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Apple Crop Prospects

THE New York Packer, a recognized authority on market conditions, in its issue of July 21st, gives some valuable information in regard to the 1906 apple crop, pertaining more particularly to that of the United States. In summing up the situation it says:

"From the present outlook there will be a large apple crop and reasonably low prices may be expected to prevail. If the crop finally equals that forecasted now, it will be neither in the interest of the grower, the shipper, the apple buyer nor the trade in general to attempt to hold prices too high. It is, of course, always possible to market a small crop at high figures, but when the crop is plentiful everywhere the consumers' inclination to pay the price must be taken into consideration. Values must be sufficiently low when the yield is large to insure a good general demand in consuming circles among the poor, as well as the medium rich, and the rich. Experience has taught the trade that when in the fall prices are made without taking into consideration the yield each dealer tumbling over the other to see how much he can pay in order to supply himself, that the final outcome in the spring has usually been that a lot of apples have gone to waste for want of consumers."

As shown in our last issue, the Canadian apple crop is not likely to be what may be called a large one, though a fair yield is anticipated. However, the apple market here is considerably affected by conditions to the south of the line, and if the forecast of our contemporary be realized growers may have to be satisfied with values for this year's fruit considerably below what many of them are now anticipating.

Why Not "International?"

Why will our friends to the south of the line persist in calling an association formed for the express purpose of bettering the condition of some industry in both the United States and Canada "national" instead of "international?" About the middle of last month an association was formed at the Illinois Agricultural College for the purpose of carrying on necessary scientific work in dairying in which Canadians are asked to co-operate. This organization is called "The National Association of Dairy Instructors and Investigators." Surely the word "international" would be in better taste, and Canadians would feel more at home in doing their share of the work and in helping it along. Because the word "international" is used in connection with the great Chicago fat stock show accounts in a large measure for the

direct personal interest Canadian stockmen take in that exhibition. And so it would be with all international movements if the same courtesy were extended in the choice of names as has been extended to Canadians by American stockmen in their great show.

The Live Stock Commissioner's Branch

The merging of the Live Stock Commissioner's Branch with the Health of Animals Branch, as announced by our Ottawa correspondent this issue, will not be looked upon with favor by all stockmen. Since the formation of the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa several years ago, it has had a distinct identity of its own and has been an important factor in furthering the interests of live stock in all parts of the Dominion. The work of nationalizing the records, undertaken and brought to a successful conclusion largely through the efforts of the former chief of this branch, Mr. F. W. Hodson, and the great importance of the work yet to be done for live stock will be considered by many to have been a sufficient reason for retaining the live stock branch in its original relation to the Department of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture has, however, seen fit to rule otherwise, and while many will question the wisdom of this merging plan, first the dairy and fruit divisions and now the veterinary and live stock branches, the live-stock department will doubtless continue to do good work under the capable officials whom he has placed in charge.

The new chief, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, has proven his ability to do things in another capacity. As Veterinary Director-General he has shown himself to be a capable and energetic official. He has administered a very difficult branch of the government service in a satisfactory manner and has used tact and judgment in harmonizing the conflicting interests that at one time prevailed to so large an extent in the importing branch of the veterinary department. He comes to his new duties very well equipped for the work and were his position such that he could devote his whole time and energy to the live stock branch there would be no ground whatever for questioning the wisdom of his appointment. He has, however, a capable and trustworthy assistant in Mr. J. B. Spencer, a practical stockman, who will be retained as Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, and will, we understand, have immediate charge of the work of the live stock branch. Given proper en-

couragement and support, this branch of the service, even as at present organized, should be in a position to do much for the furtherance of the important live stock interests of the Dominion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Crop prospects, taking the whole country over, were never brighter. With sufficient help and favorable weather a good harvest should be gathered in. There will, however, need to be no drones in the camp, everyone must buckle to and get the grain in the granary.

Dr. Saunders is on his annual tour west. His report on the crop is very sanguine indeed. Barring accidents, the great and growing west will have a bumper yield, which will push up land values another notch and give speculators a chance to make money without earning it.

From 20,000 to 25,000 is the general estimate of the number of men required to assist in taking off Western Canada's wheat crop. Where they are to come from is hard to say. Ontario will need all the men she has now and more, too, to get off her harvest, which is a week or two later than usual, while that of the West is a week or two earlier.

There has been considerable stir among the farmers of the United States in recent months in regard to the prospect of making denatured alcohol on the farm. Dr. H. W. Wiley, Chief Chemist, Washington, warns farmers not to count very much on this, as alcohol cannot be profitably produced in a small way. Owing to the necessity of government supervision, the manufacture of alcohol as at present will have to be undertaken in a large way.

Canada seems to be pushing ahead. A total trade of over \$550,000,000 for the year ending June 30th last is very good for 6,000,000 people, or nearly \$92 per head of population. And the end is not yet. The development of our resources that is at present going on gives promise of this figure being greatly increased in the near future.

The evidence given by different representative Westerners before the Agricultural Committee on grain standards, seems to show that the present standards are not altogether satisfactory to grain growers. There has been a notable absence of No. 1 hard in recent years. Whether this is due to the quality of Western wheat deteriorating or to too high standards has not been clearly shown so far.