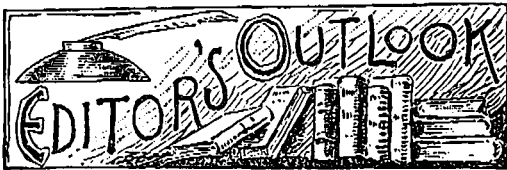


When the mountain blue is cloud-capped
On the sky line in the west,
When the wildbirds seek the shelter
Of the woodland mossy nest,
And the trees their green leaves rustle
To the wind harp's soft refrain,
'Tis then we know the coming
Of the Angel of the Rain.

When at morn down in the valley
O'er the river shining bright,
There hangs a veil so filmy
Of soft and snowy white,
When the robin's note sounds louder
In the tree tops down the lane,
'Tis then we know the coming
Of the Angel of the Rain.

From o'er the eastern hill-top
She floats in garments gray,
Bringing life to bud and blossom
As she glides along her way,
And like the peace that cometh
After sorrow's bitter pain,
Comes Nature's silent blessing,
The Angel of the Rain.



THE month of May was one of surprises. Opening with a growth of vegetation and bud which gave promise of heavy crops, cold and frost set in which caused damage to fruit to an alarming extent. Beginning with wheat at normally low prices, the end of the month saw quotations of one dollar per bushel. And the month went out on a wave of heat which, if succeeded by showers in June, will do much to restore the crops which had suffered from the low temperature of three weeks ago.

THE first division of the session at Ottawa took place on Wednesday last on the budget debate and gave the government a majority of forty-six. The lines were drawn between free trade and protection.

THE Canadian Agent at Bristol reports that American cider is being very largely advertised and sold in Britain. He sees no reason why Canadians should not enter this field and work a paying trade. He adds that there will be a splendid market for apples this year.

THE appointment of Mr. H. J. Obierne as British Ambassador to the United States is taken by some as a tribute to a distinguished agriculturist, Mr. Obierne being better known to the farming community by his writings, than in diplomatic circles. He is regarded as an able man.

THE report of the Armenian Commission was made last month. It is severe in its condemnation of Turkish misrule to which it attributes the cruelties perpetrated on the defenceless men, women and children of Armenia. The European powers are taking concerted action to establish better government in Asia Minor than has prevailed heretofore.

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Angers, has announced that Prof. Robertson has arranged that the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway shall place refrigerator cars at the disposal of the butter trade, and that there shall be a fortnightly service by the Allan line from Montreal in cold storage.

THE death of Mr. Gresham, Secretary of State for the United States, has been the cause of genuine sorrow all over the world. He was a courteous and straightforward officer of state and his relations with foreign powers were personally of the most cordial character. His death is regarded as a heavy loss to public life in the United States.

THERE were some points in a statement presented to the Agricultural and Colonization Committee of the Commons, which deserve wide circulation. It is there announced that after the coming winter dairying in Ontario may safely be left to the care of itself, having been established on a permanent basis. With the discontinuance of initiatory work by the Government \$5,000 less will be required after next year, and probably \$10,000 the year following.

THE bill before the House of Commons making it compulsory to brand the date of manufacture on every box of cheese exported, has caused much diverse criticism. There are those who favor it strongly and a great many who disapprove of it. The consensus of opinion among cheese makers is that there should be no compulsion in the matter. Yet there are reliable business men who do not regard the system in vogue as satisfactory and some change is inevitable.

As illustrating the many difficulties which Canadian shippers of live stock have to contend with, there comes to hand information that recently there arrived in Liverpool from United States ports, seven steamers, viz: the *Sagamore*, the *Spain*, the *Norseman*, the *Georgian*, the *Gallego*, the *Montana*, and the *Michigan*, all carrying sheep and cattle, and among all of which the disease of sheep scab was found. The animals were slaughtered, and another hard fact added to the number which cause Britishers to look with suspicion on products from across the Atlantic.

THE speech from the throne at the opening of the Victorian Assembly has been read with pleasure, containing the announcement, as it does, of the return of prosperity to that highly enterprising colony. With respect to federation the acting governor in his message said that government would introduce a bill providing for an election by the people of a convention for the purpose of framing a constitution for federated Australia. Bills would also be introduced providing for a revision of the tariff and to establish the principle of one man one vote. Public economies are also promised.

THE Minister of Agriculture has consented to hear the views of the cheese salesmen and exporters in regard to the bill for branding cheese. It is understood that the members of the various Cheese Boards are desirous of making known their opinions with respect to the bill now before the House, by deputation or otherwise, and it is deemed advisable that an opportunity should be given for ventilating them before proceeding any further with the measure. Montreal and Brockville are among the cities which have expressed a wish to be heard before the committee, and other boards in Ontario will no doubt follow their example.

A SCHEME has been agitated by Mr. D. M. McPherson, M. P. P., which deserves the favorable consideration of farmers. It is to educate farmers by practical lessons as to the advantages of improved dairy farming. He holds that model farmers, not model farms, are what are required in this province, and as he backs up his arguments by practical examples, his case has all the strength to be derived from stubborn facts which have been verified. He has asked a grant of money from the Agriculture Arts Association to carry out the details of his scheme, and the demand seems to be a reasonable one.

AT the Brockville meeting of dairymen, Professor Robertson took strong ground with respect to the cheese industry, among other things he said that winter dairying, instead of being an injury to the cheese industry, would be beneficial to it, preventing overproduction. The butter sent over by the Government had met with a splendid reception in the Old Country, and the best Lancashire experts had expressed the opinion that it would run the Danish product hard before long. In Prince Edward Island, since 1892, the cheese exports had grown from nothing to more than \$90,000 worth. The duties on goods bought with that extra money would more than recoup the Government for what had been expended. As regards the outlook for good prices this year, he considered it excellent, owing to the revival of business in England, and the high price of beef, which had a direct effect upon the value of cheese. He advised salesmen to let their cheese go forward every week, and thus keep the market clear. One way of maintaining a good healthy market was to keep the cheese on the move.

IN view of the great interest aroused in the question of contagious disease in cattle, we reproduce from Hansard the remarks of Prof. Saunders, Director of Experimental Farm, on Tuberculosis, made before the Agricultural and Colonization committee:—"There is one point to which I would like to call the attention of the committee, and that is that we find tuberculosis is not essentially a lung disease, and therein it can, and should, always be distinctly separated from pleuro-pneumonia, which is essentially a lung disease, and one where the course of the disease is very rapid. Out of the 74 cases of post-mortem examinations which had been made in connection with these investigations at the Central Farm, in 20 of them, or more than one-fourth of the whole, no disease whatever could be detected in the lungs; the disease in all these cases being confined to some other organs or glands of the body. I think we cannot emphasize that point too strongly, for the reason it is so often the case that parties writing in the newspapers will confound these two diseases, the one of which is a most deadly and terrible disease, which is not known to exist anywhere in Canada, while the other is a disease which exists wherever cattle are kept in domestication, and I don't think any country is free from it."

THE Department of the Interior has issued an important Blue Book. The Canadian Immigration Agent in Ireland's report is a valuable document. He points out that it is highly desirable that Canadian steamship lines should make Glasgow or Galway a port of call. He states that no effective immigration work can be done for Canada in the south-western parts of Ireland until this is accomplished. He makes the suggestion that steamships of the Canadian lines should call alternately at the ports mentioned. He secured space in the main gallery of the Royal Dublin Agricultural Society's building to exhibit grain and other products of Manitoba and the North-West Territories at the society's spring show. This exhibit attract-