

HORTICULTURE

Tree Planting and Cheap Land

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Too much can hardly be said on this matter, for it is one which may materially affect the whole future of the prairie lands.

The fertility of the soil is undoubted; but a treeless expanse does not appeal to everybody and of those, who are or will be flocking out to this country, I am safe in saying that the great majority have been accustomed to plenty of timber.

I am certain that many men will rather go far from civilization, if they can by so doing, enjoy the beauty of trees, rather than settle on possibly better land devoid of this attraction. Inasmuch as plantations will not spring up in a day, the sooner prairie farmers set about planting the better. The more trees that can be planted the better, for one protects the other from the heavy winds. Placed four feet apart it only requires some 2722 to lay out an acre. What are two or three acres off the total area of the farm. What do they not add to the comfort of man and beast—to the value of the land and to the general picturesqueness of the country.

It should be part of the farm duties to set out several hundred at least every year. Considering how much non-productive land there is on every farm, it seems poor policy to begrudge a small acreage when the benefit to be derived is so great. The wholesale planting of trees would also, in course of time, materially modify the climate.

I am afraid, however, that too many think only of the dollars, but in this respect they are short-sighted. Every farm in the West could be made self-supporting in the way of cordwood. True it would be some years before trees planted now would attain any considerable size; but I am certain that many would prefer to use smaller wood than go ten to forty miles to fetch larger.

The average farm in Brittany, France, is only a tenth of a quarter-section here and yet the farmer there has enough fuel without buying and often some to sell. Climatic conditions materially change the circumstances; but considering how very much larger the farms are here, the disadvantages are simply compensated for, especially if we reckon that the lands of Western Canada only produce a quarter of what Brittany ones do—in other words, the land here is of less value.

The axe and fire have done much of late years to denude the country of accessible timber and if a thorough effort is not made very soon to replace this loss, farmers are liable to find themselves in a serious if not dangerous predicament in years to come.

If a given acreage of single or better still, double windbreaks were planted every year, extending over a period of eight or ten years, the farmer might then relinquish that work and would have wood to cut for fuel in rotation every year. The Federal government is doing good work along this line, but the people must follow suit and in no half-hearted way.

A. E. DE HURST.

Apple Trade with England

Writing to the Trade and Commerce Department, J. B. Jackson, Trade Commissioner at Leeds, England, in discussing Canada's growing trade with England, says that the fruit trade, in particular, has made rapid strides. Numerous salesmen, who previously dealt almost exclusively in American fruit (under which name Canadian apples were invariably bought and sold when they did perchance obtain them) have been induced to open up correspondence with Canadian shippers and growers, and are now disposing of regular shipments of fruit week after week during the season.

Some idea of the progress made in this direction can be gathered from the business done by one importing firm alone, who, so far this season, has sold upwards of 43,000 barrels of Canadian-grown apples received by them direct from Canada. Other instances could also be cited where trade has greatly advanced, but sufficient illustration of this is shown by the fact that there are, at least, three firms dealing in this district in Canadian apples to-day where there was only one before the Trade Commissioner's office was established for the protection of trade in Dominion products. A few local merchants, too, have been induced to visit the chief fruit-growing districts in Canada, where arrangements were successfully made for future shipments.

Mr. Jackson further says: "Very large direct shipments of Canadian apples are arriving in this district every week, and I am pleased to say that the importers here are unanimous in their opinion that the shipments surpass in quality any Canadian apples ever seen in this district. The packing is all also that could be desired. The early shipments were rather wormy and somewhat inferior, but this defect has disappeared, and Canadian apples, both from Ontario and Nova Scotia, now stand without a rival in the estimation of the consuming public here. The market in Leeds has been exceedingly strong, and excellent prices are being obtained; in Sheffield,

owing to the extreme depression in the iron and steel trades, and the scarcity of money amongst the large operative population, the market has been rather weak, and much smaller prices have been realized than in either Leeds or Hull."

Commissioner Ray, of Birmingham, England, writes under date of November 27: "For the guidance of apple exporters, I may say that the Birmingham market is well stocked at the present time, consequently rather low prices are ruling. It would be judicious if Canadian apple-exporters would retain their stocks until after the Christmas holidays. The market is always glutted at Christmas time, and apparently this year will be no exception."

"I went through Smithfield market yesterday and inspected barrel after barrel of apples from British Columbia and Nova Scotia. The fruit from both provinces was exceedingly fine, but much that came from Ontario was not up to the anticipated standard. Barrows' stores devoted a large window to a display of British Columbian apples, which were the delight of crowds of spectators. The apples were a magnificent color, large in size, and solid in flesh, and Birmingham, I feel sure, will look forward to these British Columbian shipments year by year, if the quality is maintained."

"Pears are commanding a capital price, as doctors are now recommending them to invalids, instead of grapes. The retail price in Birmingham for good varieties is 6d. (12 cents) per pound."

FIELD NOTES

According to the criminal statistics of Canada for the year ending September 30, 1907, there were 23.44 convictions for crime, per 10,000 of population in Manitoba, 18.60 in Saskatchewan, 17.41 in Alberta, and 22.55 in British Columbia, an average number of convictions per 10,000 of population in the West in that year of 20.5, as against an average of 19.18 for the preceding year. In the Eastern provinces during 1907 there were 17.47 convictions for crime per 10,000 of population in Ontario, 11.70 in Quebec, 4.83 in New Brunswick, 9.67 in Nova Scotia and 1.38 in Prince Edward Island, an average number per 10,000 of population of 9.01, as against 8.08 in 1906. For the entire Dominion there were 13.52 convictions for crime per 10,000 of population in 1906, and 18.40 per 10,000 in 1907. It will be noticed that the highest ratios of convictions for crimes in both years were in the Western provinces, a circumstance due to the fact that large increases in the population of these provinces are being drawn each year from all parts of the world, that a percentage of the immigrants coming in are criminal by instinct or breeding, and because of the area of country over which they are spread, or from associating in the cities with persons of character similar to their own, are afforded opportunity for exercising their vicious propensities. The highest ratio of crime is in the Yukon where convictions during 1907 were 56.00 per 10,000 of population.

Great Britain and the Beef Trust

Last week the British government issued the report submitted by the departmental committee appointed last year to investigate the meat trade both in Britain and abroad, but especially to inquire as to whether an understanding in respect to British meat prices existed among American packers. Last season, when the hue and cry against the beef trust was raised in England, it was directly charged that the big four of the Chicago stockyards, fix the prices of meat stuffs and regulate the meat imports of the United Kingdom.

The report asserts positively the belief of the committee that a beef trust exists in the United States and

that the four Chicago companies named are its components. Also it says the same four companies are allied in such a manner in England that they may eventually gain absolute control of the Smithfield market itself. Deep concern is also expressed lest the grip of the meat trust on the Argentina market will become so strong as to put British shipments from that country completely in their hands to the detriment of the English importer.

Despite denials of the packers the committee refused to believe that the four leading packing houses of the United States could be in combination at home and yet competing against each other in Great Britain. Pains-taking inquiries were made on both sides of the Atlantic and the conclusion reached is that while the packers have been able to cover up their tracks pretty well, and while there is no actual evidence to prove that the Americans are in combination to control the British meat trade, the information gathered sets forth as a moral certainty that the four leading packing companies of Chicago have an understanding in regard to Britain's supply and an iron-bound system for fixing prices in the United Kingdom.

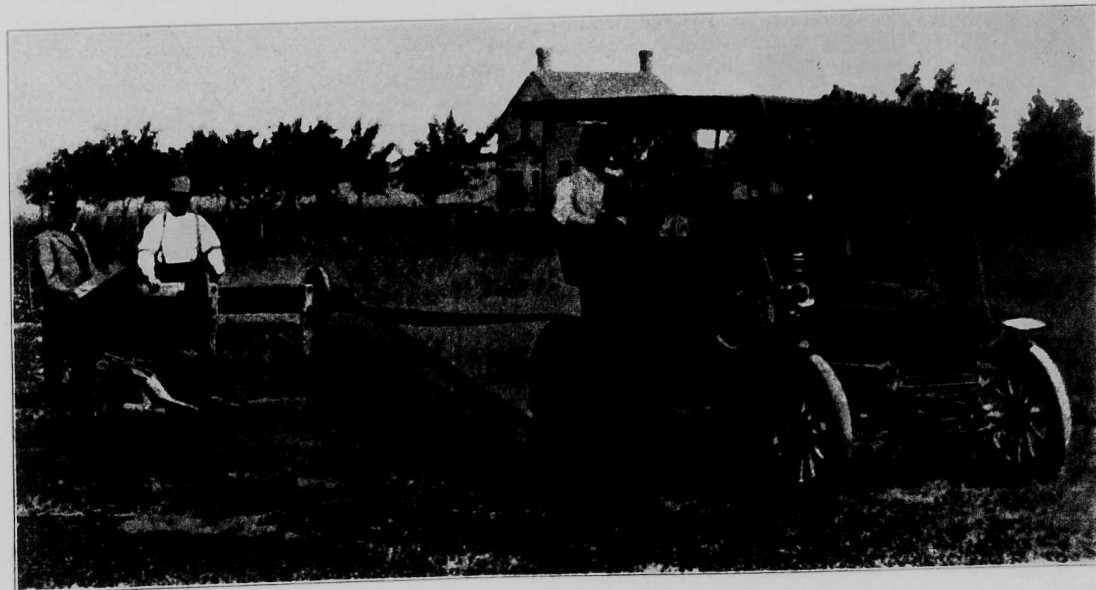
Operating Expert Inspecting Stock Shipping Facilities

The Dominion Railway Commissioner have sent Mr. Frank Dillinger, operating expert of the board, to the West to inspect the stock shipping facilities of the railway lines, and the decision of the board will be based upon his report. Mr. Dillinger will make a personal inspection of the handling facilities at the Winnipeg stockyards and afterwards go over the Western lines of the C. P. R., C. N. R. and G. T. P. A conference was held in Winnipeg upon his arrival of those interested in the question of live-stock shipping, Messrs. James Baird, president of the Western Canada Live-Stock Shippers; N. Nichol, of Darlingford, also representing the Live Stock Shippers, General Live Stock Agent, McMullen, of the C. P. R., Calgary; Superintendent W. E. Roberts, of the C. N. R., Saskatoon; W. J. Hunter, representing the G. T. P., and R. A. C. Manning, who is representing the shippers, taking part.

It will be remembered that when the Railway Commission sat in Winnipeg some months ago, the Live Stock Shippers Association, through Mr. Baird and their legal representative, complained of the unsatisfactory conditions under which live-stock are shipped, the yard accommodation at most points being inadequate, the time made in transit being altogether too slow, and the facilities at the Winnipeg stockyards for handling stock on arrival being insufficient, and requested that the board take the matter up. The Commission not deeming that the evidence offered constituted sufficient reason for action, decided to have their own operating expert look the ground over and report before decision in the matter could be arrived at.

Scottish Commission Report

The Scottish Commission, which visited Canada last fall, have published their report. True to the characteristics of their race they have not permitted the hospitality extended during their visit to color in any way the opinions formed of the country and its possibilities, and the report deals in a frank and open way with conditions in all parts of Canada as the commission found them. They caution their countrymen against the "honest exaggeration" from which this country suffers, and while advising the emigration of the agricultural classes, who have had experience at home add that no man should start farming in Canada until he has learned from experience as a hired man or otherwise, what Canadian farming means. "If a man has no ambition and no ability to be anything else than an agricultural laborer,"



THE AUTOCRAT OF THE HIGHWAY HARNESSSED FOR USEFUL WORK. The ideal auto for farmers, is said to be one that is adapted for a diversity of uses. The illustration shows an automobile on the farm of Mr. D. H. Cosgrove, Napinka, Man., operating a saw.

s of chick food goes a do not eat much when e the feed, and make a d wheat once a day, d, but we have trouble try.

air chickens when too hatched their stomachs nchanged. This is the them, so they do not rty-eight hours. You l drink it. When they where they can get it, get too much. When as much of the chick n. I feed dried beef and lots of green feed ger of giving them too

six to eight weeks old on cracked wheat and f scrap should be kept : hard grain should be m to scratch for, the er they will grow. As cient size, they should es and given a liberal litions the birds thrive

"Busy B."

on the Farm

, undoubtedly, profit- ne farmer may realize a flock of geese every for food, for they will up what would other-

ate with one gander, iety are bred. The three to one gander, e winter months oats

roomy nests in the customed to staying me broody, if more se or geese in a small or two or three days. them up, and let the l likely have forgotten

ect as many eggs as owding. These eggs is soon after being sily. After gather-

While sitting, the o a pond of sufficient her is not too cold. ch, the eggs may be i tepid water. The gs under hens, and i more eggs, is prac- s successful as using rearing of the gos- llt. Set the hen in is preferred by many moisture. Dampen tepid water. When nder the goose, have d in it put a woollen t. In this basket or hatched, as the goose

e the goose or hen e there is no pond, he young goslings, ive plenty of pure d-boiled eggs, bread . After the goslings y be given. Supply if grass is not near. he goslings to run at wim in, the goslings eing careful to keep ew or rain.

growing stock will t month till late in e kept till Christmas, vily and disposing of Prices are as good,

the question of se- strongly advocate a . We advise the reed it, but because table goose to raise, ner breeds, but suc- We are convinced

he same Standard for the gander and y are seldom found he Standard weight. se are above. The more eggs, and are mbden. They also milar to that of the BERT SMITH.