

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Improving the Home Pages.

THE home readers of this journal will appreciate the changes in that department as outlined in this issue. In adopting the name of "The Home World" instead of "The Farm Home," our idea has been to broaden out a little and take in a wider range of subjects in this department. As "The Farming World" covers the whole field of agriculture, so that branch of it to be known henceforth as "The Home World" will aim to cover the whole field of home life on the farm. As will be seen several new departments appear in this issue. These will be greatly enlarged in future issues. The special decorative headings have been prepared at considerable expense. Others will appear next issue, our desire being to brighten up the home department and give it a lighter touch than heretofore. The practical side of home life will not be neglected, but more attention will be given to the children's branch and to the more entertaining side.

We trust our home readers will appreciate these changes. They have been made wholly for their benefit. However, we need their cooperation and help. Hints and suggestions that will help us to make this department better and bring it more in touch with the home life on the farm will be gratefully received. Let us hear from you.

Dr. James W. Robertson.

Queen's University paid a well deserved tribute to agriculture in conferring the honorary degree of LL.D., upon Prof. James W. Robertson, Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, at its recent commencement. No Canadian better merits an honor of this kind. During the past eighteen or twenty years Prof. Robertson has given his best energies and devoted his splendid executive and constructive ability to build up and advance the interests of agriculture in all parts of the Dominion, and with marked success. His more recent work in connection with manual training, the Macdonald seed grain competition and the introduction of consolidated rural schools into Canada is deserving of special recognition and Queen's University has only added glory unto itself by honoring so worthy an individual. It has often been a surprise to us, why such men as Prof. Robertson, Dr. Mills, and a few others we might mention, who have aided very materially in the advancement of Canadian agriculture, have been passed by and worn out politicians

and men of mediocre ability selected for honors at the hand of royalty on great state occasions. Though such honors mean nothing in themselves, they are supposed to be given as a recognition of merit, and if so, why confer them to one or two classes in the community.

To Dr. James W. Robertson we extend our heartiest congratulations. May he live long to wear the honors recently bestowed and to carry on the splendid work he is doing for Canada and Canadian Agriculture.

Colonists Via James Bay

Among the recent colonization proposals is one to build a railway from Peninsular Harbor, on the north east point of Lake Superior, to a point on the Albany River in connection with a line of steamers from James Bay to England. The promoters propose to bring settlers into new Ontario by the Hudson Bay route and so avoid the long journey inland from the seaboard. It is claimed that this northern passage is open from May 1 to Nov. 15 or as long as the St. Lawrence route.

The Grand Trunk Pacific.

The Grand Trunk Pacific project is now before the Railway Committee at Ottawa. Not since the proposal to build the Canadian Pacific was before it has that body had so important a measure to discuss. The project is important for several reasons. There is a serious congestion of traffic in the west and another railway is badly needed. The route proposed is largely through new and unsettled parts of Canada, and will open up large tracts of uncultivated land to the settler. The new road will be Canadian from start to finish and will have behind it the power and influence of the Grand Trunk corporation thus assuring the completion of the road without any needless loss of time.

The proposed route of some months back will be changed somewhat. Instead of starting from North Bay and running westerly to Winnipeg, it is now proposed to start from Quebec crossing the Ontario boundary near Lake Abitibi, or about midway between Lake Temiskaming and the head of James Bay. This will take the road through the great clay belt of northern Ontario opening up a well-wooded and well-watered section. It is also proposed to build the section from Quebec to Winnipeg first, which will help to relieve the congested traffic of the West, and greatly enlarge the spout.

The proposition is then of the very greatest importance to Canada and nothing should be done that will delay its construction. At the same time the interests of the public should be well guarded. Freight rates should be kept under control, and the chances to saddle another great railway monopoly upon the Dominion reduced to a minimum. This country must have more railways to the West, but they should not be had at any sacrifice of the public's rights.

Ontario Crop Report.

The May crop report just issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture states that fall wheat, in most cases, has come through the winter well and promises fair to good. The acreage is somewhat less than the past year or two. Clover came through generally in good condition and prospects are bright in the western half of the province. Seeding operations were well advanced at the end of April. Taken altogether the position of live stock was good on May 1st. In various parts of the province distemper was prevalent, but not of a serious nature. Cattle were a trifle thin but healthy. Sheep were in fair condition but ravages from dogs prevents many from raising sheep. Lambing was later than usual and a considerable number of those dropped died. The swine industry is prosperous and litters are reported larger than last year. Rough fodder has been plentiful but bran, shorts and meals have been scarce. There is a good supply of hay on hand; but it is of poor quality. Prime heaves are scarce and there are not as many store cattle on hand as usual. Orchards have come through the winter in excellent order, no injury from severe frosts or ice-storms being reported. Field mice have done much damage to trees in many districts and appear to be working westward. Blossoming was late and no definite opinion could be given on May 1st as to the general yield.

Argentine Again Shut Out.

The British Board of Agriculture on May 11th issued an order prohibiting the importation of live stock from Argentina and Uruguay. This will no doubt help the Canadian cattle trade considerably and it is to be hoped there will be no changing around for a time. This order, however, should not lessen any effort that is being made to establish the dressed meat trade in Canada. Our farmers will never get the highest prices for their cattle until this trade is placed on a good footing.