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Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Nov. 17.—A conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of the nine provinces together with the Dominion authorities has been called for December 14th. This is a part of a program to improve Canadian sales of farm products in the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere. Hon. J. G. Gardiner has been giving considerable attention to the matter. He spent several weeks in Britain himself after the session. He made certain preliminary observations about the need of studying the British market a little more attentively, and also the desirability of watching Canadian quality and suitability before the cattle, cheese, butter, poultry, bacon etc. left this side. Then Mr. Gardiner asked the deputy minister, Dr. Barton, and Dr. J. H. Grisdale, the former deputy minister, to make some inquiries for him along similar lines when they were in Britain. He asked them to report independently on his own suggestions. Later he instructed H. S. Arkell, the former livestock commissioner, to visit the different provinces, and interview livestock organizations and farmers' societies as well as the packers. Mr. Arkell will have his report in the hands of the Minister by the time the Ottawa conference begins.

(New Drive for Exports)

What the Minister of Agriculture expects all this preparation to lead up to is this: he wants an organization formed in Canada to assist in the exporting of Canadian farm products, to advise farmers what is wanted on the other side, to keep an eye on quality, to watch market changes. It is expected that this body will keep closely in touch with some sort of intelligence service on the other side, which will advise from time to time how the shipments are being received and what can be done to build up the trade still further. The facts and figures for 1936 show that markets for the products of the Canadian farm are growing steadily, but there is still plenty of scope for enlargement. The cattlemen of the Dominion have been urging upon the Minister of Agriculture the need for further emphasis on this matter. An ample market for Canadian live cattle at somewhat better prices than have been prevailing would be of tremendous value to Canadian farmers in every province.

(Profits in Textiles)

Some rather sensational evidence has been brought out by the Turgeon royal commission which is investigating the textile industry in Canada. Eyebrows have been lifted here and there at the profits which have been accumulated by some of the companies, especially when they are set in contrast against the wages paid some classes of employees. The "hidden inventory reserve" of Canadian Cottons, Ltd., has also come in for attention. Though the officers of the company claim that everything was done to safeguard the company against undue fluctuations, and that in the long run the reserve all come out in the balance sheet and had taxes paid upon it, this view does not coincide with that of the income tax department. The latter has made a tentative assessment of about \$383,000 for unpaid income tax between 1920 and the present. This, apparently, does not include penalties, nor does it include anything for the years 1916-1920.

The angle which will be followed with especial interest across the country is what effect these disclosures will have on the tariff policy of the Mackenzie King government. Substantial slices have already been cut off the Bennett duties on textiles, and so far the action does not seem to have ruined any of the companies. It has enabled the Canadian consumer to enjoy a bit more choice when time came to buy cloths and clothing. But anyone who has brought in a shipment of textiles recently knows that the tariff is still moderately high on most lines. It so happens that these revelations about the textile industry arrive just when the Canadian government is trying to figure out some way of mollifying the British into continuing free entry for Canada's farm products. It would not be surprising if some further reductions in textile duties are offered by Canada in return for maintenance of the Ottawa agreement benefits. Iron and steel, boots and shoes, machinery, are other lines which we may see coming in more

readily from Britain after the next budget.

(Talk about Defence)

We are beginning to hear a lot about defence programs, about orders for aeroplanes, about destroyers. There is not much of an official nature to announce. A great deal of the talk can be dismissed as idle gossip. But an enhanced air force looks like a safe bet.

WAY BACK IN LIBERAL FILES

FORTY YEARS AGO

From our Issue of November 19, 1896
The York County tax sale will take place at the Court House, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 8th of December. Of the 1664 parcels of land to be sold for taxes only two are in the Township of Vaughan, and there are none in Richmond Hill.

Mr. C. D. Warren, President of the Metropolitan Railway, addressing the members of the County Council on Monday, said that the company not only intended building the road to the Elgin Mills, but as far north as Newmarket.

The Metropolitan Railway is progressing favorably. The road bed is being ballasted through the Village, and poles are being put in position farther south. A large number of men are working all along the line. As many as 40 workmen have been sleeping and eating at the Palmer House at once.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From our Issue of November 15, 1906
A new telephone was installed yesterday at the residence of Mr. Harry Legge, Jefferson. That makes about 30 phones on the Richmond Hill line.

The following members of the Board of Education were present at their meeting last Friday:—G. McDonald, J. Switzer, J. Mackie, W. Clubine, A. Newton, F. McConaghy, J. Paulin, G. Redditt, A. Wright, D. Hill. The salary of each teacher in the Public School was raised \$25.00. The salaries next year will be as follows:—Mr. Lamont \$600; Miss Scanlon \$325; Mrs. McConaghy \$300. The tenth annual plowing match of the Etobicoke Agricultural Society was held on the farms of Bert Barker and James Kingdom, Thistle-town when twenty-six plowmen competed. The judges were James Jarvis, Milton; James McLean Jr., Richmond Hill; James Young, Weston; W. Walkington, King; W. Dawson, Richmond Hill; W. Scott, Weston.

A quiet wedding took place at the residence of Rev. Wesley Dean, Toronto, when Miss Ethel Tyrrell, daughter of Mrs. T. Tyrrell, was united in marriage to Mr. George Grainger, son of Mrs. H. F. Hopper of Richmond Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Grainger will reside at 65 West Lodge Avenue, Parkdale.

On the 7th of November Mr. Thos. Stodders and Miss Annie Chatterley, both of Thornhill, were married. A large number of guests were present at the wedding, including several friends from the City.

TESTON

Anniversary services held on Sunday last were well attended. In the morning Rev. Geo. Davidson, Thistle-town, gave an inspiring message from the text "Give us this day our daily bread." Mr. Stevens, soloist, Maple, added much to the service of song and was accompanied by his son who sang a duet with his father accompanied by Mrs. Williamson. Rev. Milton Sanderson of St. Cuthbert's, Toronto, was the evening speaker taking his message from the words "Behold I Stand at the Door and Knock," which held the audience and gave much food for thought. MacDonald Brothers of Maple led the service of song and sang several fine selections.

Miss Mildred Monk of Weston visited on Sunday with Mrs. Alex. MacDonald. Mr. Harvey McIntyre was also a visitor.

Master William Hall has gone to Palmerston to live with his uncle.

Don't forget you are part of all the people who can be fooled some of the time.... If two people can live on less than one it's because they have to.... One of the things you can't buy on credit is experience.... Before you can save for a rainy day, one must have a rainy day.... Are you the type who will try to convince others without bothering to understand it yourself.

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