

perity which seems to be returning to the country after about five or six years' absence, it is yet no warrant for a change from that business of mixed farming which is best suited to the situation of the Canadian farmer. In other words, although the price of wheat is now up, and although we hope that it will stay up for a year or perhaps two years, yet wheat should not be grown in larger areas than a well considered system of rotation on the farm calls for.

Government Assistance to Industry.

The United States Department of Agriculture is only of recent origin. When it was first organized, and for some time afterwards, the opposition to it was very strong. Its establishment was described as an unwarranted intrusion of government into the domain of private enterprise. This opposition is now passed away. People are coming to see that the principal use of government is to do for the *people as a whole* that which in a purely private administration of affairs can be done only *by the wealthy for the wealthy*. The success of the efforts of Mr. Wilson, the present Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, to promote the welfare of the nation by securing the introduction of American butter into the English market, has opened the eyes of the American people to the immense material advancement possible to be effected by vigorous government initiation and direction. The result is that now there is a strong demand for a new department in the public service, a "department of commerce and industry." This demand is backed up by almost the entire business element of the United States. Nearly every business organization of the country is in favor of it. In nearly every other country in the world, notably in continental Europe, a department of the executive branch of the government is established, whose special duty it is to promote in every possible way the foreign commerce of that country. The business men of the United States have come to the conclusion that the time has come when their government shall undertake the same sort of service for the welfare of the people; and as a necessary consequence of this new departure, they propose that the consuls of the United States in foreign lands shall be what they really ought to be, namely, agents for the introduction and distribution of American manufactured products into all the countries of the world.

All this is in the line of modern progress. To use the language of the street, "it makes one tired" to see how much of government opportunity and resource is wasted or allowed to lie unimproved because of apathy or want of energy, originality and knowledge on the part of government administrators. In our own country we are, it is true, beginning to waken up. Our Dominion Department of Agriculture is quoted throughout the whole length and breadth of the civilized world as a model of enterprise and forethought. This is principally because of the energy and ability of that part of the public service which is presided over by Professor Robertson. But what Professor Robertson has done for the organization and instruction of our co-operative dairying system should also be undertaken for the advancement and benefit of other departments of our agriculture. We have the best climate and the best facilities for raising live-stock in the world, and yet our exports of meat products to Great Britain are scarcely more than a tenth of what they might be. It is the same with our fruit, and with our poultry and eggs. We ship dressed meat to Britain and a whole cargo arrives there improperly packed, and fails to meet with the price its intrinsic worth deserves. Whose fault is that? "The fault of the individual shipper," says the old-fashioned, out-of-date, head-in-the-sand, *laissez-faire* politician. "Let the people learn by experience and they will never forget their lessons." "But it's the *fault of the government*," says every *modern* political economist, because it's the government's duty to do that which the individual by himself cannot do. And so say we. A Live-Stock Commissioner was promised us some time since. When will he be forthcoming?

Horses for Export.

Mr. Secretary Wilson having got his dairy enterprises well under way is now turning his attention to horses. He is finding out what horses are best suited for export to the English market, and is issuing information, etc., to American horse breeders with a view to the production of American horses that will find a profitable sale in Great Britain. He is of the opinion that English cavalry horses can well be raised in the Western States and is taking steps to assist his people to secure that trade.

It does seem strange to us that an American official can find time and money to promote such an enterprise as this, and yet that no corresponding enterprise should be undertaken by our own authorities. The promotion of our horse breeding industry in a similar way would be excellent work for our proposed Live Stock Commissioner, but although our Live Stock Associations have earnestly requested the appointment of such an officer, he is as yet unnamed. What is the matter?

The horses that are now in demand in the British market, and for that matter in every market, are heavy draft, roadsters, coach, and saddle horses. No other kinds of horses are worth raising. In draft horses, none that are not from good unblemished sires, and out of sound healthy mares, and are themselves of good size and weight, and perfectly sound in their feet and legs, are worth anything for export. But horses of this sort of breeding and quality *are* in demand, and can now be sold at good prices.

The time was when every farmer's boy had a passion for a so-called "fast trotter," and this passion has been to a large extent the ruin of our horse-breeding industry. Mere speed, without size, strength, and quality, is of no account as an element of value, especially in horses intended for export. The foreign buyer does not care a rush for speed, no matter how fast it is, if it lasts only a few minutes. What he wants is a horse that can draw a "wagon" or "cart" with three or four people in it, fifteen to twenty miles without stopping, at a reasonably good pace from start to finish. It is evident that none but a well bred, strong, sound horse will do this; but a horse that will do this, the foreign buyer will pay a good price for.

It is this demand for size and strength which has given rise to the popularity of the hackney. For the hackney conjoins with hardiness, strength, good size, and moderate speed, a *style* in his action that is very attractive to buyers and brings to his breeder pots of gold.

The horses that are most popular as cavalry horses, especially on the continent, have thoroughbred blood in them. Ireland is the great source of supply of these horses; and every effort is made by the breeders in that country to keep up their reputation for exclusively using thoroughbreds, even to an unfair denial of other breeds of horses of rights that should be open to them. But all the same, this sensitiveness of the Irish breeder, to the value of his reputation as a breeder from thoroughbreds, shows how necessary to the production of good cavalry and hunting horses thoroughbred sires are.

It has been of incalculable hurt to the welfare of the farmers of this country that for years they have persisted in using as sires, inferior trotting and roadster stock, which produced only light trotting horses, which could only find sale when times were good and when almost everybody had money to burn. Such horses as these were never, even in the best of times, bought by people who really knew what good horse-flesh was.

Each farmer should, of course, breed only the sort of horse for which he has a special liking. But in any case he should breed only those horses which the market is ready to welcome; and as we said at the beginning these are really only of three sorts: (1) good heavy drafts, large, sound and strong, with perfect feet and legs; (2) horses for light rigs and for carriages, in which now the demand is almost altogether for the hackney type; and (3) horses for the saddle, including cavalry and hunting horses, which must almost invariably be of

thorough-bred origin. The farmer breeding such horses as these will make money out of them.

Pre-eminence of the Canadian Bacon Hog.

In our issue for September 21st we called attention to the fact that Canadian swine-raisers, by judicious breeding and judicious feeding, had won a reputation for their bacon hog, which was worth \$2 a hundred to them. We have since had put into our hands a circular letter from a large western American packing house, which we think illustrates this statement and enforces the lesson we drew from it a thousand times more forcibly than we could do. We commend it to the careful consideration of everyone engaged in swine-raising for profit. It must be remembered that it is issued with the purpose of instructing the American swine-raiser as to the sort of hog *he* ought to raise for profit:

The demand for light bacon hogs, instead of heavy grades yielding a large per cent. of lard, is becoming more marked every year. The time is approaching, if not already at hand, when the former will be the most profitable grade that can be raised. Packers for export trade are encouraging farmers to pay more attention to this demand by widening the difference in values of the two grades. Heavy, coarse hogs do not make the quality of bacon and hams that consumers now insist upon having, and for which they are willing to pay. Our Canadian friends, realizing this fact, have for some years been breeding and feeding for export trade, and have found that they have not only closely approximated the choice quality of English, Irish and Continental products, on the one hand, but that the cost of growing is not excessive on the other. On a recent day the Canadian market for bacon hogs ruled at \$5.80 to \$5.85, with sales as high as \$6, and the bacon was sold at relative prices in foreign markets. On the same day Chicago quotations were \$3.85 to \$3.92½, or a difference of fully \$2 per hundred. The Canadian farmer feeds his hogs largely on peas, roots, including potatoes, and grass. It may be possible that the American farmer can make as much money out of corn fed hogs at \$4 in Chicago as the Canadian makes out of his \$6 hogs in Canada; though that may be accounted for by the difference in scale of operation, size of herds, etc. But the act remains that our people ought to raise more choice lean hogs in response to the demand, else they will see a large and profitable trade diverted to Canada and other countries. This is not the day when the American farmer, any more than the manufacturer, can profitably force unsuitable products upon the consumer. The latter will pay for what he wants and not for what he does not want. The attention of those interested is invited to this matter, with the suggestion that stock hogs be selected and future herds be fed to produce bacon instead of lard hogs.

Unwise Oleo-Margarine Legislation.

The fight which the Illinois oleo-margarine people are putting up against the oleo anti-color law is becoming very hot. It should be said, however, that all the oleo manufacturers have not entered into the fight. Messrs. Armour & Co. and Swift & Co., the two largest manufacturers of oleo-margarine, have turned their oleo plants into butter plants. One other large oleo manufacturing firm has moved its plant into Indiana, where no such legislation as that recently passed in Illinois exists. But the remaining oleo manufacturers are going to fight the law for all they are worth, and are determined to defeat it. The principal points they claim are as follows: (1) The law confiscates without compensation the property of the oleo manufacturers; (2) it is class legislation, that it is a legislation in the interests of one class of manufacturers against the interests of another class; (3) it gives one manufacturer (the butter manufacturer) the right to use a coloring, of which it deprives another (the oleo manufacturer). There are many other points raised by the opponents of the law, but these are the principal ones.

Much as we are in sympathy with the desires and objects of the manufacturers of butter, we are of the opinion that the act they have had passed in their interests is an unnecessary infringement of private liberty; and, therefore, we shall not be surprised if it be declared unconstitutional. We revert to the matter here, not because of its intrinsic interest to Canadians, for oleo-margarine is not manufactured in Canada, but simply to point out the bearing of the act on the interests of possible future legislation in Canada; for it is well to be reminded now and again that even legislation has its moral obligations and may become tyrannical. The act prohibits the *coloring*