

The Dominion Live Stock Commissioner

Mr. Hodson's Work for all the Provinces; Mr. Gibson's Letter Commended

To the Editor of FARMING:

Those who have taken an interest in the work which has been and is being done by the various live stock associations of this country reasonably hope and expect that much good will result from the appointment of a live stock commissioner for the Dominion. That the gentleman appointed is eminently fitted for the position goes without saying. He has proved himself a very strong man in the past and he is not likely to fail us when he takes up the work in the larger field of the Dominion.

It is perhaps a little early to speak of the probable lines along which work will be carried out. Much thought will require to be given to the subject so that the start may be wisely made. Mr. Richard Gibson, however, in a letter in last week's FARMING very properly draws attention to the fact that an effort should be put forth to develop trade in pure-bred cattle with the people of the Argentine Republic. There can be no doubt that if a portion of that trade could be diverted to this country it would be to us of great value. However, it is safe to say that with the Hon. Mr. Fisher as Minister of Agriculture, aided by men like Professor Robertson, and Mr. Hodson as Live Stock Commissioner, much good work will be done in promoting inter-provincial and international trade along these lines.

Further, referring to Mr. Gibson's letter in FARMING, it was pleasing to read a few well chosen words from his pen speaking of the good work which our newly appointed Live Stock Commissioner has done in the past, and foretelling the good results which are likely to follow in the larger field in which his work will soon begin. I have drawn attention to Mr. Gibson's letter for the reason that there are few men in this country better qualified to deal with the subject, and following as it does an article in a previous number of FARMING, written by Mr. J. A. Macdonald, of Kings County, P.E.I. In that article Mr. Macdonald goes on to say: "I would caution Mr. Hodson in his new position to recognize the fact that our wide Dominion comprises more live stock than is found in Ontario. Since Mr. Hodson has been Secretary of the Dominion Cattle, Swine and Sheep Breeders' Associations his labors have been entirely in the interest of Ontario stock-breeders, while breeders in the Maritime Provinces and other parts of Canada have never been recognized by this F. W. Hodson. Now that he will occupy a much more prominent position in the Dominion Department of Agriculture it is to be hoped that he will at least stifle his prejudices in favor of the Ontario breeders and work in the interests of the breeders of every province in Canada alike. Nevertheless, I cannot believe, from his close association with breeders of his native province, that he can do this."

The above is a good illustration of what public men sometimes have to suffer. The statements made by Mr. Macdonald are unjust and ungenerous in the extreme.

Those who know Mr. Hodson and what he has done know well that he has given not a few of the best years of his life in hard and earnest work in striving to advance the stock interests of this country, and we also know that splendid results have followed those efforts.

Who has been the most earnest of all the promoters of the Live Stock Associations?

Has there been any other man in all the Dominion who has done as much as he has done in assisting and promoting the organization of live stock associations in the other provinces? Did Mr. Hodson use his influence for or against the money grant which was given by the Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association to the association in Manitoba?

Who was it that worked so determinedly to obtain cheap rates for pure-bred live stock from Ontario westward and

now from Ontario eastward? I know whereof I speak when I say that after half rates had been secured for Ontario, all that could possibly be done by Mr. Hodson was done to have them extended to the Maritime Provinces. I think I am correct in saying that as a result of that work each of the provinces enjoys the privilege of sending pure-bred animals from point to point at half fares. Besides all that, we must not forget that while the other provinces have benefited largely by what has been done from a central point yet it was paid for by Ontario.

JOHN I. HOBSON.

Guelph, Oct. 26, 1899.

The Best Canadian Agricultural Paper Wanted in the States---Lessons Therefrom

To the Editor of FARMING:

A. H., New York city, writes me under date of Oct. 7th as follows: "Will you be kind enough to inform me what in your opinion is the best agricultural periodical published in Canada, the annual subscription price, and whether or not you consider it as valuable a publication as the *Country Gentleman*?"

Replying to this correspondent I may say that I have much pleasure in recommending FARMING, published weekly at Toronto, Can., at a dollar a year, as the very best agricultural paper, beyond cavil, published in Canada today. Besides, this correspondent presumably needed a weekly, and as FARMING is the only strictly farm paper published weekly in Canada, I had no other alternative. Whether FARMING is as valuable a publication as the *Country Gentleman* is another matter. The *Country Gentleman* is a \$2 a year paper, while FARMING is but a \$1 paper. All I can say in this regard is that FARMING compares as favorably with the *Country Gentleman* as any dollar weekly published in the United States does, and is a credit not only to its editors and publishers, but to Canada as a whole. The gentleman in question is up-to-date in his farming methods, operating a large farm in central New York, though residing in the city, and has for a couple of years past made purchases of Tamworth swine of me. It was gratifying to me to note the postscript to his letter, "The pigs you sent me are flourishing finely."

There is more in this enquiry than appears on the face of it. Here is an American of education, wealth and business ability looking to Canada for pointers to help him farm better and raise finer stock. May we not conclude that, as straws show the way the wind blows, this man is but a representative of a large number of the foremost farmers and stock-raisers in the United States. If this is so here is a hint to the publishers of FARMING. There are others that would want to subscribe for an up-to-date Canadian farm paper if they knew of FARMING of Toronto, Can. And why?

Time it was not so long ago when our friends across the line turned up their noses at anything Canadian—methods, markets, trade, etc., but a change has been wrought. The high eminence attained in the last few years in the world's markets of our Canadian cheese, Canadian bacon and Canadian pure-bred stock has set the people of the eastern half of the United States thinking, and instead of "looking down" upon "Canadians," now "look up" to us and, a go-ahead people as they are, seeing that we have learned to produce better cheese, better bacon, better blooded stock, they now want to learn of us. This is certainly flattering, and reason and sense will warn us not to get unduly puffed up at our seeming greatness.

J. A. MACDONALD.

King's Co., P. E. Island.