

cult for the Hon. Mr. Drury to fill the vacancy thus caused as acceptably, but we hope a man may be found who will continue the valuable work commenced and carried on by the subject of our sketch. The Dominion Government is singularly fortunate in securing his services. There is not another man in the Dominion as suitable, and not over one or two in America.

The Corn Question

As most of our readers are aware this question was brought up in the House of Commons early in the past month, and after a short debate in which a few members took part, and with a little over half the representatives present, the resolution proposing a rebate on the tariff on corn for feeders and farmers (which the distillers obtained last session), was voted down by a small majority. Those members that are supposed to represent our county constituencies, had they been so minded, might at least moved an adjournment of the debate until such time as a more general expression of the farmer's needs in this case could have been obtained, before allowing the question to be voted upon. The fact is, all the other bodies are able to obtain legislation to assist in removing any grievance that can be shown to exist, but farmers are merely of use as voting machines on election days, and serve very well in this capacity, and can be led as their different leaders choose, not for any benefit in their line of production, but as party followers, from which standpoint they more frequently draw their conclusions, than in looking to the interests of their business. The fact is the average representative seeks to serve his party leader far more than the wants of his constituents. We consider the question of Free Corn one of the most important to the farmer that is likely to come up during the present session, but it seems it was hardly worth a passing thought. We hear much in this present day of the debt that is lying against our farm lands in all directions, but we consider that in the depleted condition of these lands we have a much more serious outlook to restore these lands to their former fertility. The whole of our older counties will have to take up stock feeding in some of its branches, and to do this cheap feed is what is required, and for this reason the ADVOCATE deplores so deeply that this question of cheap feed for our stockmen, feeders and dairymen has once more got a set-back. The older provinces cannot compete in growing cheap feed with the West, and a large share of their lands require purchased feed to restore their lost fertility, before they will grow roots or grain profitably. Many farmers also require seed corn for soiling purposes, this must be imported, yet this is also taxed, and the pretended policy of admitting the raw material in the farmer's case is entirely lost sight of. If the Government desire to build up agriculture it must be fostered. With all our boasted immunity from disease and freedom of inland British markets, we last year increased our export of cattle one-fourth, while the United States, having to slaughter their cattle at the port of entry, have increased one-half.

It is not alone for the young that milk is healthful, though its nutritive characteristics especially adapt it to promote bodily growth. It is almost equally a specific for brain exhaustion, and the student or writer who is fagged out will find a glass of warmed milk to relieve him better than a stimulant. Ice-cold milk, as indeed all ice-cold drinks, should be avoided, as they are very injurious to digestion.

Free Corn.

In the January number of the ADVOCATE you asked for the opinion of farmers on "Duties on Corn." I am much surprised that there is duty on corn or on anything else that the farmer imports. In a purely agricultural country like Canada it should be the aim of our Government to stimulate and foster our greatest industry. It is a noted fact that when our farmers are making money everybody else is. Make the farmers prosperous, and the country is prosperous also. But it seems to me that farmers too often have to take second place, election times excepted.

A number of years ago our manufacturers were away down, and they called to our Legislators to lift them up. The Legislators answered:—"If you place us in power, we will raise you up and place your feet upon a rock (the N. P.), and establish your goings (by making the consumer pay dear, very dear, for what he buys)." In fact, everybody wanted protection, and the same answer was given. Well, we all got protection, more than we farmers wanted. It takes a much longer time for farmers to find out that they are imposed upon in this respect than other business men, because farmers' returns are so long in coming in. But now that they have got on to the racket through the medium of your most valuable paper, I trust that they will not rest till they compel, if necessary, our Government to remove the duty off everything that is required by the farmer. It would certainly be a great boon to farmers to have the duty taken off corn and other feed stuff.

Our future points toward first quality beef, mutton, pork and dairy goods. Now, we know that there is very little money in beef. We know, too, that an immense amount of pork is imported into Canada every year. Give us free corn and we can and will curtail, if not entirely stop, this importation of pork. I have not the figures at hand, but know there are millions of dollars in the swine industry. If we could lessen the cost of production, I believe free corn would go a long way towards enabling us to compete with our neighbors across the line.

Farmers must change their system of farming somewhat. We must stop so much grain growing. If we go in for beef, it must be first-class. Free corn will enable us to produce better and cheaper beef than we can produce at present; not only that, but while making beef we will be enriching our farms; we will be enabled to compete at least in part with other countries in wheat growing.

There is one thing in connection with this subject that I think is a disgrace to our Government, that is that corn should come in duty free for the manufacture of whiskey, and that farmers should be taxed for manufacturing it (corn) into good wholesome beef. I am not a temperance crank, neither am I a total abstainer, but I am a strong believer in fair play. If liquor was of any practical use to us as a people it would not be so bad, but as it is only a mere luxury, and a very poor one at that, bringing as it does so much misery in our homes when used to excess, I think free corn for distillery purposes is a shame and a disgrace. Why, in the name of common sense, don't our Government favor that industry which is the backbone and main-spring of the existence of our country rather than such deleterious things (so far as the prosperity of the country is concerned) as distilleries?

LOVAT.

Dear Sir,—I have taken the ADVOCATE for the last fifteen years and count it the best agricultural paper on this continent.

DAVID RIFE, Hespeler, Ont.

The Permanent Central Farmers' Institutes.

As usual the delegates from the County Institutes turned out in strong force in Toronto on the 4th, 5th and 6th of last month, and fully discussed many subjects that were of great importance to the farmers of this Province. The whole meeting was in favor of free corn, both political parties voting unanimously on this question. Those from the corn growing counties of Essex and Kent being quite in accord with this measure.

On the relative tariff on flour and wheat the meeting was not so well agreed. Here it was easy to see political partisans, the meeting suddenly forgetting that it is only unanimous expressions that can be of any use as a guide to legislation, that any amount of political oratory is not of the slightest avail. If these questions cannot be discussed from an agricultural standpoint, it would be far better that only such practical subjects that have no reference to political issues be brought out. The meeting dividing, 44 in favor of free flour and 23 against.

Noxious weeds and tax on dogs came in for a share of thought, but the necessity of making these acts compulsory on our municipalities seemed hard to be impressed upon the majority of the meeting. As these acts now stand they are in few cases carried out as they should be. When they fall into the hands of our municipalities they are too often a dead letter, for fear of the popular vote at the next election prevents the average councilman from doing his duty in appointing thistle inspectors, and has the same effect with reference to the act enforcing taxes on dog-owners. According to the delegates at the Central Institute, about half the municipalities have never levied a tax nor carried out this permissive act in any particular; that this also is the case with several other acts that are left to our local bodies, all that are familiar with the workings of such laws are aware.

Our Seed Grain Tests.

The following are the results of the seed grain tests of the season of 1889. Over 2,000 four-ounce packages, containing two varieties of spring wheat, viz., Manitou and Colorado, of oats, Cave and White Canada, were sent to those of our subscribers who sent for them. They were well distributed, going east to Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and as far west as Yorkton, N.-W. Territory; Ontario being represented in almost every locality.

Manitou wheat has done the best notwithstanding rust, and has proved hardy in the Northwest. The sample is reported good in the majority of cases, and the yield fair considering the season. Colorado has grown good and large yields from some parts, but does not appear to be as reliable in the majority of places where these two were sown side by side, but both have been more successful than some of the better known and older varieties. White Canada oats have given great satisfaction almost everywhere, being far in advance of the old sorts. In a great many instances reported the yield has been immense, with capital quality of grain and plenty of good straw which stands well. The Cave oat also has done very well, with abnormal yields reported in a great many instances, and was very free from rust and strong in the straw. On the whole, those who have tested these varieties are determined to try them again, as it is only by continually trying new varieties that we can obtain useful sorts for future years.