

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, July 1st, 1914

DOMINION DAY

Forty-seven years ago today, on the First of July, 1867, the Dominion of Canada was born. It was created by the confederation of the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and its boundaries have been enlarged by the inclusion of Manitoba and the North-West Territories in 1870, British Columbia in 1871, and Prince Edward Island in 1873. The Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed out of the North-West Territories in 1905, and extensions of the boundaries of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec have brought the whole of the settled portions of the Dominion under the jurisdiction of the provincial parliaments. The first census after Confederation, that of 1871, found a population in the Dominion of 3,635,024, which had grown by the year 1911 to 7,204,838, and to-day probably exceeds 7,500,000. The increase of population has, however, been probably the least indication of Canada's progress. In production, in commerce, in education, in influence in world affairs, Canada has far more than doubled her importance among the nations of the earth. We believe, too, that Canada is making progress toward higher ideals and nobler conceptions of the national life. Democracy is in the ascendant and it is being realized more and more every day by thinking men and women that patriotism consists not in waving flags and singing patriotic songs, but in unselfish devotion to every movement which intelligently seeks to place public and private life on a higher plane and to improve the economic and social conditions under which we live.

SUMMER FAIRS

During the next few weeks almost every village, town and city in Western Canada will be holding its annual summer exhibition, at which those engaged in the varied industries of the Prairie Provinces will vie with each other in the display of their products. Our summer fairs, originally of a purely agricultural character have become much wider in their scope. The exhibits of the stockman and the farmer, the poultryman and the gardener, the fruit-grower and the apiarist will be seen alongside the products of the factory, the work of the needlewoman, the art of the painter, and the work of the young craftsmen of the technical schools. With all of this is the amusement side of the summer fair, the music of the bands, the performances of the airmen and the vaudeville artistes, the athletic sports, the horse races, the sideshows and the fireworks. There is a danger at some of our fairs that the amusement features play too prominent a part in the program, and attract an undesirable element, especially where gambling is permitted at the race track, and this is certainly to be regretted.

A certain amount of healthy amusement and frivolity, however, is a desirable part of the summer fair, for the farmer and his family have little enough of relaxation on the farm, and when they do go to town they can enjoy a little innocent fun as much as anyone else. The educational side, however, is, and must be, if an exhibition is to be a permanent success, its chief purpose. The farmer who can attend one of the larger fairs where the leading breeders of the country are displaying their horses, cattle, pigs and sheep, has an exceptional opportunity of studying type and gaining a knowledge of what to aim at in his own livestock. And so with the other exhibits. The farmer who visits the fair and takes in only the amusements and the races, and neglects a careful

tour of the barns and other buildings, is wasting a valuable educational opportunity.

THE PARCEL POST

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an article entitled "Uncle Sam, Expressman," in which is told the interesting story of the revolution in transportation conditions which has been brought about by the establishment and development of the parcel post system in the United States. We publish this article for the purpose of indicating some of the possibilities which lie before the improvement and development of the parcel post system in Canada. Canada has a parcel post, but our system at present is very limited in its usefulness compared with the service which is given by the post-offices of the United States and all the countries of Europe, as well as in many other parts of the British Empire. Prior to the establishment of the parcel post in the United States a year and a half ago, those who advocated the parcel post for Canada were met with the objection that the immense area and great distances of this country would make a service such as was given in the older and more closely settled countries an impossibility. The United States government, however, has now conclusively proved that the parcel post can be a success in a thinly settled country as well as in populous centres, and it is earnestly to be hoped that our own post office department will take advantage of the experience which has been gained across the line. It will be seen from the article referred to that the express companies of the United States, which for years had been charging exorbitant rates and giving an inadequate and more or less inefficient service, have not been allowed to stand in the way of progress, and have had the monopoly on which they were fattening taken from them. Our own parcel post service at present carries parcels weighing up to eleven pounds only, and with very few exceptions the charges are actually higher than those of the express companies. In the United States parcels weighing 50 pounds are carried by the mails, and the rates are much lower than the express rates. The express companies, of course are really the railway companies under other names, and at present the railways apparently have too much influence with the Canadian Government to permit the parcel post being made a success by the reduction of rates and the increase of the weight limit. Organization, education and agitation, however, will eventually induce the authorities to yield to public opinion, and the Grain Growers' associations are the proper bodies to take a leading part in the work.

PROTECTION AND NATIONAL GROWTH

Protectionists continually point out that a large number of the leading countries in the world have adopted a Protectionist policy and have prospered greatly thereunder. It would perhaps be foolish to deny that Protection has certain merits for certain countries. In effect it is an effort to enable a country to be self-supporting and self-sufficient, but, with the modern trend of international relations, economic and political, the result of this determination is to fix certain static limits to the national development. France is a typical example of a nation which has continually pursued a Protective policy for many years. It is a rich country, possessing a favorable geographical situation, but the net result is that its population is stationary and its annual increase in trade is comparatively small. It has fixed a definite limit to its growth, and apparently

has very little possibilities of expansion. The United States adopted the same policy for many years. They have now found out this limitation of Protection upon national development. No nation can hope to be absolutely self-sufficient and if its expansion is to proceed at a reasonable rate there must come a time when the Protective, inclusive policy has to be abandoned in favor of one which offers wider possibilities of international intercourse. Germany, too, is apparently on the verge of making the same discovery and the strain of the tariff has almost reached the breaking point. Its pressure has resulted in universal discontent and socialistic agitation and there is every possibility that the next decade will see a gradual shading off of the economic policy of the German Empire towards freer trade. The effect of the permanent adoption of Protection by a nation is to register its determination to be content with a limited national growth and that is one strong reason why to an ambitious, aspiring nation Protection can never be a permanent, satisfactory policy. Canadian Protectionists base their chief claims for consideration of their views on this idea of self-sufficiency, and in our opinion the discovery of the very definite limitation of Protection's efficacy for national growth is beginning to be felt sooner than in most countries, for the reason that no country is quite so unsuited to Protection. Protection is a poor and miserable policy for a young, aspiring nation which desires to attract population and create economic plenty as the foundation of future greatness. For every industry which the Tariff system creates in Canada, it stifles two others. It actually retards the development of manufactures, particularly in Western Canada. There are many indigenous industries which might be profitably established and supported in the West, but whose institution is almost impossible owing to the burdens which the tariff imposes. Take the industry of flax dressing. The West is admirably suited for the growth of flax, and there seems very little reason why the agricultural product should not be transformed on the spot into binder twine, canvas and other manufactured materials. But the establishment of the flax industry requires a certain amount of equipment, and the aspiring manufacturer finds himself burdened through the greed of steel combines, protected manufacturers of machinery and others, with a series of initial expenditures which constitute a severe handicap. Lumbering is likewise afflicted. In Canada lumber ought to be an extremely cheap commodity, but the cost of manufacturing it from its rough state is monstrously increased by the cost of setting up mills. In every line of commerce we are confronted with the same factor. What is the finished product of one industry is the raw material of another, and the process goes round in a vicious circle. There is a heavy tariff on woollens for the benefit of a few woollen manufacturers in Ontario. The result is that these people, having a certain guarantee of profit in the tariff and laboring under certain disadvantages, climatic, and otherwise, create their product which is not always satisfactory; it is a fact that the great majority of the better-off people flatly decline to wear clothes made in Canada. They prefer to import them, very often in a ready-made state. Now, if woollens could be imported freely, there is no doubt that there would be a vast growth of establishments for the manufacturing of ready-made clothing throughout Canada. There might be a certain abolition of woollen industries which were on an unsound basis, but their disappearance would be compensated for by the establishment of