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## EDITORIAL.

### Stockmen in Good Heart.

If recent auction sales of pure-bred stock may be accepted as an indication of the outlook for a good demand at profitable prices the prospect is certainly encouraging. Time was, and not many years since, when a public sale in this country with the terms announced as "cash," might safely be written a failure in advance, when twelve months' credit was the customary terms, and "joint notes" the usual requirement. Now a vendue of stock totalling ten to twenty thousand dollars may be run off in three or four hours, and payment secured by cheque, or cash immediately at the close. This is a great improvement, not only as an indication of prosperity, but also as a business proposition, for, as a rule, it is wiser and better not to buy what one is not in a position to pay for at the time.

The great demand for useful horses, a class of stock in which every farmer is interested, has stimulated importation and breeding to supply a market which is bound to grow and expand with the settlement of the vast tracts of farming land now being opened and made available by the construction of new railways.

The improved financial condition of farmers in the West, who, as time goes on, will more and more adopt mixed farming as a means of maintaining the fertility of the land, will undoubtedly provide an enlarged market for breeding cattle, both of beef and dairy type, which breeders will be called upon to supply. The fact that there were buyers from half a dozen States at the late Shorthorn sale at Hamilton shows that American breeders want our cattle, and one good crop in that country will doubtless greatly increase our trade in that direction.

The probability that Canada will in the near future share largely in supplying the requirements of Texas, Mexico and South America with breeding stock is more than a visionary proposition, trial shipments having proved fairly successful, and the prospect for further orders are promising.

The dairy industry, as shown by reports recently published, is in a very prosperous condition, bringing increasing millions of money to the farmers of the country. The demand for cattle of the dairy breeds never was better than at present; excellent prices are being obtained, and no country is better provided with high-class herds of this class of stock than our own.

The export demand for bacon has been a great boon to Canadian farmers, creating not only a very profitable outlet for the finished product, but also a splendid demand for breeding stock, breeders being taxed to the utmost to supply that demand.

Sheep breeders report their sales in the past year the best for several years, and the prospect decidedly encouraging. In no country are the conditions more favorable for the raising of sheep than in Canada, and Ontario, it is safe to say, will continue to be the breeding ground for the supply of seed stock to all of America.

Canadian stockmen have ample reason to be in good heart, in view of the present aspects and prospects of business. With patience, and judicious care in breeding and management of their herds and flocks, avoiding risky speculations, and making steady improvement, no fears

need be entertained for the future, but a cheerful confidence that there will continue to be a profitable market for good stock in all lines.

### The Agricultural College: Present and Future.

After twenty-five years as President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Dr. Mills has been transferred to a new field of action on the Railway Commission of the Dominion of Canada. His latest position may open up to him immense opportunities to do his country service, still his reputation as a public servant will always rest upon his work at the college. Without exaggeration, it can be affirmed that no other educational institution in Ontario has by its records eradicated so much open opposition, vitalized so much apathy among those whom it was dedicated to serve, or has so signally responded to the efforts of its supporters, as has the Ontario Agricultural College during Dr. Mills' incumbency of the presidential chair.

Now the college will have a new president. Upon him will devolve the work of directing the efforts of the immense forces that have developed at Guelph for the benefit of the agricultural classes of Ontario. Now it contains within itself the latent power to make farmers more capable, more efficient, more happy, and associated with this force is that which aims to give the women of Ontario the benefits to be derived from the study of domestic science, dairying, home sanitation, and all the other problems that a complex civilization thrusts upon the womanhood of the land. The direction and application of these forces is to be the work of the president, and the measure of his ability to do this work must be the measure of the advancement or retrogression of the college.

To fill the position of president of an agricultural college that has attained the status of that of Ontario's justly famed institution, requires a man of peculiar professional experience, and with singular administrative faculties. A college with a less extensive equipment and less diversified facilities for agricultural education, might require a president who would himself be an authority on each subject taught, and who could, if occasion demanded it, relieve any one of his colleagues at lectures, but such is not the requirement of the Ontario Agricultural College. For, while her president should be cognizant of the importance of every subject on the curriculum, the professors of each of those subjects should be the best authorities upon them to be found in the Province, and so limit the work of the president to the responsibility of directing the extent to which each subject shall be taught after due consultation with the professor of that subject. We believe that the problem of agricultural education is too large a one to lay upon any one man, and that the responsibility of carrying it out should devolve upon the professors of the different departments. Up to the present the failure of the college to adopt this policy has been one of the greatest hindrances to its best progress, and with a change in the presidency there should also be a change in policy, so that every department about the institution might accomplish the maximum good.

With the president should be associated a staff of experts and professors, each one of whom is familiar with the needs of the Province in con-

nection with the branch of farming in which he makes his specialty, or which he chooses to investigate. The nucleus of such a staff has already been provided in the coterie of professors who have been associated with Dr. Mills, but their numbers are too small, and the efficiency and value of their work limited, owing to the smallness of the appropriations granted them, and the rigid policy of false economy which they have been compelled to pursue.

The shuffle incident upon the change of president should be taken advantage of by the agricultural community to press their demands for enlargement of scope and extension of facilities for teaching and experimenting at the college. Ontario, not behind any other similar area in agricultural production and resources, is sadly behind several of the States in certain branches of agricultural education, although in the aggregate ours may be equal to theirs. The time has come when Government aid to the work of the college should not be stinted. The college has done some good work, but with liberal support it will do much more. Electors of the country can ask their representatives in the Legislature to support no more useful appropriation than that for the purpose of fostering agricultural education at the college.

While it is not the province of the "Farmer's Advocate" or any other paper to enumerate the details of the work that the college should take up in the interests of the farmer, still there are a few general lines of work that people are anxious to have pursued. Foremost in this list is the extension of actual demonstrations of the work in the experimental department. This department has already much useful data on hand, but it requires greater scope in order to verify results obtained in a necessarily small way on the college plots. For instance, experiments conducted with grasses and clovers indicate that a very considerable increase in yield of hay can be obtained from a mixture of red clover, orchard grass and tall oat grass over the ordinary clover and timothy mixture. This conclusion was reached from experiments conducted in small plots. It now requires verification of its practical value by the growing of the crop on a large scale, and the results should be dissemination throughout the country by the use of the press, bulletins, etc. In the live-stock department there are many questions to be investigated, namely, the value of the many new materials, or old ones in new forms, making strong claims as stock foods, pasture mixtures, etc., and the extension of the short-course work in stock judging. So through each department of the college there are problems to be solved—problems that demand immediate attention, and the earliest possible announcement of properly verified results. If all departments of the institution combined could show each farmer of the Province how to increase his income by even one dollar per annum the Province would be well repaid. Liberal appropriations, efficient management and capable instructors and experts are the factors that go to make a successful agricultural college, and Ontario demands such characteristics in her progressive institution. Consideration will doubtless be given at this juncture to the relations between the purely experimental and the teaching departments, so that the one may aid the other without hampering the efficiency of either.

The present condition of agriculture in Canada, and its imperative expansion, will compel the