

AGRICULTURAL.

Canada's Food Resources.

At the second annual convention of the Ensilage Stock Feeding Association of Central Canada, held recently in Montreal, Professor Robertson delivered a most interesting address on "The Food Producing Resources of Canada." In the course of his remarks the Professor said—

In two respects the Dominion of Canada has undisputed supremacy of position among all countries in the world, yet Canadians themselves are less familiar with the extent and possibilities of the natural resources of Canada in its mining and agricultural interests, than are strangers who come among us, and from their knowledge of these matters in other countries are competent to estimate something of their enormous value. It is the pride of our public men to dilate upon the vast natural resources of this country, in its fields, its forests, its waters and its mines. I shall make it my privilege to-night to confine myself to pointing out some of these resources which can be developed to the mutual advantage of the people. In a very large measure the welfare of the people of Canada in every sense depends upon the prosperity of the rural communities. The growth of the cities and towns in Canada comes from and depends mainly upon the manufacturing and exchanging of products which are either wanted by or provided for those who live in the country. In the past, the acquisition of wealth in some cases has been easier in occupations pursued by city men than from the business of farming, but it does not follow that the city people have created the most of the increase of wealth in this country. Even this city of Montreal—the commercial metropolis of our Dominion—owes most of its commercial prosperity and stability to the labors of our farmers, who are developing the food-producing resources of the country. The large ware-houses which line the business streets, the extensive wharves, which during the shipping season are crowded with the food products of Canada, in transit, to feed the city populations of Europe, the splendid shops and even the imposing railway buildings, have been called into existence for the purpose of facilitating the distribution of farm products and carrying the necessities and luxuries of life back to the homes of those who till the fields. If the quantity and value of the food products from the farms can be multiplied in quantity and increased in value, every person even remotely connected with the distribution of these, in fact every business man, will have a better chance to enlarge his operations and increase his profits. Men in financial circles will know that if the remittances from the country districts come in slowly, a good deal of stringency and difficulty are experienced in carrying on business with success. The importance of agriculture to the commercial enterprises of our country is easily seen by observing how sensitive they all are to the condition of the farmers, the food producers. When hard times prevail in rural districts, depression follows in every centre of manufacturing and commercial endeavor. As the farmers are able to exchange more of their products, which really are the embodiment of newly created wealth to the country, the money, which facilitates the exchange of these things, will ebb and flow more regularly and in so much larger volume that it will float and bear all legitimate enterprises connected with the development of the country's resources to most successful issue. The interests of the city and the country, if not quite identical in our Dominion, should be always harmonious. It is the object of all farming to create wealth by the production of food and the raw material for clothing. With the single exception of fish, the articles of food which sustain our lives wholly come from farms. In a study of the relation which the production of food sustains to the condition of human society which we call highly civilized life, it must be remembered that the farms furnish most of these things, which outwardly distinguish and differentiate the civilized and cultured citizen from the rude barbarian. As the farms of a country furnish supplies of food of superior quality in flavor and nutritive properties, so will the energy, ability and capacity of the people to bring things to pass be improved. Good living is promoted by the farms in this grosser sense, and from it comes also good living in most other senses. When an abundance of nourishing and palatable food at a low cost for production comes well within the reach of all the people, when a community is well fed even to its poorest members, it is strong in the activities, claims and aspirations of our modern life. No country in the world has more favorable conditions naturally in soil, sunshine, water, and atmosphere for the production of fine food products than Canada. It also has vast areas of the best arable and pasture lands awaiting to be awakened into fruitful service by the hands of skilled farmers. From the atmosphere and water come more than 95 per cent. of the constituents of all our food products. Our climatic conditions are such as to permit the growing of such plants and crops as enable our farmers to obtain these at the lowest possible cost to themselves. One object of the Experimental Farm system of Canada is to furnish to the farmers information as to how to make the most of these natural conditions. The range of the Experimental Farm work reaches from experiments in the cultivation of the soil to experiments in handling of the finished products which are intended for the tables of our own people or for export to foreign markets.

The whole of Europe is only about one-twelfth larger in area than the Dominion of Canada, which has a land surface 29 times as large as that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. As yet there are only some 25,000,000 of acres under cultivation, and of these 16½ millions of acres are under crop every year. In the one article of wheat which may be taken as typical of our ordinary cereal crops, Canada has a yield of almost 5 bushels per acre larger than that of the United States, although she still has a yield on the average of some 14 bushels per acre less than Great Britain. The resources of Canada and the natural adaptation of the country and climate are not less well adapted for large crops than are most parts of Great Britain. When Canadian farmers enrich their fields with as much systematic skill and good management as do the English farmers, there is no reason why the average yield of wheat in this country per acre should not exceed in quantity, as it now

exceeds in quality, that of any other place. In the present and still more in coming years it will become less profitable to export the primitive, crude and bulky products of agriculture, but the finished and concentrated food products from the farms can be obtained to the most economic advantage only by the growth of crops having a large yield per acre at the lowest possible cost of labor. The result of one series of experiments at the Central experimental Farm, Ottawa, will illustrate this. Experiments have been carried on to discover the relative results per acre by sowing the same variety of grain in the same soil, during the same season, at different dates. The results for the season of 1891 show the following facts: Spring wheat, sown April 21, yielded at the rate of 47 bush. 50 lbs. per acre, against 19 bush. 10 lbs. when sown on May 26. Oats yielded at the rate of 59 bush. 24 lbs., when sown on April 21; 84 bush. 4 lb., sown on April 29, and 40 bush. per acre when sown on May 26. Barley yielded at the rate of 65 bush. 10 lbs. sown on April 21, and 37 bush. 14 lb when sown on May 26. In many other parts of farm work improvements may be made in the production of cereals. Experimental work in the feeding of cattle has also a very important bearing upon the prosperity of the country and the relative position of Canada as a producer of food for her own and other people. At the present time there are kept in Canada only some 4 full-grown cattle and 4 young cattle upon the average farm. By the growth of Indian corn fodder and the making of ensilage every farm is capable of carrying on an average at least twice as many cattle with increased profit to the farmer. Besides, farmers should be discouraged from marketing the primitive products, which in the form of plants take from the soil large stores of its fertility. They should be encouraged everywhere to sell animals and their products, which enable them to realize larger incomes without the exhaustion of the soil. At the present time at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, experiments are being conducted in the feeding of steers on corn ensilage as the main part of the fodder ration. Up to this date they have been costing at the rate of less than 9 cents per head per day, and gain slightly over 2½ pounds per day. Great Britain imports cattle and beef annually to the value of some \$85,000,000. Of that sum Canada has sent cattle to the value of \$7,500,000. By the cheaper method of feeding cattle, it is possible for Canadian farmers to send to Great Britain in the not very distant future at least one-half of the cattle that she buys from outside countries.

Canadian farmers have exceptional advantages in providing cheap fodders for the production of beef. The new "Robertson Combination" for ensilage was fully explained at the recent Convention in the growth of this excellent feed for cattle—Indian corn, English horse beans and sunflowers—Canada is better adapted than any other country, except a small portion of Central Europe, whose people will not be our keen competitors in the markets which we supply. In the production of cheese Canada has made great advance during recent years. The value of the exports for the year to June 30, 1892, wholly the products of Canada, was \$11,611,393. The business is being rapidly extended in all the eastern provinces of Canada. Great Britain imports on an average \$25,000,000 worth annually. Broad and cheese for a long time was a synonym for a perfect and complete food for the people. Canada can furnish both in increasingly large quantities. During the last financial year Canada sent twice as much value in butter as during the year previous. Through the extension of the winter dairying movement in Canada, still larger quantities of this valuable food product can be produced and sent to Great Britain and other countries. No food product, of which the farmers can dispose, takes less from the soil and leaves them a larger margin of profit for their labor. In 1891 the Dominion Government established two winter dairying stations in Ontario, and during the past winter six of these stations in Canada have been operated under the management of the Dairy Commissioner. As a direct result of their influence not less than 18 cheese factories in Ontario commenced to manufacture butter during the winter. Thus the existing conveniences can be used to facilitate the increase in the food products of Canada, by the manufacturing of cheese during the summer and the manufacturing of butter during the winter. Great Britain imports of butter annually to the amount of \$5,000,000. Of swine products, the farms of Canada still furnish only a tithe of what they are capable of supplying. At our experimental station at Ottawa we have been carrying on experiments in the fattening of swine upon the coarse grains and also upon frozen wheat. The results from the feeding of a frozen wheat have been very gratifying and promise to furnish exceptional help to those districts in Canada where wheat is in danger of being damaged from unfavorable weather. Large numbers of swine have been fed exclusively upon frozen wheat, ground and soaked. The gain per bushel of wheat of course has varied a great deal, according to the kind of swine to which it was fed. The increase of weight per bushel of wheat has varied from nine pounds to over 15 pounds per bushel of grain. The average for over 50 swine will show over 11 pounds of increase in the live weight of swine per bushel of wheat fed. Great Britain imports over \$50,000,000 worth of swine products annually. The quality of Canadian fed and Canadian cured bacon is being so highly appreciated in Great Britain that it stands now almost as high in reputation and price as the products from Ireland and Denmark.

The poultry interests of Canada have been a neglected branch of our food-producing resources. When the farmers give their thoughtful attention to this matter, the hens of Canada will do their part in increasing the food supply of the people. Great Britain imports poultry and eggs to the value of some \$20,000,000 annually. The peasant farmers of France have amassed their competence, which in the aggregate forms the basis of national wealth, largely from their poultry and eggs. In this, which has been called a minor interest, Canada has great capabilities of service for increasing the wealth of her people, through furnishing articles of food—eggs and poultry—which are coming into increasing favor everywhere.

Besides the five farm productions to which I have made reference, Great Britain imports annually to the value of some \$215,000,000. Canada is the natural home for cattle. With her fertile soil and bracing climate she gives vigorous health to the do-

mestic animals and freedom from all diseases of a serious nature. It has been reported that pleuro-pneumonia was found in some cattle which arrived in Great Britain from this country. If by some supernatural or sub-natural interference the dreaded disease was found in cattle which arrived from our shores, it is quite certain that it was acquired after the animals landed, and not while they were in this country, as it is not known and has not been known to exist among the herds of our Dominion. Our customers in other countries everywhere may depend upon the healthful, wholesome and nutritious character of the food products which we supply.

References were made to the trade in apples and other food products which attain their highest quality of excellence under the influence of our northern and bracing climate. The quality of the food products upon the people themselves can hardly be overestimated, and in the coming years when the competitions incident to improved conditions of society make the struggle among nations for supremacy, the greatest odds will always be on the side of those people who are well-fed, well-clothed, and who enjoy the comforts of life through the excellence of the food products which they consume. In the one quality which gives food products super-excellent value, the resources of Canada are being in some measure rapidly developed. The quality of skill in agriculture imparts to products that flavor, finish and attractive appearance which gives them their highest value both in cash to the producer and serviceability to the consumer.

FRENCH WOMEN LEAGUE.

Agitating for Freedom from Their Present Legal Disabilities.

In the play of Aristophanes the ladies of Athens formed a league to resist the endearments of their husbands until they had wrung from them a promise to live at peace with their neighbors. The feminine league in France has not adopted the same tactics, but its members seek by less tender means to vindicate their rights, and to free themselves from the disability before the law by which they consider that they are oppressed. Their association numbers some very able women, who are firmly convinced that they will obtain their demands by the same means which men employ to obtain reforms.

In the course of last summer we had an opportunity of judging the oratorical powers of these courageous ladies at their congress, and of forming an opinion of their administrative talents as chairwomen and in other official capacities for which the English language does not provide feminizations. It must be admitted that, if their logic was sometimes at fault, their speeches, delivered in a curiously strained voice, were not by any means dull or uninteresting. They conveyed the impression that there was a certain basis of truth in these feminine claims to emancipation, although they were scarcely formulated with sufficient precision to admit of very serious discussion.

The French advocates of women's rights do not much resemble their "unsexed" sisters in England; they effect no eccentricity or austerity of dress, and we remember on one occasion seeing a chairwoman who wore a bonnet which had certainly preceded from one of the best Parisian modistes. But they were none the less in earnest for all that.

The fact is that the things which concern men concern them also, in their opinion; and they resolved not to relinquish their efforts until all the liberal professions, except the military profession, for which they acknowledge themselves unfitted, are opened to them in practice as well as in theory, and until they have gained the right of voting at elections, as well as of becoming parliamentary candidates themselves.

The female Demostheneses of the league are Mme. Rouzade—a lady whose excited eloquence rouses somewhat of fanaticism; Mme. Marie Derainnes—a lady possessed of a good vocal organ and an inexhaustible stock of arguments; and Mme. Astie de Valayre—the secretary of the league, who has just been chosen as a candidate at the next elections. Their motto is perfect equality with men in all employments and in all professions "for equal work, equal wages."

They consider themselves capable of performing the work of legislation, and they intend to exert themselves to obtain the enrolment of their names on the list of electors in their respective wards.

SWITCHMEN'S STRIKE.

Railroad Agent Shot in the Leg While in Shanty.

A Chicago despatch says:—The railroad strikers and their sympathizing friends are getting dangerous. On Monday night, while John Rayborn, an agent for the Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad, was sitting in a switch shanty at 46th-street and Stewart avenue, he was shot in the leg by some one on a Fort Wayne train that was passing at the time.

About the same time William Crothers, agent for the same company, was assaulted, at Root street and Stewart avenue by unknown persons and was badly hurt. Jacob Sells and Benjamin Recoveryberry, two non-union switch tenders employed by the Western Indiana Belt Line to take the places of strikers, were assaulted Tuesday night at Thirty-ninth street and the Western Indiana tracks, while engaged in tending the switches at that point, by two unknown men who are supposed to have been union men.

Sells and Recoveryberry applied to the police for protection, and two officers were sent out to Meekham to investigate. Neither of the assaulted men were badly injured. No trace of the assailants could be found.

Queensland is not alone in her misfortunes. Floods almost as serious as those that have visited Brisbane have devastated portions of the Transvaal. They have been especially severe in the district of Pretoria. The river banks have been washed away at several places, and great damage has been caused. Many native huts have been carried off, several of their occupants being drowned. Advances from the country districts show that the storm has been general throughout the Transvaal. The Rand has suffered severely. Several houses have been reduced to ruins, and many mines have been flooded. In some places the railway has been washed away and traffic suspended.

SUFFERING GREEK ISLANDERS.

Great Distress Caused by Repeated Shocks of Earthquake in Zante.

The island of Zante or Zancynthus, which is suffering repeated shocks of earthquake and whose people have been reduced to a pitiable condition of want, is the third in extent and the first in productiveness of the Ionian group, stretching along the west and south coasts of Greece. The chain includes about forty islands, Zante being not far from the middle of the line. It is about twenty-three miles long and twenty broad and is some fifteen miles from the west coast of the mainland. It consists chiefly of a plain covered with vineyards which produce the small grapes known as Zante currants. These are the chief crop of the island, but olive oil and wine are also produced, and there are some manufactures. Most of our news of suffering comes from the city of Zante on the south east coast, which has a large harbor, the best in the chain of islands except that of Corfu. This harbor has been practically deserted by small vessels as a consequence of the tidal waves which have accompanied the shocks of earthquake and have sunk a number of small craft and have smashed others against the seawall. About twelve miles south of the city are petroleum wells which have been known since the time of Herodotus. The population of the city is probably less than 20,000 and of the whole island not more than 50,000, so that half the people of the city seem to have fled from it, while nearly 4,000 are reported camped on a plain near by, and suffering from the severity of the weather.

The island has shared the fate of the others of the chain in having had many masters. First an ally of Athens and then of Sparta, it fell under the sway of Macedonia and was occupied by the Romans during the second Punic war. Upon the division of the Roman empire it went to the eastern emperors, and in the fifteenth century was acquired by the Venetians. France became the possessor of the entire group in 1797, and two years later the Russian emperor created of the islands a republic subject to Turkey. France got them again in 1807, but two years later Zante was one of those seized by Great Britain. The United States of Great Britain, existed from 1815 to 1863, but insurrections were constantly breaking out, and the feeling of dissatisfaction was so strong that, upon the accession of the present king of Greece, Mr. Gladstone consented to the incorporation of the islands with the kingdom, though he had reported against giving them up when he visited them in 1858 as a special commissioner to see what could be done to satisfy the people. There was a series of earthquake shocks in February, 1867, which caused great loss of life and property. Cephalonia, Zante's nearest neighbor, was then the chief sufferer, the two leading towns on that island being almost destroyed.

Ideas of Enjoyment.

You must not think, my son, to regulate others' ideas by your own. Because, for example, your notions as to personal enjoyment lead to a certain line of conducting yourself, it does not follow that others' notions may not tend in a directly opposite direction.

The man who monopolizes with his body and his bundles an entire seat in the railroad coach does not strike you as a lovely object for contemplation, but you do wrong to judge him harshly. To make a hog of himself may be his idea of personal enjoyment, and surely you should not wish to deprive him of pleasures.

The lady at the theatre with the monumental headgear is, from your point of view, an unmitigated nuisance. But reflect; while you came to the theatre to see the play, she came to display her millinery. She is making the best of her opportunity, and is, presumably, supremely happy. If you will but view the hat from her standpoint you will think more kindly of her.

The small boy whose whistle outrages your ear and sets your nerves vibrating, and who makes life hideous to all about him, is, no doubt, a brute with the gift of speech; but it is his pleasure to be a brute and a torment, and it is not for you to interfere with his delirium.

Do not think evil of the man who goes about sulky and grumpy, with not a good word to throw at a dog. To be perennially in the sulks is, perhaps, his idea of terrestrial bliss. Then why should you seek to dash the cup of happiness from his lips by censorious remarks?

The young woman who presumes upon the amenities extended to her sex to say impudent things to a man old enough to be her father is not exactly the model of feminine amiability; but she probably takes pleasure in her course, and it should ever be your thought to defer to the weaker vessel.

The husband who spends his evenings at the club and looks upon his wife with no warmer emotion than he vouchsafes to a certain fixture, might, according to your idea, make home happier; but human capabilities are limited. He may be supposed to make himself happy. Therefore, he does his part; let his wife do the rest.

The wife who greets her husband each evening with her tale of woe, thereby making home quite the antipodes of heaven to him, should not be judged censoriously. Her ideal of joyousness is different from that entertained by you or her husband, but the ideal she has is her own and should be respected.

The man who starves himself through life that he may die rich, and who never gives a cent in charity, or otherwise, except upon compulsion, is a sordid creation in your eyes, but no course he could adopt would make him happier. Your easy generosity, mayhap, is quite as much an annoyance to him as is his close-fisted meanness to you.

There may be men who take pleasure in proclaiming themselves asses; others who find enjoyment in boring their friends and acquaintances to the verge of insanity, and others again who are happy only when there are other people's calamities to rejoice at.

This is a world of diversities, of many men of many minds, and there are almost as many ways of being happy, or of trying to be happy, as there are individuals.

Therefore, my son, be happy in your own way, and let others be happy in theirs.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Western Union Telegraph Company has over 739,000 miles of wire and nearly 21,000 offices, it opens an average of 600 new offices annually.

THE BLACK PLAGUE.

This is Russia's Last and Worst Pestilence—

A Most Fearful Scourge—in General.

In addition to other misfortunes which have of late befallen Russia, she is now called upon to struggle with a terrible epidemic of what is commonly called "black death," which has recently appeared in the Caucasus. Thence it has spread with frightful rapidity to all Southern Russia. The number of deaths is increasing daily. All measures to check the frightful calamity have so far proven useless. Accordingly, a special session has been called of the Ministry of the Interior, which, according to the words of the Novoye Vremya, will endeavor, with the aid of the medical department of the Ministry of War, to invent some means of staying the progress of the dread disease.

Meanwhile the chief medical inspector of the Department of War, A. A. Remmert, has been dispatched to the scene of the plague to investigate as to its chief causes and to find some way of checking its ravages. What is most terrible about this disease is the fact that it is very easily contracted by human beings, and Russia is certainly in no condition at present to struggle with such an epidemic among her people. It is hoped that the theory, which has recently been propagated, that the disease is not so liable to spread in such extremely cold weather as is at present prevalent in Northern Russia is true, as it would be a terrible calamity, indeed, if the fell plague were to spread up to St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Meanwhile the Department of Finance has not been idle, and has already assigned 10,000 rubles to pay the expenses of M. A. A. Remmert in his preliminary investigations. A larger sum will be assigned as soon as called for by the Ministry of the Interior.

The Birzhevaia Gazetta reports a general falling off of stocks in the principal exchanges of Russia of late. On an average the various stocks have been lowered during the last three months no less than 29.14 per cent. of what their selling price was previous to the above mentioned period.

Government especially has felt severely the various financial shocks to which it has been subjected of late, and has shown the effects of them by correspondingly large tumbles in market prices.

The Porte has sent its decisive answer to this Government, positively refusing to entertain any idea of allowing Russian armed vessels to pass the Bosphorus. This would seem to put a stop to all ideas of Russian war ships on the Black Sea, but, from certain remarks gathered from official circles and hints recently dropped by some of the leading semi-official papers, it would appear as if there is some scheme on hand which will soon be sprung on the Sultan's government, and which will alter the state of affairs considerably if not altogether so.

An interesting case is the one at Nijini Novgorod, where a Prussian by the name of Polotoo has just been given a heavy sentence for having changed from the Orthodox Greek to the Jewish faith. The story of the events which led up to this reads more like a novel than a story of facts. It seems that Polotoo is the son of a prosperous peasant of an adjacent village and was hired out as an errand boy some twenty years ago to a Jew, Arastein, who kept a store in this city. Polotoo proved to be very bright and intelligent, and was promoted step by step until he became the confidential clerk of his employer. Meanwhile, his employer's eldest daughter, who was born some three years after he came to the store, had grown up into a beautiful girl, and had in some way fallen in love with him. Although neither Polotoo nor the girl knew it, the father was aware of this love affair, but said nothing. Finally, eight months ago, the old man died, and on the reading of the will was found that he had bequeathed half his entire fortune to his confidential clerk, on condition that he should embrace the Jewish faith and marry his daughter. Polotoo therefore left seven months ago in order that things might quiet down, and then went through the necessary ceremonies of embracing Judaism. Arrangements had just been completed for the marriage to take place, when Polotoo was arrested on the above charge. His trial was short and conviction speedy.



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