

What will Canada Gain by Reciprocity?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

While perusing the columns of recent copies of "The Farmer's Advocate," my attention has been frequently directed to editorial comments regarding the recent reciprocity arrangements with the United States, which comments have been of much surprise to me, owing to their undisguised friendliness to such political negotiations. How any paper that stands as an ardent advocate of the interests of the Canadian farmer can support such an arrangement, is an enigma to me.

In short, what will Canada gain by this reciprocity arrangement? If we were to sum up in one column what she will gain, and in another what she will lose, I am convinced that the latter column will be overwhelmingly prodigious in comparison. For instance, supposing we take the horse-breeding industry of Ontario and the Eastern Provinces. Think of the thousands of dollars that have passed into the hands of the farmers of these Provinces through this one particular industry. Would "The Farmer's Advocate" and other reciprocists strike it in the head by giving away our market? I say the Canadian West, because, has it not been the West that has raised the price of agricultural horses, those bred by the bulk of the farmers, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty per cent. in the last eight or ten years, and placed the business on a paying basis. Only ten years ago we purchased an excellent light-draft mare, which weighed about 1,500 pounds, for \$100 cash. The mare was eight years old—just in her prime. To-day we could not buy such a mare for less than \$250. Only a week ago, I saw a small, general-purpose farm horse, weighing not more than 1,100 pounds, 21 years old, sell for the round sum of \$100. What would such a horse have sold for ten years ago, or, better still, what would it sell for a few years hence, if the tariff wall be thrown down and the Americans are allowed to dump their surplus horse product into our Western prairies, where exists the greatest horse market the world over. Oh, but some will say, there will be a market opened up in the Eastern States. Absurd! A market to be looked for in States older, or as old, as the Provinces in which we live? At any rate, how long will such a market last? The market which we have at present is good for years to come, as enormous areas of our virgin-soiled prairies are yet to be subjected to the refining influence of the soil tiller, and the great cities to be built upon their bosom will also tend to stiffen prices, particularly for the heavy horse. Only a short time ago I noticed an article by someone in "The Farmer's Advocate," deprecating the farmer who claimed there was no money in breeding horses, yet this same paper now supports a scheme which, if carried through, will, we are afraid, give us all an opportunity to endorse this farmer's opinion.

Then, let us consider the fruit situation. Secretary Wilson, in answer to the American Grange, suggested that the Canadian market would be of untold advantage to American orchardists, while free-traders in Canada are trying to make us believe that the American market will be of untold advantage to our orchardists. Extraordinary, isn't it? Apples that have been shipped all the way from the Pacific seaboard States are now selling in Essex County, in competition with our home-grown fruits, after the long transportation charge, along with the usual customs duty, has been paid. The Americans see a splendid market looming up in our Prairie Provinces, where fruits can scarcely be grown, and we can only congratulate them upon knowing a good thing when they see it.

As for other staples, just so long as the United States produces more wheat than they can consume, just so long will the market be controlled by Liverpool. And, regarding beef cattle, there is a British preference of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent for American steers over Canadian steers, so little is to be gained in this respect; while our hog market is, on an average, as strong as the American market, and is liable to be stronger in times of an American glut, if the tariff be not changed. Did we not notice in last week's market report that a consignment of eggs from Chicago had slumped the Montreal market, in spite of the existing customs duty? And yet we are told that this reciprocity scheme will be of incalculable advantage to us.

Surely the farmers of this fair Dominion are satisfied with the present market conditions, unsurpassed by those of any other country. With our incomparable horse market and our prospec-

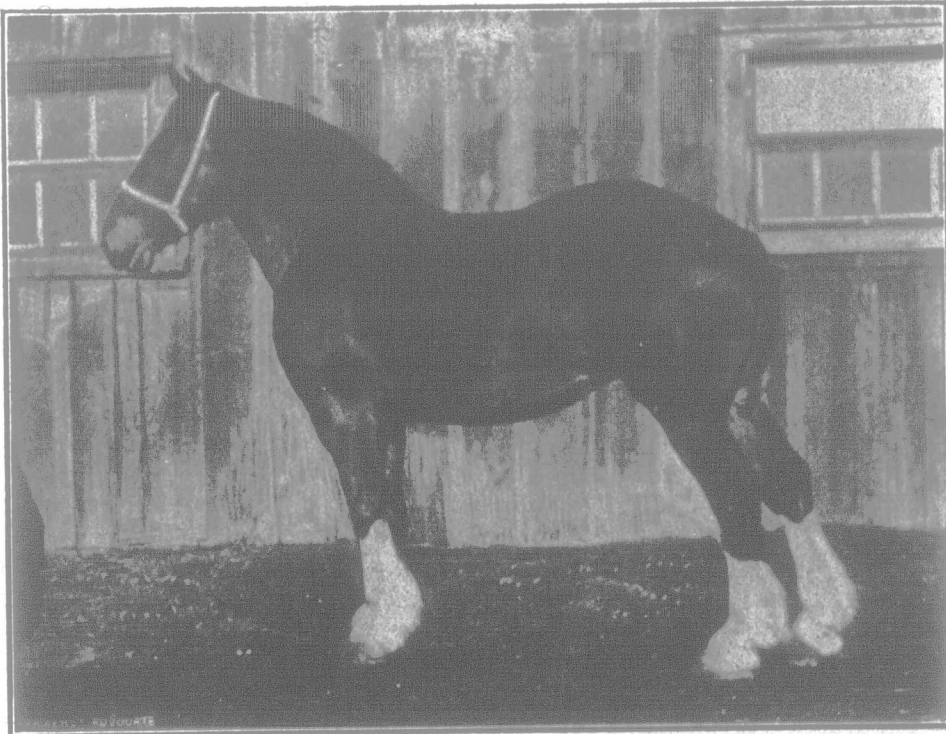
tive fruit market, now in vigorous infancy, but bidding fair to develop into a strapping grown-up, and the equal outlets abroad for our other surplus products, surely it is well enough.

Through the last few decades we have watched the growth and expansion of our country, relying upon our own strength and independence. We have turned our faces from the cotton fields of sunny Alabama to make homes for ourselves on the rugged bosom of New Ontario. With the emerald cornfields of Iowa and Arkansas before us, we have turned our eyes northward to behold a richer glow from the gold of our western steppe. Turning again from the luring banana groves of pleasant California, we have dug our way into the rocks of British Columbia, and have had a taste of its incalculable mineral wealth, and then the world suddenly wakes up to call us a nation.

LAWRENCE SCRATCH.

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[Note.—Practically all our friend's points have been or are elsewhere answered in "The Farmer's Advocate." Horse values are rising in the United States, as well as in Canada, and an immensely greater number of horses are used across the line than in the Canadian West. Most apple-growers recognize that the opening of the American market to their fruit will prove of advantage to them in the average season. Jas. E. Johnson, Manager of the Norfolk Co-operative Fruit-growers' Ass'n., has stated that, even in 1910, in the face of a 75-cent duty, their association shipped 6,000 barrels of apples to the United States, and he further declared that, had there been free trade in apples, their association could have sold its whole crop 50 cents a barrel better than they did. It is true that some Western apples have been sold in Canada this past winter, but that is because a partial failure of the apple crop in Eastern Canada sent prices up to famine figures, which restricted consumption. In such seasons there certainly should be reciprocity in the interest of the consumer. Incidentally, it may be remarked that grocers this past winter have experienced very little call for apples, consumers having made up their minds that this wholesome fruit was out of reach. With a more plentiful supply and moderate prices, consumption would have been immensely greater.—Editor.]



Moncreiffe-Duchess (imp.) [22690] (24214).

Clydesdale mare; brown; foaled 1904. First in class and champion at Winter Fair, Ottawa, and second at Guelph. Exhibited by Graham-Renfrew Co., Bedford Park, Ontario.

Government-built Silos.

Good progress is being made in Victoria, Australia, in the construction of silos. Owing to drouth and the want of suitable fodders, disaster overtook farmers there in 1902, and, to prevent its recurrence, the practical answer was found to be "Silage." The wooden silo was unsuited, owing to dry weather warping and shrinking the staves, and brick and concrete were too expensive. So a combined silo of galvanized iron and wood was devised by the Director of Agriculture, T. Cherry, M. D., M. S.; and the Government, realizing how vital silage was to the prosperity of farmers, undertook to build silos for them on the time-payment plan. The terms were one-third cash, and one-third each on 12 and 24 months' promissory notes. The number so built was 227, and the amount involved £8,372. Repayments up to date of annual report, £6,642, with a practical certainty of all payments being met as the notes came due. In 1906, only 160 farmers in Victoria had silos, the quantity of silage being 7,240 tons. In 1910, these figures had increased to 520 farmers, and 27,000 tons. The

cost of these silos is said to be lower than by any other system in Australia. The only objection to this style of silo is said to be the liability of the galvanized iron to rust, if neglected, but this may be overcome completely, it is claimed, by a lime wash, applied before filling, and afterwards as emptied. The Director feels strongly on the subject, for he declares that to the Australian farmer and to the prosperity of the whole Commonwealth the question of silage is more important than any other one factor. Prosperity is bound up absolutely with the number of live stock that can be carried, and the only effective means of overcoming the effects of the recurrence of drouth is a reserve of silage. Dry fodder does not meet the emergency, for that involves malnutrition in large numbers of animals, because of lack of succulence. In rearing the annual crops of calves and lambs, silage has been found particularly useful, and its importance is even greater where the production of milk is involved. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of 100-ton silos erected. Large numbers were built independently of the Government, which gave demonstrations in silo construction, exhibited models at the fairs, and issued instructions. In some cases special crops were grown, so that the silo could be filled twice per year. In Canada and the United States, silo-building has not been taken so seriously by the Governments as in Australia, which have confined themselves to the distribution of literature on the subject, but steady progress, nevertheless, is being made, and 1911 will probably witness more new Canadian silos erected than in any prior year.

Saving the Clippings.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some readers of the good old "Farmer's Advocate" do not care to keep every copy entire, and clip out such articles that may interest them, or may be of use at some future time. These clippings are carefully laid away in some place for safe-keeping, and how often you forget where you put them or they become lost. To help overcome this difficulty, I offer two suggestions as to keeping your clippings in good shape, so, as to have them at hand when wanted.

The first method is by using an ordinary scrap-book of suitable size, and putting an index down the edge of the leaves, and then pasting in each article clipped from the paper under its proper heading. You can then easily locate anything you may want in a moment.

Another method that is used by a large number is to simply use envelopes. Secure twenty-six envelopes, one for each letter of the alphabet, and mark the letter in one corner of the envelope. Each clipping is merely placed in its proper envelope. A small box or case of suitable size should be provided to hold your envelopes, which should be placed in proper order.

This system has some advantages over using a book. One is that if the advice, etc., contained in a clipping does not prove satisfactory, or something better comes along, you have merely to discard it, whereas, if it were pasted in a book, you would have to mark it over, or try and get something else to paste over it. Of course, the advice given through "The Farmer's Advocate" is generally found to be correct.

C. H. R.

[Note.—An improvement on the latter suggestion is to have one envelope for each subject, with the topic written on the upper left-hand corner, thus:

"Aberdeen-Angus cattle—white marks on."
"Cement tile."
"Ringbone."
"Lymphangitis."

The envelopes are stood on edge, packed one against another, in alphabetical order, in an ordinary cardboard or other box. This system is very convenient. If all our readers used it, we would be saved the repetition of many simple prescriptions.—Editor.]