

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Progress of Tariff Reform.

The last budget speech of the Finance Minister at Ottawa indicates that in Canada, as it was in Great Britain, the reformation of the fiscal system proceeds very slowly; but the Canadian, like his sturdy and indomitable British forefather, having put his hand to the plow, is not disposed to turn back until a clean, straight furrow is struck out. President Braithwaite, of the Manitoba Patrons of Industry, sums up the new Canadian Tariff as follows:

"The tariff is lowered on several articles of necessity to the farmer. We find also that it is lowered in a corresponding scale with regard to his products, and we figure out that one will nearly counterbalance the other. If so, then the farmer is where he was; but we find the manufacturer, wherever the duty on his manufactured article is lowered, has raw material made free or reduced correspondingly. The Government loses duty and will make it up by some other taxation, so that, while the Government may call it scientific protection, we farmers simply call it a case of 'as you were.'"

The Nineteenth Annual Report of the Ontario Agricultural College.

The nineteenth annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College has just been laid on our table. This volume is not, as many people consider, merely a report of the College proper, but it also contains a full account of all experiments conducted during the year, and a copy of all bulletins issued in that time. This material is all compiled in a book of about 300 pages, properly indexed so that subjects can be easily referred to at any moment.

In regard to the College proper, the year 1894 has been one of continual progress in the improvement of the equipment, the enlargement of the staff, and extension of the work. Progress has been shown in various lines: the completion of the greenhouses, the construction of a large farm piggery, the erection of a dairy building and two dairy cottages, the appointment of a lecturer on horticulture, the organization of a summer school for teachers, and the commencement of a home dairy course for farmers' sons and daughters.

The attendance of students has been quite satisfactory, all the rooms being occupied at the beginning of the year. Several changes have been made in the staff since the last report was issued, with all of which our readers are all doubtless quite familiar.

Many improvements have been completed on the farm during the past summer.

The experimental work has been carried on with vigor throughout the year, especially in the testing of grains, dates of seeding and methods of cultivation, to which were also added a number of experiments on live stock.

The dairy school, which was opened last February as an experiment, has proved a great success; there were more applications than the building could accommodate, and at the end of the session both teachers and students expressed themselves as being more than satisfied.

Another very successful experiment was the inauguration of the summer course in agriculture for teachers. Thirty-four teachers put in an appearance, seventeen of whom were ladies.

The Professor of Natural History and Geology, in his report, reprints his valuable bulletin on remedies for common plant and insect foes, and gives a large amount of valuable information on the weeds of Ontario.

In the report of the Professor of Chemistry are given a number of useful analyses of fodder corn.

The report of the Experimentalist is an interesting and a very valuable portion of the work. Some idea of the magnitude and importance of this work may be obtained, when we state, that during the past season there were used for experimental purposes upwards of 1600 small plots, covering an area of about fifty acres. These plots varied from the one hundred and sixteenth of an acre to one acre in size. On these plots, Mr. C. A. Zavitz, the experimentalist, tested 70 varieties of winter wheat, 73 of spring wheat, 73 of barley, 133 of oats, 81 of peas, 3 of buckwheat, 157 of potatoes, 54 of Swede turnips, 37 of fall turnips, 49 of mangolds, 10 of sugar beets, 33 of carrots, 93 of fodder corn, 10 of millet, 2 of sunflower, 12 of rape, 18 of clover, and 40 of grasses. He has also tried different dates of seeding on 16 plots, mixtures of grain on 107 plots, application of different fertilizers on 30 plots, different methods of cultivating fodder corn, potatoes and roots on 150 plots, methods of preparing potatoes for planting on 20 plots, and miscellaneous experiments on 161 plots.

The Professor of Dairying gives a full report of his work for the past year, which includes an account of the experiments conducted, the report of the travelling dairies, and a large amount of miscellaneous information which will be of great value to dairymen and farmers. The work concluded with a report of the test of the butter extractor and an exposure of dairy frauds.

The last seventy-five pages are devoted to a report of the Ontario Experimental Union, a very full account of which appeared in our columns.

Altogether this is one of the most valuable volumes ever issued by the Ontario Government. We advise every farmer who has not already obtained a copy, to send a card asking for same to the President of the College, Dr. Jas. Mills, or to the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture. This publication is printed for gratuitous distribution.

Rain Making a Failure.

Secretary Morton has finally put the last nail in the coffin of the rain making scheme by issuing a circular, from which we take the following:—"I have to inform you that in no case did they pass the merely experimental stage, and that prospect of ultimate success is not such as to justify farmers or other citizens in rain making experimentation. In this determination, judgment and opinion I am supported by the scientists and other alleged experts in meteorology connected with the United States weather bureau. The bombardment of the skies for water, as carried on by this department, did not produce results calculated to inspire the hope that any method of concussion can be made commercially successful in precipitating the moisture from the clouds."

The Illinois State Veterinarian has discovered a number of cases of glanders in that state. Over fifty horses, including a number on one farm, have also been killed and cremated in Arizona on account of infection with this disease.

STOCK.

The Outlook for Pork.

Replying to your letter *re* price and prospects of hogs, we would say that the price having been almost unprecedentedly high all over the world, the natural effect has followed: Farmers have gone into the raising of them very freely. Our greatest competitors are the Danes. The industry there of hog raising and converting the same into bacon for the English market has increased enormously in the last few years. The bacon curers have killed as many as 15,000 in one week.

The aim of the agents of curers in Canada is to bring up the price of Canadian bacon to a level with the Danish. They have not yet succeeded in this. The large supply of the latter has brought down the price with a run, and at the price we are now paying for hogs we can barely get our own money back again, and some weeks there is a serious loss.

For years past we have paid the highest prices in the summer, say July and August, and while the prices current the last two years need not be looked for, we think that they will bring a fair price.

Farmers should bear in mind that the price of grain is extremely low, therefore they can afford to sell their hogs at comparatively low prices. There is no doubt that in future packers, whether for local or export demand, will have to discriminate very severely between heavy fat hogs and lean sizeable.

Thousands of the hogs we have bought this winter have not only made no profit, but they have robbed the same number of lean hogs of the profit they have brought. The most desirable hog for the bacon curer is about 180 lbs., live weight, long and full of flesh. As we have often mentioned, the mere weight of a hog does not make it desirable or valuable, it is the condition. At the present time buyers in England discriminate between fat and lean bacon to the extent of at least one cent per pound of the live weight of the hog. To advise farmers to sell their hogs in the condition we have named is simply to urge them to the course that will be the most profitable, for not only will the animal bring a higher price per pound, but it will cost the farmer much less to dispose of them in that condition, as the experiments on government farms both in Canada and the United States abundantly prove.

We do not think that the new tariff on pork will affect the market at all seriously, and do not think it will be to the farmers' interest to go out of pork raising, or even to lessen it to any considerable extent.

We are much obliged to you for the interest you have shown in this matter, and if there is anything further on which you desire information or our opinion, command us.

Yours truly,
WM. DAVIES.

[NOTE.—The above letter, from Mr. Wm. Davies, of Toronto, will be read with great interest by all who are raising hogs for breeding purposes or for feeding. However, unless the farmer can contrive some means whereby the cost of raising his grain can be reduced, it is not very comforting to tell him that he can afford to sell hogs at low prices because the price of grain is low.—Ed.]

Leaner Hogs Again.

Having read with considerable interest the remarks by Wm. Davies, of Toronto, in your issue of February 20th on "Leaner Hogs Wanted," we may say the wide experience of this extensive exporter of hog products to the Old Country markets should be of great assistance to our farmers, who will take precaution to prepare themselves with the class of hogs wanted for the export trade.

We have seen a letter written by Geo. Matthews, of Lindsay, Ont., also an exporter, which gives his experience, and it is practically the same as that of Wm. Davies.

There is no doubt on one point: It will not be long until hog products are exported from Manitoba to the Old Country markets, and it certainly would be a wise thing on the part of the farmers to prepare themselves, so they can supply the packers with the class of hogs that will be required for these markets. As near as we can learn, the kind of hogs required are long, lean hogs, weighing from 150 to 220 pounds live weight. A portion of Mr. Matthews' letter reads as follows:—

"I believe that our farmers can and will in course of time supply the packers with the right kind of hogs, and although it will take time to do this, still, when they find their pockets are touched and they cannot sell fat hogs for the same price as lean, the difficulty will soon be overcome."

I would repeat that by lean hogs we do not mean store hogs, but properly fattened hogs with small shoulders and a large proportion of lean in their sides.

The farmers should remember three things:—1st, The breed. A long lean hog—the Berkshire or Suffolk are not suitable, but by judiciously crossing them with the Tamworth and Yorkshire they will answer very well. 2nd, The feed. Any kind of grain, but not exclusively any one kind, along with some mangolds or turnips in winter and green feed in summer. 3rd, Let them have some room to move about. Feed them at a distance from where they sleep, so they will have to walk. They grow better and leaner by having exercise.

Yours truly,
J. Y. GIFFEN & Co., Winnipeg, Man.