

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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producer. The inspector could not fix prices, but simply grades. Just how this would work any substantial benefit to the producer, Prof. Grisdale did not attempt to show conclusively, but he thought it might prove a step in the solution of the marketing problem.

The standard of our bacon is advancing; we have ideal conditions for producing it, and much of our goods sells in the British market to-day as Danish. But as we near the top in quality, the struggle for the market becomes harder, and will be keener in the future than it has been in the past.

He believed that in most cases the packer gets a wider margin than necessary, and to that extent strangles his own business. Partly in consequence, bacon production in Canada is almost at a standstill. Could we get the packer to believe in the motto, "Small profits and quick returns," it would redound to the advantage of all parties in the long run.

A novel suggestion was made at this stage by Mr. J. East, a Canadian who has lived for a time in West Australia. In that colony the miners had been at a loss to get their ores smelted, and in the end the Government erected smelters as the only solution of the problem. The smelting was done at the lowest possible cost and to the satisfaction of patrons. Why might not the Canadian Government run pork-packing houses on the same principle? it was asked.

Prof. Grisdale adroitly turned this socialistic idea over to the consideration of the chairman, Prof. C. C. James. Prof. James deemed it too radical to dispose of offhand. There would be certain advantages and certain disadvantages. At a future date some such action might possibly be found necessary, but it would require exhaustive consideration before being entered upon.

A majority of Canadians would doubtless look askance at such a proposal, and yet it is just possible that a single experimental packing plant run by the Government might prove useful in providing the country with data regarding the cost

of packing hogs that would be valuable in future discussions of the hog-marketing question. At present the packer knows our end of the business, and has laudably attempted to help us arrive at the cost of production; but we don't know his end, and there we are. There are those who profess to know that pork-packers are not such chronic losers as they claim, any more than are cattle-buyers. But we cannot prove it very well. If we had data we might. The idea of a Government packing plant is radical, and should be entertained cautiously, but it may be worth more than a passing thought. What say our readers?

## Our Maritime Letter.

The official patronage of agriculture suffers under a sort of fatalism. The officials themselves never make mistakes; at least they never acknowledge any. And hence it is that much of the energy which, well disposed, might serve the great farming interest, materially, is frittered away in defending weak systems or upholding the action of those who have fastened them upon the country. "The King can do no harm," was the legitimate expression of the Bourbon creed: "L'Etat cest moi." There have been little Bourbons all through the agricultural dynasties, General and Local; there are, unfortunately, still some of them over the ground. In this matter-of-fact age they are as much out of place as belted knights and caparisoned steeds. They are less to be endured. One could brook what those far-off times countenanced easily—there was little else to be done—but when it comes to deal with the medieval, in the present, it is quite another thing; and infinite as is the patience of the race, long as such things have been suffered, the present-day spirit cannot be gauged as anything but absolutely intolerant of such excrescences. Bureaucracy, long as it has had its sway, in affairs agricultural at least, must now make way for a common-sense business treatment of public affairs.

The government of a country is only efficient, in this progressive age, when it quickly and effectively registers the will of the people that make it. We agitate for reforms, improvements, redresses, and easily carry the country with us; the Legislature passes the measures we demand eagerly enough, for the most part, but down go those ordinances to the bureaux, and there they are held in abeyance for ever so long, if they are not strangled and utterly undone. We talk to the national leaders of the needs of agriculture, for example, from the public point of view; they are all attention; we assemble in National Council, indeed, and decide many things of vital importance, with their concurrence; the resolutions, we are told, will speedily go into effect; but the bureau places its unholy hand upon them, and many come out in an emasculated form, many take a form very different from that intended, and many never see the light of day in any shape or form. The Minister may be even well enough intentioned; the bureaucrat can circumvent any minister when so minded. And ministers come, ministers go, but he goes on forever. He is clearly the evil spirit of departmental administration. It is hard to get at him; the very minister he destroys is bound, it appears, to stand by him to death and after.

When the official machinery of the Department of Agriculture was installed at Ottawa two-score years ago, it was never dreamed that it was perfection, or anything like it; changes would be required, all expected, as with the ordinary farm machinery, which has been improved out of all recognition in that period. What was good enough for 1867 is not good enough for 1907. And, whilst this Department was constituted in name at Confederation, it was not till Sir John Carling's day, twenty years later, that it was organized on its present basis and became of any great use to the country as such. Agriculture has made immense strides since the Experimental Farms were inaugurated and separate divisions opened in the Department for the advancement of the special branches which they specially represent; but everything here below is subject to change, and in the important field resources of Canada, the greatest alertness in our leaders is imperative, not only to keep abreast of the times in the ordinary channels of commerce, but also to point the way effectively

to the new realms of extension ever opening up before us. When barriers block the way we must be ready to bridge them over, and not merely occupy the sottish position of the fool in the classics, who waited at the river's brink till all the water ran by so he might pass over dry-shod.

The evolution of agricultural work in the Provinces, in anything worthy of the name, has, if we except Ontario, been of yesterday; and, with this same exception, it is only fundamentally done to-day. It is important, however, that this rudimentary structure be well poised. Anyone can see how essential, too, it is in the circumstances that the Federal and Provincial programmes do not overlap; so that the large amounts of public money expended be not squandered, but used for the development and fruition of plans essential to the great success of the commonwealth. And in this work the harpy touch of partisanship which has polluted so many good objects should be scrupulously avoided. In the Provinces this curse has constituted a grave impediment to otherwise beneficent endeavor.

We are now to have a Federal Experimental Farm here in Prince Edward Island. We have long had a Provincial Farm which has been no credit to us. It is to be closed forthwith, and there will be no shedding of tears. The Federal authority will now try its hand. There will be a station for experimentation in grains, roots and fruits, anyway; and the management will strive to inculcate the esthetic in farming. Dr. Saunders had an importunate call, in the disagreeable period of navigation we have just experienced, and has conferred with the Provincial Government on the matter. He is quite decided that the new Farm, to be of use to the people generally, must be located so as to permit all travellers by rail to see what is going on, and thus to learn from casual observation, whether they wish to or not. This Station will help us, but it should not relieve the local Government of its primary duty in this agricultural Province—to assist agriculture substantially.

A. B. DURKE.

## HORSES.

### Attention to Horses' Teeth.

There are many horses of all ages that are not thriving well, although consuming a reasonable amount of food, and their owners are at a loss to account for it, and often spend money in condition powders, stock foods, etc., without result. The animals do not show symptoms of illness, but simply do not thrive, and have not the spirits or energy they should have. The cause, in the majority of cases, will be found in the mouth; either there is faulty dentition or there are irregularities of the teeth. The subjects do not require medicinal treatment; all that is needed is intelligent attention to the teeth. We say "intelligent attention," as in many cases unskillful or ignorant interference does much more harm than good. While it does not necessarily require a veterinarian to make a skillful veterinary dentist, it requires a man who thoroughly understands the anatomy of the mouth, and has the necessary instruments and skill to correct whatever is wrong. Few farmers have either, and the so-called "veterinary dentist" who is not a veterinarian is usually an unscrupulous person who neither understands the proper arrangement and conditions of the teeth nor the proper manner of correcting faults—a man who lives by deceiving the horse owner. Hence, we think that it is better for the owner to get a qualified man to attend to his horse's mouth. There are few horses that have reached the age of six years or over (and often those of younger age) that would not be better if their teeth were dressed once every year. The reputable veterinarian does not tell all his patrons this, and look in the horse's mouth and say that his teeth require attention. This looks too much like looking for a job, and horse owners are very apt to take it that way; and the veterinarian who has much respect either for himself or his profession is above it. He rightly thinks that if his services are worth having, they are worth asking for. All the same, the average horse will thrive better on the same food if his teeth are regularly dressed. There are many cases in which attention is not required, and the professional man who, for the sake of the fee, will dress a mouth that does not require it, is, we trust, rarely found.

The first trouble likely to result from the teeth appears, in many cases, between the ages of two and four years. At from two years and three months to three years of age, the first and second molar teeth in each row (which are temporary teeth) are shed and replaced by permanent ones. At from three years and three months