improvement of the wood-lot; in short, alive to their all-round well-fare. Here and there," he says, "throughout the township a man will be found who has shut the stock out, but the vast majority have their eyes too close to the dollar to see the wealth that lies farther away." He does not object to the selling of mature timber, but has been roused by the thought of those "who are contemplating the destruction of their woods at one fell sweep." He would be glad "if some special influence could be