

provinces, and capable and energetic men have been, secured to take charge of the various branches of departmental work. This is in striking contrast to some of the more easterly provinces, where, although agricultural departments have been in existence for many years, the work accomplished so far, and that being done at the present time, is not nearly so effective and progressive as that undertaken by the new prairie provinces. True, agriculture is the mainstay of Western Canada, and will be for many years to come, and, therefore, should receive every attention from the governments of the day and those who have charge of the administration of the public revenues. But the same thing holds good to a greater or less extent in all the provinces of the Dominion. Agriculture, more than anything else, is the chief industry of the whole Dominion, and should be fostered by both local and federal governments.

Not infrequently complaints are heard that all attention is centred on the West, to the detriment sometimes of the eastern provinces. There is, perhaps, good ground for these complaints. But are not the eastern provinces themselves to some extent to blame for it? Take that section of the Dominion lying east of Ontario. Go over the work that the local governments in the various provinces of that section have done and are doing for agriculture. Has it been as aggressive and as effective in developing the agricultural resources of Eastern Canada as it might have been? Has there not been too great a dependence upon the federal government to do the work for agriculture which the local governments should do for themselves?

Ontario is looked up to by the provinces east of here, and especially the Maritime Provinces, as a country rich in resources and wealth and quite able to spend large amounts in furthering the interests of agriculture. But are not the others in a position to do the same thing? In conversation with a gentleman interested in agricultural work in the east recently, he gave the information, sneaking more particularly of Prince Edward Island, that the total annual tax a farmer on one hundred acres of cultivated land would have to pay would be about \$8. Compare this with an average tax on a one-hundred-acre farm in Ontario of from \$30 to \$40, and one can readily understand why the local governments east complain of not having sufficient funds to undertake any large movement in the interest of agriculture. Those who know the situation in both provinces tell us that the average one-hundred-acre farmer in the tidv Island province is as wealthy, and has as large an annual revenue from his land as the average Ontario farmer has. The same thing will apply, but not to so great an extent, in the other provinces east of here.

And yet either from the apathy of the local governments to take the initiative in aggressive agricultural work, or from a desire of the people themselves to look elsewhere for help, these provinces more than any of the others seem to look to the federal government to develop their agricultural resources. Of course, we do not mean to infer that the federal authorities should not do anything to assist the agriculture of these provinces or any other province. They are in duty bound to do a great deal to help along this important industry. At the same time, it is neither wise nor good business for either a province or an individual to rely upon a higher power doing what they should do for themselves. The new provinces in the west have certainly set a good example in this regard, which some of the older provinces should profit by.

An Interesting Report

An important stage in the British tariff reform movement is marked by the report of the Agricultural Committee of the Chamberlain Tariff Commission. The committee consisted of 23 representatives, nearly all practical farmers and agriculturists, who, in their report, were unanimous.

Though no action is likely to be taken by the Government at the present time, and perhaps not for some years to come, some features of the report are not without interest to

Canadians. Provision is made for the restoration of the one shilling registration duty on colonial and foreign cereals alike, but giving a preference to the colonies by making the duty two shillings on foreign cereals, including corn. A heavier duty on flour than on cereals is proposed, giving a substantial preference to the colonies. A duty of about 5 per cent. is proposed on animals and meat, including bacon. Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, hay, straw, etc., are slated for specific duties equivalent to from 5 to 10 per cent. ad valorem. The preference idea is strongly emphasized, thus showing that the British agriculturist is not so opposed to the preference idea as was supposed.

But be this as it may, the report is of value as showing a desire on the part of the representative agriculturists of the old land to get away from the "little England" idea and to advocate a policy that will bring the colonies into closer touch with the empire as a whole. With a substantial preference in favor of the colonies agriculture in this country would be greatly stimulated and the farmers' position strengthened.

The government of Australia has imposed a duty of £16 (\$80) each upon harvesters. This gives the Australian manufacturer no less than £30 (\$150) on each machine over outside competitors. A machine which it is claimed costs £25 (\$125) to make in America costs £41 (\$205) in Australia, but is sold for £31 (\$155).



Mr. Vannert

Pioneers of Darlington Township

Two of the oldest, if not the oldest, residents of Darlington Township, Durham Co., Ont., are at present residing in the town of Bowmanville, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. John Vannert. Mr. Vannert is of U. E. Loyalist descent. He was born near Kingston, Ont., in the year 1812. He is now in his 94th year, and is still able to be about, enjoying fairly good health. Mrs. Vannert is about 10 years his junior, but not so vigorous. A representative of THE FARMING WORLD spent a very pleasant hour in their beautiful home recently, when the old gentleman recalled many incidents of his early life, with its struggles and hardships. His father died when he was but nine years of age, which deprived him of a great many of the advantages of education.

But he had a determination to succeed, and when but a youth, he came to the Township of East Whithy and engaged with some of the early settlers there to chop and clear land, splitting rails for one shilling per hundred, and saving money at that.

After some years at this work, having saved up a few hundred dollars, he bought lot 20, con. 7, Darlington Township. During the first winter he chopped about five acres, and during the next summer he worked out again, hiring a neighbor to burn his fallow.

In 1837 he went to live on his own farm and remained there for 45 years. He prospered in nearly every thing he undertook, and at the time of leaving the farm was the owner of 500 acres of the finest land in all Canada, all earned and paid for by honest toil. He had not one dollar to start with, all had to be earned and saved.

Canada may well feel proud of her pioneer sons and daughters—"all honor to them"—theirs, truly, was a life of toil and hardships. They all had an object in view, viz. to give their children a better start than they had themselves—and usually succeeded. They lived and died rapidly advancing; their sons and daughters taking their places. But are they as happy and contented as the old people were? Even with all our modern conveniences the mad race for wealth is depriving the present generation of half of the enjoyment of life—such a venture to say, Mr. and Mrs. Vannert enjoyed.—W. J. S.