

of Canada since taking up his duties at Ottawa. Speaking of the nationalization of the records, Mr. Fisher says:

"Perhaps the most important piece of work you have accomplished has been the nationalization of the stock records."

Mr. Hodson has accepted a position as head of the Land and Colonization Department of the Independent Order of Foresters.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

If the good roads people can succeed in bringing about legislation that will result in keeping the automobile in its proper sphere, many farmers in the country will rise up and call them blessed. On some leading roads horse traffic is rarely to be seen.

A bill has been introduced into the British House of Commons, aiming at the removal of the embargo on the importation of Canadian cattle. There seems to be every hope of the bill passing the Commons, but its promoters fear that it will be defeated in the House of Lords.

The people of Ontario seem wedded to the horse-race. There is, no doubt, something exciting about it, and if kept within bounds and not allowed to get the upper hand at the fall fair it cannot do much harm. However, the fair that can get along without it will be better off in the long run.

Early in January a "dairy special" train made a trip through Iowa, Missouri and Kansas in the interests of good dairying. What with "dairy" specials, "seed" specials and what not, the farmer of this continent has no excuse for not knowing what he should do to make the most of his calling.

The Hon. Mr. Fisher's proposal to purchase \$25,000 worth of the best Canadian flour and forward it to Japan for the famine sufferers is one that should commend itself to every citizen. Not only will it afford relief to many hungry Japanese, but it should prove a good advertisement for Canada's staple food product.

For some years Kansas has been threatened with a world's fair fever. She has succumbed at last, and a world's exposition has been decided upon for 1911, at Topeka, to celebrate the State's semi-centennial. But why go to all this trouble? Are there not other ways of celebrating in a fitting manner an event of this kind?

The only agricultural legislation foreshadowed in the speech from the throne to the Ontario Legislature was that providing for increased teaching facilities at the Ontario Agricultural College and the amendment of the Agricultural and Arts Act. It was expected that something would be done in reference to the horse industry, but this may come later.



The late Mr. and Mrs. David Fife.

The History of the Fife Wheat

Every farmer in Canada has heard of the Fife wheat, the staple product of the great Canadian West, the kind that grades No. 1 hard if the graders think the quality good enough. But few, perhaps, know the origin of this wheat, how it came to be introduced into Canada and to whom credit belongs for bringing it to the front.

In 1820 there came to Otonabee Township, Peterboro County, Ontario, Mr. David Fife. He was a young Scotchman and came from old Scotland with his father, Mr. John Fife, and six brothers, John, James, Thomas, William, Hutchison, and Alexander. They all settled in Otonabee excepting the eldest, John, who took up his abode in Asphodel. The original family are all dead now, David passing away 30 years ago. Sylvester Fife, his son, lives on the same farm his father settled on, the west half of lot 24 in the 4th concession of Otonabee.

On this lot before the middle of the last century, was first grown in Canada the now renowned Fife wheat, named after the person who introduced it into this country. It came from Dantzic, on the Baltic Sea. But we will leave it to Mr. Sylvester Fife to tell the story:

"The late Mr. David Fife, Otonabee, Peterboro County, wished to see the quality of our Canadian wheat improved and with this object in view sent to Scotland for samples of wheat. Some were forwarded to Fort Hope and lay there in storehouse during fall and part of the winter. Three dollars storage was paid and the wheat was sown, but it came to nothing. My father then wrote again to his friend Mr. Struthers, clerk in a grain store in Glasgow, for the second supply of wheat. Mr. Struthers

noticed a new kind, an excellent sample brought by a ship direct from Dantzic. He thought it would be just the kind for Canada and sent two samples, one of fall wheat and the other of spring wheat. These were sown in the year 1841. They also laid in the storehouse at Cobourg during the fall and part of the winter. In the spring each sample was sown. The fall variety came to nothing, but the spring sample proved superior to any other kind sown. Out of this three ears were saved. This was on the farm of my father, David Fife, now occupied by me. But owing to the illness of my mother, who took special charge of this wheat, it was not sown until after the other wheat was above ground. At harvest time the Siberian wheat was badly rusted whereas this sample was not effected in the least. This crop was gathered by my mother and brother David, in a sheaf, and carefully stowed away. They had now realized a quart of seed. This was sown the following spring by my mother and brother, producing half a bushel at harvest time, and from the produce of this half-bushel the neighbors were supplied and the country benefited by the introduction of the Fife wheat. Among other neighbors, Mr. Henderson bought a bushel and from the second sowing of the same, reaped 300 bushels part of which he carried to Keene and turned into the agricultural society for \$3.00 per bushel, wrongly calling it the Glasgow wheat. It never grew in Scotland, but was imported direct from a ship arrived from the Baltic. There are those still living who can testify to this statement being true."

And this is the story. By the perseverance of one individual, or, better,

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