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EDITORIAL.

Co-operation and the Dressed-beef Trade.

In his letter, this issue, Mr. Austin L. McCredie suggests co-operative effort to rescue the Canadian beef industry from the unsatisfactory condition in which he avers it now is. Two objects, he claims, could be accomplished: First, a reduction of middlemen's charges, hence higher prices to producers, and, secondly, the establishment of a Canadian export business in dressed beef. The economic advantages of such a trade are enumerated by Mr. McCredie, and were pointed out also only last month by Hon. John Dryden before the cattlemen's convention at Calgary, Alta., where he is reported as having said, among other things, that the English abattoirs where Canadian cattle are slaughtered are thirty years behind the times. The difficulty, it seems, has been that the supply of beef cattle in the Dominion was insufficient and too irregular to warrant an export dressed beef trade. A Toronto company tried it some years ago, but found it so unprofitable that they were obliged to give it up. The same firm have since been catering to the domestic trade in several important cities with abattoir-killed beef, and it is possible an export business may result as an outgrowth of this. But Mr. McCredie does not believe in waiting for private or corporate enterprise where co-operation can expedite improvement.

His plan of organization is worthy of attention. It is, in brief, to form local co-operative associations for the sale of beef dead or on the hoof, these to be eventually merged into provincial or national associations, chartered to erect abattoirs and develop the domestic and export dead-meat business. The feature of this scheme is that, in accordance with the principle enunciated in an earlier article, organization proceeds from the ground up—associations organized to sell, leading up to the more ambitious scheme of consolidated associations to sell and manufacture. In this connection it will be remembered that in a previous letter on the bacon industry co-operation was urged for selling only, it being very wisely pointed out that there are already in the country plenty of well-equipped hog-packing establishments, hence all that is needed is organization of sellers to institute and adhere to rational discrimination in price in favor of quality, to enforce rules among breeders as to breeding, finishing, etc., to save commissions in selling, and, ultimately, to bring the packers to time in the matter of price. Similar objects would be accomplished in the case of the beef trade, but besides, it would be necessary to go further, and inaugurate a system of abattoirs, as an incident to export marketing. The cardinal principle, therefore, which Mr. McCredie consistently advocates in both cases, is organizing to sell the produce of the co-operators, manufacture being contemplated in the beef business only as a necessary adjunct. The proposition appears rational enough, although details will have to be more fully elaborated before farmers will acquire sufficient confidence and enthusiasm to embark even in the local associations proposed. The subject is an important one, and we invite a discussion by practical men upon all its phases, not only the pros and cons of the co-operative project, but also the practicability of developing by any other means the export trade of dressed beef.

The Carnegie System of Distributing Wealth.

It is open to any millionaire to distribute his wealth as he pleases, and criticisms of his methods are unwarranted, providing he does not claim to do great good by his benefactions. The Carnegie system is based on the principle that education of a certain form is a panacea for the bulk of human ills, which is rather a large claim. Inspected more closely, the principle held savors of the very materialism it is supposed to avoid or combat, placing as it does a premium on mere knowledge.

Libraries are a most ornamental and useful adjunct to any community, but the great forces of ignorance and disease—the latter largely the child of the former—cannot be overcome by aggregations of books, or the frequenting of book storehouses. One of the greatest needs of human kind to-day, in order to improve the race, is more healthful food and less disease. Given those two things, the brain can do its normal work; otherwise it cannot. Occasionally a genius in literature or art has sprung from an environment of poverty and disease, but such are few, and bear no relation to the rank and file of the people.

The Carnegie benefactions are vastly inferior in their conception and performance to those of Sir William Macdonald; the latter encourages people to work as well as to read and think; the former supplies the opportunity to some people to waste time, to others to improve themselves.

What is the ideal form for a millionaire's gifts to take? The support of hospitals for the poor! The endowment of a hospital in centers of population is probably the best all-round method of distributing benefactions, without making such mere alms or charity.

Large free hospitals mean a benefit to the whole of mankind, more than is obtained by direct relief of suffering. At hospitals are great chances for the embryo medico gaining that rich clinical experience so essential to successful practice. Not only so, but cases which are more or less hopeless, can be kept under continuous, thorough and skilled observation, and the observations thus made may be of use in suggesting new and more successful methods of treatment. The hospital is an essential for the study of such diseases as cancer and other malignant maladies, and its scrupulously clean operating rooms can hardly be dispensed with if success in surgery is to be obtained. The person in need of food or health cannot think clearly or reason well, and the present form of donating libraries to cities and towns well able to afford to pay for them, is not, it seems to us, making the wisest and best use of one's riches.

Greenway as a Prophet.

Hon. Thos. Greenway, M. P., recently forecasted that in ten years Winnipeg would overtake Toronto, which has a population of some 225,000, and now he goes still further, after taking a look over Montreal, and predicts that in twenty-five years the Capital of Manitoba will be the largest city in Canada. Business is going to boom in Canada, because within the next five years the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. will spend \$150,000,000, the Canadian Pacific well on \$100,000,000, and Canadian Northern in the West alone about \$50,000,000. Mr. Greenway said he knew of no other country in the world with a population of 6,000,000, the latent resources of which would warrant the expenditure of the enormous sum of \$300,000,000 in so short a period.

Back from South Africa.

The "Farmer's Advocate" the other day received a call from Mr. H. Pannell, who has spent some time in the Orange River Colony Dairy Service, under Mr. W. J. Palmer, B. S. A., a well-known Canadian who is now Director of Agriculture there, assisted by a staff chiefly, if not altogether, composed of capable young Canadians. They are engaged in the tremendous task of agricultural reconstruction. The Boer War left South African affairs demoralized—farming, as it is called, almost hopelessly so. The farms were neglected, buildings destroyed, herds and flocks decimated. Bitterness was engendered that will need a generation to uproot. Drought and crop failure followed the war. Naturally fertile, the soil is capable of great productiveness, if it would rain, which it does not to the extent required. Irrigation would solve the problem if instituted and the necessary supplies of water were secured. The farms are large, 1,000 to 3,000 acres being not uncommon. The Boers are herdsmen, and before the war they led easy lives, tyrannizing over their native laborers. Farm work is mostly done with oxen, instead of horses. A man with a herd of 75 alleged dairy cows will turn on his milking hands at the time appointed, and they will run over the whole lot, taking about half of the milk from each udder, and an army of calves completes the operation, including in their portion the strippings. From the whole 75 head the creamery will receive about as much milk as a Canadian dairyman would from 25 fair cows. That is an example of how operations are conducted. The Government Experiment Farm is at Twee-Sbreyt. At present there is a sort of provisional military government, but by degrees representative British institutions will be established. The dairy branch of the service was seriously handicapped through the ludicrous blundering of military officers in furnishing the creamery building—itself a magnificent structure with fancy tile roof—before Mr. Palmer arrived on the scene. It was fearfully and wonderfully equipped, and hopelessly disheartening to the men who were to make the butter from milk or cream brought there about seventy-five miles distant, partly by oxen and partly by train. Patience and intelligent perseverance will in time overcome many of these obstacles. The natives are now faring much better and receiving higher wages than they did under the Boer regime. The British Government is doing everything possible to improve the general conditions of the country. Socially and intellectually, the state of the country is not to be mentioned in the same breath with Canada. Mr. Pannell reckons that when Canadians going there consider the deprivations they sustain, the actual disadvantage to which they are subjected, and the very greatly increased cost of living they are compelled to meet, a salary of \$2,000 per year there would be just about equal to \$1,000 on Canadian soil.

Moral.—Young men of intelligence and capacity who wish to get the best out of agricultural life should stay in Canada, a land of magnificent conditions, resources and capabilities, and do their share in building up what is destined in the near future to rank as one of the very first nations on the globe.

The wire milk-strainer alone is a delusion, in that it catches and shows up all substances that are not so bad, and passes through all that are very bad. It takes the cloth strainer to show up the material that should have been wiped off before milking.—[The Farmer.]