

Agriculture.

A Canadian Speaks.

At the great International Dairy Fair that has just taken place in New York, a Canadian spoke plainly, briefly and emphatically the sentiments of Canadians in the following manner. We quote in full from the American Dairyman:—

Saturday evening, Dec. 13.—Mr. Thos. Leemings, of Montreal, Canada, delivered an address as follows:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is to me a matter of regret that I have not had more than hour or two's notice of the fact, that this evening I should be called upon to represent the fair Dominion of Canada on this platform.

I thank you, sir, for the compliment which is contained in this invitation, for the day has come when Canadians are proud to stand upon any platform in the world and speak for Canada. I see a good deal of bunting hanging about this magnificent hall. While the flags are very pretty in their way, it is evident you Americans have yet to see the prettiest flag in the world, containing the Union Jack and St. George's cross, the Beaver and the maple leaf—the flag of Canada.

And if we are permitted to see another International Dairy Fair, I hope the Canadian branch of the Executive will see to it that the Dominion flag is here to adorn this hall. As a Canadian I am particularly proud to stand here to-night in connection with the American Dairy Association. We are here as competitors. We are here as opponents of yours, and we are not afraid of you. I don't wish to inquire how it might be if the contest was being waged with bayonet, sword and cannon, and I trust we may never have any statistics concerning a contest carried on between the two countries with such weapons. But, ladies and gentlemen, when you brandish your cheese and butter triers in our faces we unsheath our also and cry "Come on, McDuff, and—be he who first cries, Hold! enough!"

This contest with cheese and butter triers may be regarded by some as merely a tempest in a milk-pail, a matter of trivial importance, but no one can so think, or speak, who listened to the hitherto uncontradicted statement made last year by Gen. Butler on this platform, that the value of the butter and cheese produced in 1878 was one-seventh more than the wheat crop and one-third more than the cotton crop of America. The value and importance of the dairy is by means of such exhibitions as this, and the agency of the press, being more fully appreciated in this country and Canada. People are beginning to find out that the improvements in machinery and in the mode of treating milk and cream are of quite as much importance as tinkering with a tariff or appointing a foreign minister. Some idea may be formed of the importance of the manufacture of milk into butter and cheese by the magnitude of the question, simply of salt.

A few years ago people said it did not make much difference about the quantity or quality used, in fact, in my day, when living in central Canada, such a thing as fine salt, what we used to call stoned salt, was unknown except to put in the salt cellars for the table; the same rough salt that was used for curing hay or hams, the old fashioned coarse Liverpool salt, or as you Americans term it, "ground alum," was considered quite good enough for butter, and the principal anxiety displayed was to shove in as much of it as possible to increase the weight. Now, what do we see and hear? Columns of information regarding the best salt for dairy purposes, and in this Exhibit we find the two prominent structures of the whole display consist of salt. Now, sir, insignificant as the subject may appear as to a pinch or two of salt to be put in butter, it shows the amount of care and attention that is being given to dairy interests in our day and the machinery, and the appliances that are in full swing around us here demonstrate the fact that scientific dairying is the coming process that shall place our product on an equal footing with anything in Europe at an early day. Now, sir, I have detained you long enough. Again I regret not having had the opportunity of collecting some statistics of the progress of Canada in this great and important dairy business. Do not imagine that because you do not hear so much of our movement as you do of Uncle Sam's farm, that we are idle. We are quietly improving, quietly strengthening our position in the British markets, and getting the thin edge of the wedge into the markets of France and Germany.

Will you allow me to warn you? Look well to

your laurels; we think we have a better climate and better pasturage in Canada than you have, and can make better butter and cheese than you can, and don't intend to rest until we do it. Let the strife be conducted in all harmony, and may you learn to know us so well that in a few years, when you have grown thoroughly tired of the misrule of lager beer and Tammany, and when we have opened up our great North-West, we shall be ready to receive you back to the long severed allegiance we have all recognized to our loved sovereign Queen Victoria.

The Agricultural Statistics of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Secretary of the Excise for Great Britain reports to the Board of Trade in London on the agricultural returns for 1879, and says:

The total quantity of land returned in 1879 as under all kinds of crops, bare fallow and grass, amounted, for Great Britain, to 31,976,000 acres. For the whole of the United Kingdom the cultivated area was, in 1879, 47,437,000, exclusive of heath and mountain pasture land, and of woods and plantations.

In Great Britain the area returned as under cultivation has increased by 121,000 acres since 1878, and by 264,000 acres since 1877, and the total increase in the ten years since 1869 is no less than 1,637,000 acres. Of this increase rather more than two-thirds, or 1,134,000 acres, was in England, 228,000 acres in Wales, and 275,000 acres in Scotland. A considerable portion is land that is being gradually reclaimed from mountain, moor, or bog, several instances being specially noticed as having occurred during the past year.

In Ireland the cultivated area shows a slight decrease of 9,000 acres, the decrease in 1878 having been 82,000 acres, and in 1877 nearly 300,000 acres. This large falling off was chiefly due to an alteration in the headings of the schedules by which the "barren mountain land" was completely excluded from "grass," in which some portion with stock upon it had been previously erroneously included.

The area under wheat cultivation in Great Britain in 1879 was 2,890,000 acres, being a decrease of 328,000 acres from the previous year, or more than 11 per cent. The total area in the United Kingdom was 3,056,000 acres, which shows a decrease of 326,000, or nearly 10 per cent., from '78, still a large falling off, though not so large in proportion as for Great Britain alone. The low price of wheat and an unfavorable seed time are stated as the chief reasons for this large falling off, the former cause especially having induced farmers to grow barley instead. The wheat crop in the United Kingdom has now decreased by nearly 1,000,000 acres, or a fourth of its area, since 1869.

As has just been mentioned, barley has partly taken the place of wheat, being this year sown on 2,932,000 acres, an increase of 209,000 acres and nearly 8 per cent. over 1878, and the largest area sown with that crop since the agricultural returns were first obtained in 1867. Oats show a decrease of 126,000 acres, or 3 per cent., from 1878. This crop has declined steadily in area during the last ten years, having amounted to nearly 4,500,000 acres in 1869. The large importations of maize have doubtless competed very largely with the oat crop, and therefore tended to diminish the breadth sown.

Rye was sown on 58,000 acres, as compared with 71,000 acres last year; and beans and peas show little variation from the figures of 1878 either in Great Britain or Ireland.

Summing up the figures as to the corn crops, we find that the total acreage under corn crops in the United Kingdom amounted in 1879 to 10,777,000 acres, a decrease of 2 per cent. from last year, and of more than 10 per cent. from 1869, when corn crops covered no less than 12,000,000 acres.

Of green crops, we find there is an increase of potatoes, carrots, cabbages, etc., but a slight decline in turnips, owing, it is said, to the wet weather interfering with the sowing. Altogether the acreage of green crops in Great Britain was 3,534,000 acres, an increase of 63,000 acres over the preceding year.

The extremes of sugar beet production in Maine this year, so far as known, are 2 tons from one acre, and 20½ tons from half an acre.

The Decline of Grangeism.

This farmers' institution has completely collapsed in different parts of the country. Out of fifteen working lodges, they have been rendered to three in London Division, and these three, according to the returns, are not in a very healthy state.

The sudden decline of this useful farmers' society is significant, and shows one or two things—either that the principles of the order are not permanent, or that the farming class do not sufficiently appreciate them. There is no doubt the Grangers have tried to accomplish too much, and this probably may have resulted either from the principles themselves, or a misconception of their application.

But, however, the snag upon which the boat has sunk is summed up in one word, co-operation. This, taken in one sense, is essential to the welfare of society—indeed, it is the foundation of society—but then, whilst co-operation is so essential, is not division equally so? Could society exist without co-operation in their social relations and division with regard to labor? But the co-operation of the Grange included social, moral, commercial, and everything else. Thus, whilst the aims of the Society were good, in inducing farmers to meet together in their social relations, it was likewise violating a known law in political economy, that civilized society must exist by a division of labor.

The object of the majority of the Granges was to sever that connection that should exist in a complex community, and make the farmer store-keeper, shipper, speculator, and everything else.

To make him everything was only to destroy his functions as a farmer. There could be no possible way of bringing producer and consumer into contact only by the employment of these middlemen who were so much abused, and for which it was claimed seller and buyer could dispense with. It is essential to society that the raw material for food or clothing should go through a certain number of evolutions from the time it is produced until they are consumed. The farmer who raises beef in Canada cannot lay it down as beefsteak on the table of the English consumer. There must be middlemen, whether they belong to the Grange or act on their responsibility. And it is only a choice which is the most expensive.

The business arm of the Order is really what has swamped it. Members joined because they were going to buy cheap tea, sugar and tobacco; and when this failed, of course, the interest in the Society was gone. The different Granges, for instance, bought barrels of sugar and chests of tea on the co-operative principle, and dealt them out in their lodge rooms, empty houses or barns. Of course by buying a quantity it would come cheaper per pound, but then the cost of distribution was never considered, and the consequent loss in dealing out in small quantities.

We unhesitatingly state, had the legitimate objects of the Grange Society been adhered to—social and intellectual advancement—the order at the present time could not have failed to be prosperous. An instance of what the Grange may accomplish can be seen in the Elmira Farmers' Club, in the State of New York. This started a few years ago by a few farmers meeting together for mutual improvement, and to talk about the best methods of farming—in fact, it was a model Grange. This society gradually increased in numbers, and its influence expanded until a whole country came within the fold, and this was again extended to other countries, until now its members are counted from all parts of the State, and eminent agriculturists from all parts of the United States attend its meetings.

Let the Canadian patrons do likewise, and let the store-keeping business alone, and the Granges here will be as prosperous as the Elmira Club.

The Grange Society has proposed, no doubt, many necessary reforms and good measures, but they have failed to carry any of them into effect—it has been all talk and no concentrated action. Their weight, as a body, has never been brought to bear upon any single measure they proposed, just for the want of unity of action.

Since May '77, 893 tons of plaster have been shipped from Hants County, Nova Scotia, valued at \$64,000. A good sign of agricultural improvement is the greater demand for fertilizers.