

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

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LONDON, CANADA.

A PILLAR OF THE STATE.

In your issue of Feb. 20th, 1908, I read with
great interest a letter from Rev. A. E. Burke,
under heading, "Our Maritime Letter." I note
the high tribute paid to Mr. A. J. Baillie and
his work re shipping and shipbuilding, and believe
the tribute was justly deserved. However, I
could not help thinking that just as high a
tribute should be paid to that writer, not only
from a Maritime, but Canadian, standpoint, as he
paid to A. J. Baillie.

No man in Prince Edward Island has done
more for that Province than A. E. Burke, who
has given largely of his time, without financial
recompensation, advocating different measures
which would benefit that Province. He is also
an advocate of many measures which will not only
benefit his own Province, but all the Maritime
Provinces, and all of Canada as well. No person
can meet Rev. A. E. Burke and leave him with-
out thinking he is a man who has the courage of
his convictions.

There is no doubt that his greatest commercial
ambition is the betterment of the farming con-
ditions of his own Province. In this connection
he has been and still is one of the strongest ad-
vocates of a tunnel under the Northumberland
Straits, to connect his Province with the main-
land. By this, the people of Prince Edward Is-
land could have steady transportation facilities
the year round, whereas they are practically cut
off from the outside world for from three to four
months each winter. This would give the farmers
a market for their products the year round, en-
courage them to grow more, and it would also
keep the farmers' sons home; whereas, now, when
they come to the age of twenty or thereabouts,
they strike off for other lands. I believe the day
is not far distant when the tunnel will be built.

I also read, from your issue of Feb. 27th, a
letter from the same writer dealing with banks
of the country, and also the small amount of ac-
commodation available from them by people of
the Maritime Provinces. No person could travel
through these Provinces during the last year or
two without noting the many complaints from
fair-minded business men, etc., who were able to
give good security, but could not get money from
the banks on account of the general order of the
Bankers' Association. I think our representatives

at Ottawa will do well to consider the suggestions
given in that letter of A. E. Burke.

The Maritime Provinces have certainly made
considerable progress on agricultural lines the
past few years, but there are certainly greater pos-
sibilities awaiting in agriculture, manufacturing,
etc., but they need more men like A. E. Burke to
present their advantages to the outside world.
Oxford Co., Ont. GORDON L. COHOON.

THE FRUITS OF DAIRY INSTRUCTION.

Undoubtedly the best effort ever put forth to
promote the dairy industry in Canada has been
the system of dairy instruction adopted some
years ago by the Eastern and Western Dairymen's
Associations of Ontario. An improvement of
this system was made a year ago by the Pro-
vincial Department of Agriculture taking over
the work of instruction, and administering it
from Toronto, at the same time giving all the
dairy instructors authority to act as sanitary
inspectors. As instancing the benefits which
have accrued, it is generally admitted by buyers
that, whereas the cheese made along the southern
section of the Province used to be rather below
the mark, they now sell right up to the top
quotations. Factorymen in the Simcoe district
concede that in their section the value of cheese
has been increased one cent per pound within the
past five or six years by improvement in the
quality, owing largely to the system of education
and instruction followed. In Eastern Ontario,
also, decided improvement has taken place, and,
indeed, this is noticeable all over the Province.
Patrons and makers have come to understand
that the instructors are not spies or enemies, but
men sent out to assist them in every possible
way, and when they visit the factories or the
farms, and attend annual meetings of the com-
panies, they are met with a spirit of friendly
interrogation.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

STATE AID AND SELF-HELP.

A new and important chapter has been com-
pleted in the history of the agricultural co-opera-
tive movement in Ireland. For a synopsis of a
previous portion of its career, I would direct at-
tention to an article from me in the issue of this
paper for January 11th, 1906 (every reader, of
course, preserves his "Farmer's Advocate" for
future possible reference; at any rate, if he
doesn't, he should). There it was stated that
the Irish Agricultural Organization Society had
been receiving a yearly grant from the Depart-
ment of Agriculture to assist it in its work (the
subsidy being in large measure due to the exer-
tions of Sir Horace Plunkett, the head of the
Department), and that, by a resolution of the
Agricultural Council, this grant was made per-
manent. In course of time, however, "a new
king arose," etc.; Sir Horace was superseded in
office, and his successor, Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P.,
was not at all quite so enamored with the meth-
ods adopted by the I. A. O. S. Shortly after
being installed as Vice-President of the Depart-
ment, Mr. Russell pronounced himself as very
much opposed to the continuance of any public
money being paid to the Organization Society,
which he regarded as an uneconomic proceeding,
and was rendered specially improper because the
Society, in his view, was making unwarrantable
attacks upon various trading interests. The con-
sequence was that the Council of Agriculture de-
cided to recommend that the grant should not be
continued indefinitely, but should be gradually
stopped. The matter was then left to the Agri-
cultural Board, which has charge of the finances,
and subsequently the arrangement was come to
that for this year (1908) the I. A. O. S. should
receive the full subsidy of £3,000; in 1909 a
diminished grant of £2,000, and the following
year a final help of £1,000, all financial assistance
to stop then. This was done so that the So-
ciety might have a sufficient opportunity to set
its house in order, as it were, and to raise from
its boasted roll of 90,000 affiliated farmers the
necessary funds to carry on its work, thus ex-
emplifying the true spirit of self-reliance. A
simple calculation shows that if each of these
90,000 farmers would subscribe a modest shilling
(24 cents) a year, the amount formerly received
in subsidy from the Government would be more
than made up, and it is rather logical that if the
Society possessed the confidence and had earned
the gratitude of so many thousand farmers, its
future, financially, at any rate, should not cause
much anxiety to its officials. Everybody seemed
satisfied.

The most interesting events, however were still

to come. Sir Horace Plunkett, on returning from
his annual American trip, and being free from De-
partmental work, was enthusiastically elected
head of the Organization Society. From some
statements and views expressed by him or some
of the men identified with this propaganda, the
opposition of the high and mighty—and, once
again united—Irish Parliamentary Party was in-
curred. Mr. John Redmond wrote to the papers
to accuse Sir Horace of the dastardly (?) motive
of undermining the National Parliamentary Party
by endeavoring to turn the minds of the Irish
people to any other means of developing a pros-
perous nation than by the obtaining of Home
Rule. Poor Ireland! No wonder she has been
kept backward in so many ways. As I read the
Irish leader's letter, how aptly did my thoughts
find expression in the words of Othello:

"'Twas strange, 'twas passing strange, 'Twas
pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful."

Well, Mr. Russell naturally could not ignore
the new complications, and, no doubt, with a
view to the interests of the excellent work which
his Department is harmoniously carrying on with
people of all classes, creeds and politics, he con-
cluded that any further relationship between the
Department and the I. A. O. S. would endanger
the popularity and usefulness of the former.
Whether he decided wisely or not, is, of course,
a matter of opinion. However, the Agricultural
Board met again and adopted a minute cancelling
all connection between the two bodies after the
payment of this year's subsidy. The intimation
was also made that, while taking this action, the
Department did not in any degree disapprove of
the general principle of co-operation, but that any
help given to it in its non-controversial forms
would be henceforth given directly. Of course,
the I. A. O. S. had nothing to do but express in-
dignation, and perhaps to meditate on the fairly
accurate way Shakespeare had sized up things be-
fore he wrote:

"When sorrows come, they come not single
spies,

But in battalions."

Sir Horace, however, expressed his views,
among which were the following: (1) That the
prospect of any Government organization of agri-
cultural co-operation, carried on in rivalry with
the body set up and controlled by the farmers of
Ireland, renders obvious administrative waste and
a collision of interests; and (2), that in every
country where co-operation has been a success, a
central body has been necessary to effective work.
More may be and doubtless will be heard about
the matter, but is it not a great pity that such
friction should exist when the best interests of our
only great industry are at stake?

FOOT- AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Intelligence has no doubt already reached you
regarding the startling outbreak of foot-and-
mouth disease in Scotland. As soon as it became
known, the Irish ports were promptly closed
against all importations from Scotland, and
thus, on the eve of some important pedigree cat-
tle sales north of the Tweed, was a blow to Scot-
tish breeders that elicited much sympathy, as
Irish purchasers attend and buy on an extensive
scale. The Argentine also adopted the closed-
door policy, and should the disease spread, other
parts of the kingdom will doubtless be banned by
the South American authorities. What a sea-
son's sales throughout the kingdom, especially of
Shorthorns, would be in the absence of Argentine
buyers, is not at all pleasant for our breeders to
contemplate. At a big show and sale of bulls,
held in Dublin this week, with the principal ob-
ject of selecting animals for subsidized service,
under the Department's improvement scheme, the
enforced abstention of Irish breeders from Scotch
sales was accompanied by the selection of an
unusually large number of home-bred sires for
this purpose. So, "It is an ill wind that blows
nobody good." Yet, it must be admitted that
the general levelling up in the character of the
stock shown merited an increased proportion of
premiums. Sales were effected freely at from 35
gs. to 50 gs. and 60 gs. Up to the time of
writing, no fresh cases of the dreaded disease
have been reported, and it is to be hoped that we
may soon be able to breathe easy again, with all
fear of infection being removed. The cause of the
original outbreak is thought to have been the use
of some foreign hay or straw, and it strikes me
that any importation restrictions that do not
prohibit the admission of such stuff (which is so
liable to communicate diseases) are obviously in-
complete.

THE BUTTER FAMINE.

Not for fifty years past has butter been so
scarce or dear with us in these islands, and, if
only our Irish farmers were energetic enough to
adopt winter dairying, they might well rejoice in
the high prices now being obtained by the Danish
producers. Australian exports are phenomenally
low, and this is in large measure the reason for
the present paucity of supplies, and prices pre-
vailing up to 1s. 6d. per pound, which gives
householders something to become enraptured
over.

"EMERALD ISLE."