

Messenger and Visitor

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Agriculture in Denmark.

The Trade and Commerce Department of the Dominion Government has completed an investigation into the reasons for the relatively high position held by Denmark in the markets of Great Britain in dairy and other agricultural products. According to a report submitted, the total exports to Great Britain of pork and butter during the years 1901 and 1903 were as follows:—

	1901. lbs.	1902. lbs.	1903. lbs.
Fresh pork	759,622	1,422,024	1,006,432
Smoked pork	130,088,944	156,536,780	175,899,470
Tub butter	176,722,830	181,906,888	205,312,155
Butter in cans hermetically sealed	1,695,836	1,465,955	1,451,987

Denmark's exports of bacon during the months of August, September and October, 1904, were as follows:—August, 77,481 bales, weighing 18,750,400 pounds; September, 64,732 bales, weighing 15,765,100 pounds; October, 60,018 bales, weighing 14,524,350 pounds. The population of Denmark in 1901 was 2,449,540, and the area 14,844 square miles. It will, therefore, be seen that that country ranks foremost in the world as regards the export of such products which doubtless has its reason in the high grade and uniform quality brought about by carefully studying the methods of production and the wants of the different markets. The Royal Danish Agricultural Society is paying particular attention to the production of bacon, butter and cheese. As far as the bacon is concerned, this society follows up the question as to what breeds of hogs are most suitable, what kind of feed produces the best quality of pork, the most suitable age to butcher, salting, smoking, packing, etc. The Danish farmers have also learned that it pays to work together, and in different parts of the country have started co-operative slaughter houses, combined with salteries and smokeries, where the most particular cleanliness, etc., is observed; thereby the most uniform quality is produced. As with bacon so with butter and cheese, much care being taken to produce the highest grade. At the expense of the Royal Danish Agricultural Society a number of young men and women employed in agricultural work are given courses in their respective lines, such courses lasting for three years, during which time the pupils must take active part in the work they wish to study on one of the large farms or creameries. If the pupil stays out the course of three years he is at the close of his term made a present of a number of valuable books in his line.

Independence in Newspapers.

The Toronto *Globe* believes that in the newspapers of Ontario there is discernible a growing tendency toward independence in reference to political questions, and it very truly remarks that such a tendency is in the interests of intelligent and responsible journalism. *The Globe* says: "The days of the Government organ are gone and the days of the hide-bound party journal are numbered. Governments and party leaders have begun to learn that no newspaper can submit to political dictation and live. Not all the 'paps' a Government could supply would give force and influence to a newspaper subject to Government control. For its own sake and for the sake of its public service, a newspaper must be self-dependent and free." *The Globe* also contends that by maintaining the right of independent action a newspaper can render the largest service to the political party with which it is in sympathy. "The profession and practice of independence within reasonable party lines are elements of strength and effectiveness in any newspaper's political service." There is much truth in these contentions, and it is also evident that if the leading newspapers of the country refuse to follow party leading blindly it will be easier for members of Parliament to hold themselves free to exercise their own judgment, and more difficult for them, even if so disposed, to adhere to party policies without regard to party principles or personal convictions. We may well pray and hope for the day when the leading political papers of the country will not only profess but practice a real independence and will stand for principle more than for party. It may however be an interesting question when in the assertion of its right of independent judgment a paper may be expected to offer a practical as well as a theoretical opposition to its party. *The Globe*, it

may be noted, which has opposed its party quite squarely on the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bills, is now vigorously supporting the party in pending bye-elections in which that feature of the Government policy combatted by *The Globe* will certainly be an important issue. It would seem to be a pretty difficult matter for a political paper to harmonize a thoroughly independent standpoint with its engagements as a party organ.

Children of the Empire.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has invited Canada to join in a plan by which the school children of the United Kingdom may be given a better knowledge of this country in common with other members of the Colonial family, and by which also Canadian school children may be given a more adequate idea of the United Kingdom, its trade, its resources and most interesting features. This work has already been brought into prominence by various organizations and commended itself to Mr. Chamberlain during the time that he was charged with the administration of the Colonial Office. Two years ago a small informal committee, including educational experts, was formed to carry out a suggestion that first-rate lectures or lessons to be illustrated by equally good lantern slides, should, on lines which have been followed out with special success in the United States, be given in the schools of the empire. The experiment was tried in a very modest way by the preparation of a syllabus of seven lectures on the United Kingdom, designed for use primarily in the schools of the three eastern colonies—Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and Hongkong. The lectures were delivered by Mr. H. J. Mackinder, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science. They were then put into book form. Each lecture was illustrated by some fifty lantern slides. The success of the movement has prompted the extension of the scheme so that special editions may be prepared for use in the several portions of the empire. For this purpose the empire will be divided into eight groups—the Mediterranean colonies, the South African colonies, the West African colonies, the West Indies, British North America, India, Australia and New Zealand. The Egyptian Government has also been invited to avail itself of the scheme, which involves but a very moderate outlay.

Death of Mr. Wade.

The death of Mr. F. B. Wade, Chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission, which occurred at the Russell House, Ottawa, on Tuesday of last week, is deeply and generally regretted. Mr. Wade is spoken of as a man of fine physique, and he had been confined to his room only about three weeks. At first his sickness was pronounced gastritis, but later, well defined symptoms of cerebro-spinal meningitis manifested themselves, and this disease is said to have caused his death. He had represented the county of Annapolis in Parliament from 1900 to 1904, and had won the genuine respect of men of all parties in the House for his character and ability. Since his appointment to the chairmanship of the Railway Commission he had devoted himself to his work with characteristic energy, and the ability which he had shown in that position was recognized on all hands. Mr. Wade was only in his 53rd year, and what seems the untimely removal of a man of his worth and fine ability in the midst of a useful and honorable career is justly deplored.

The Trans-continental Survey.

The first report of the Trans-continental Railway Commission was presented to Parliament by the Minister of Railways early last week. The report confirms the unofficial statements which have appeared from time to time as to the easy grades obtainable and the character and resources of the country, not only between Moncton and Quebec, but westerly towards Winnipeg. The Commissioners reject the idea that the Intercolonial could be used for the Eastern section of the line. Were this done, they say, the country would be deprived of a more profitable line for freight and much valuable country would remain unopened. Mr. Wade,

late Chairman of the Commission, stated that the Board had decided, subject to the approval of Parliament, to take over a portion of the survey work on the Eastern division performed by the Grand Trunk Pacific, for which \$289,863 will be paid. Further explorations in connection with this section are however to be made, and Mr. Wade believed there is reason to hope for very substantial improvement on the line obtained by the G. T. P. Company. The Commissioners, we are told, are now possessed of sufficient information to enable a decision to be arrived at as to whether the line by the way of Fredericton and the St. John River valley or one across the centre of New Brunswick shall be adopted, but the report does not appear to have sought to decide the question. The length of the section of the proposed road east of Levis will, it is stated, be shorter than the Intercolonial, but how much shorter the Commissioners cannot say until location surveys are completed. If the grades are made equal to those of the I. C. R. the gain in distance will be ninety miles by the cross country route and by the St. John valley route seventeen miles longer. But as it is intimated that it is possible to secure much easier grades, a matter of immense importance on a great freight-carrying road, it may be taken for granted that the line which will be selected will be somewhat less than ninety miles shorter than the Intercolonial.

A Sad Tragedy.

There was committed the other day in the city of Toronto, a crime as strange and sad as it is horrible. The perpetrator of the crime was Josephine Carr, described as a pretty little girl of the street arab type, thirteen years old, and the victim was the nine months old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Murray. The child had been left by Mrs. Murray in its little carriage near Eaton's establishment while she went inside, and when she returned both child and carriage were gone. From what was subsequently learned from the confession of the girl, Josephine Carr, and by other means, it appears that the girl who, it is said, had been accustomed to steal children's carriages, had taken the baby with the carriage, but when she got near home, becoming afraid of the consequences of her act, she pushed the carriage down a high and steep railway embankment killing the child. Then she hid the baby's body in a culvert, first stripping it of its clothing that it might not be recognized. Next day the girl sent word to the police of her discovery of the baby's body in the culvert and told a very circumstantial story of seeing a woman with a child in a go-cart at the railway embankment the day before. As the dead child was identified as Mrs. Murray's, the girl's story appeared improbable. Accordingly she fell under suspicion, and finally being closely questioned, confessed to having stolen and murdered the child as above stated, the girl is bright and good looking, but has not borne a good character, and it is said that she at times manifested symptoms of insanity. If she is not insane her conduct indicates a callousness and depravity almost incredible in one so young.

Baldness and Consumption.

A writer in a medical journal thinks he has discovered that bald headed men never suffer from consumption. In a record which he has kept for five years in his practice there is not, he says, a single instance of a bald person being afflicted with consumption, and in a census of more than five thousand tuberculosis cases he failed to discover a single sufferer who was bald. This medical man's conclusion is a result of hasty generalization, or else he has been blind to facts which other persons are very easily able to see. It is quite true, no doubt, that baldness among consumptive patients is rare. But it is to be remembered that those attacked by tuberculosis are principally young persons and it is not remarkable if they have not lost their hair. It may be true that for some mysterious reason persons who are inclined to baldness are not likely to be afflicted with tuberculosis and vice versa, but at any rate almost any physician of much experience will probably be able to recall very readily facts enough to prove that baldness does not insure immunity from consumption. The writer, without any more than ordinary opportunities for observation, is able to recall more than one instance in which baldness and tuberculosis were associated in the same person.