

FARM AND DAIRY.

This column is devoted to agricultural subjects, and the editors will be grateful to farmers if they will use it for the intelligent discussion of matters pertaining to their important calling.

Electricity on the Farm.

Part of the growing difficulties occasioned by the desertion of the country and the crowding of the cities will be remedied, perhaps by six years hence—in that wonderful year 1900, which electricians set as a mile post of human progress—by the crowning of steam's rival. Machinery is rapidly taking the deadening drudgery out of farm work, is making it more profitable when conducted scientifically and on a large scale, and is causing it to attract the attention of city people who long for the healthful fields. Only the bodily discomforts of farm work have prevented an exodus from the cities to the country. Already electricity is turning its attention to the long-neglected farm work, and has discovered profitable results to be had by subjecting crops to currents of electricity. It is beginning to simplify the ponderous farm machinery, and as soon as the storage battery has received its finishing touches and can be applied to lightening the farmer's toil and increasing his profits the farmers will be looked upon with envy by the prisoners of city streets and counting-house walls. These particular effects of electricity upon farm machinery and upon farm life, are, however, visible chiefly in the imagination at present, and are not at all likely to be realized in six years; but one great change may be looked for in this direction in the immediate future, and that is the improvement of the farmer's condition by means of good roads and the rapid transit which electricity is almost ready to bring, thus greatly enlarging his market and bringing him higher prices for fresher products, and also bringing him closer to the life and pleasure and stimulating effect of the city. There is to be a wonderful change in farm life in the more thickly settled parts of the country in a very few years, and rapid transit will be largely responsible for it.

The cheap transmission of electrical power must bring soon many changes that will be felt in the city household, and perhaps the chief of them will be the abolition of the cook-stove, as it is known at present. The small electric heater has already begun to take its place, and it is almost certain that even in six years coal will be banished from a majority of the kitchens in cities adjacent to water power, from which electricity is generated. When heat is wanted for cooking purposes it will be had at a moment's notice by the pressing of a button.—*New York Press.*

Bible and Babcock Test.

Talking about the Babcock test an old fellow said, "That Babcock test can beat the Bible in making people honest." I have tried both. It makes a man honest to his neighbour, and it makes the man honest toward the cow and honest toward himself. It makes him feel like shouting, "What shall I do to be saved?" and he begins to place the dairy business in the line of intelligence, and the result is we are doing what I never saw the like of before. The Babcock test is simply this:

We take 17.6 centimeters of milk in a small bottle shaped for the purpose, a certain number of centimeters of sulphuric acid and turn it into the milk. This is a metric portion of 100 pounds of milk. This is put into a whirler and whirled about a thousand revolutions. The bottle has a little neck to it, and the whirler separates the fat from the casein and leaves the fat on top. A little hot water is turned into it, and the fat comes to the neck of the bottle, when it is measured in tenths by a scale on it. And you find in 17.6 centimeters of milk you have so many tenths of butter fat. That indicates the per cent of butter fat in every 100 pounds of milk. If you bring me 100 pounds of milk, with 4 per cent of fats, all right or if only 2 per cent all right—he gets just that much to his credit, and no more, no less. If he waters his milk, he waters himself and he doesn't water his neighbour at all, as by the old co-operative process. The system is delightful, and the effect upon the intelligence of the people is grand. Plenty of farmers' boys use it. They go round testing cows for so much a head. And now they are beginning to cut the boy down too. The milk can be tested at any time.

We had a great deal of difficulty in starting a certain number of our patrons. There are always a set of kickers, you know. These objected so strongly that we laid this scheme before them. We had two vats—one called the Jersey vat, into which we put all milk having 50 per cent Jersey blood—for we never could have got the Jersey herds unless we had done this. Finally we said: "Here is a system of absolute fairness. All you kickers who don't want your milk tested we will pool together, and all those who want theirs tested we will pool in a separate vat. Thus you who don't want your milk tested can pool your milk as you did in the old way. We will have two vats—one the test vat, the other the pool vat—and all those who are suspicious of each other will be put in the pool vat, and all men who are willing

to be judged by the deeds done in the body shall go in the test vat." It would have amused you to have seen those men balked out of that vat." They didn't want to pool with one other, and so the argument was quickly turned on them. They didn't believe in their own honesty.—*Ex-Governor Hoard.*

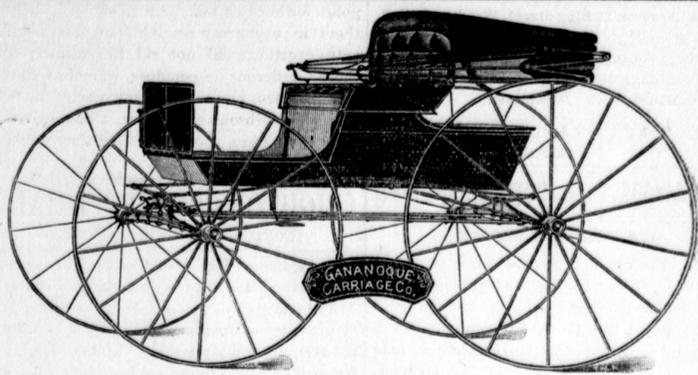
AN OPPONENT'S TRIBUTE.

Hon. G. W. Ross' Able Speech on the Unfolding of the Macdonald Statue.

Among the speakers at the unveiling of the Sir John Macdonald statue in Toronto, was Hon. G. W. Ross, minister of education in the Ontario government. Although a life long opponent of Sir John, Mr. Ross was not blinded to the virtues of the late premier. His address on the occasion referred to, has received such favorable comment on all sides, that portions of it, as given in the Toronto Globe, are reproduced. Mr. Ross said:—"To his colleagues in the government who are present and to his political allies the statue we have just unveiled will recall the keen parliamentary debator, the courageous and sagacious leader, the shrewd, far-seeing counsellor, the skilful tactician, and the ardent and faithful friend. To those who differed from him, the unveiling will recall the long career of a leader whose compact followers were seldom dislodged, whose large combinations of political forces it was all but impossible to break up or disband, and whose masterful will was never subjected except on two or three occasions, and then only for periods time far too brief to satisfy their ambition. To analyse a character so dominating, or to sketch a career so interwoven with our history, is beyond my power, even had I time. Let me note, however a few points.

(1) Sir John Macdonald believed that for the efficient government of the country the central authority, whether parliamentary or executive, should be invested with large powers. It was in this view that he favored a legislative union of the provinces in 1865 rather than a federal union, and it was because of this particular mental trait that when the federal principle was adopted he bent his whole energies to retain for the house of commons that large jurisdiction which afterwards gave him such a free hand in legislation. It was under the influence of this bias, too, that his views as to the limits of the jurisdiction of the dominion legislature frequently conflicted with the views held by the provincial legislatures. No man with his strong Conservative convictions could easily avoid such conflicts. To direct the government of a country when each section is allowed to follow its own party or house predilections is one thing, but to govern a country where every political movement is vitalized by the will of one single individual is another thing. And the fact that Sir John Macdonald was able to maintain himself as the central force in all the movements of his own party, the fact that his will gave a very distinctive trend to the politics of the country for so many years, shows beyond question that he was a leader of exceptional strength as well as of exceptional tact and sagacity. (Applause.) But Sir John Macdonald possessed other qualities equally as effective as force of will and purpose. The art of government is not a nice balancing of precedents or even a rigid interpretation of statutes. It is essentially a humanistic art—an art usually associated with those qualities of head and heart which respond to the popular demand for protection from danger, for direction in times of difficulty, for sympathy in trouble, or for leadership in great emergencies. These qualities Sir John Macdonald possessed in a large degree, and his success in convincing the people of Canada that he did possess them made him the leader that he was. Even in his darkest hours—for most politicians have their reverses—his followers never lost confidence in him. Napoleon in Elba was more powerful than Louis XVIII. on the throne of France. Sir John Macdonald in opposition drew forth as much enthusiasm as Sir John in power. As an opponent of his all my life, and as one who confronted him for many years, both as leader of the opposition and as leader of the government, I observed the existence of qualities which few men of his time possessed, and which in any man will secure for him recognition in the councils of his country. (2) Besides being a strong political leader Sir John Macdonald represented in a large measure what we may call the self-reliant spirit of the Canadian people. (Applause.) In the future development of the country he had the utmost confidence, a confidence which some of us often thought led to the excessive expenditure of public moneys. Any scheme which was calculated to improve the internal communication of the country, whether by railways or canals, met with his approval, even though it involved, as many of them did involve, substantial subsidies from the public treasury. That his expectations with regard to all these ventures were not realized is altogether probable, but that they were intended to develop the resources of the country is in most cases beyond question. His liberality and enterprise in this respect was another source of that political ascendancy which he so maintained. The leader who can make the people of any country believe that they are de-

pendent upon him not only for good government in the general sense of the term, but also dependent upon him for the development of their local interests, establishes a relationship between himself and those whom he relieves which tells with tremendous force in determining his political supremacy. Another element of strength in Sir John Macdonald was the fact that he impressed the people with the idea that the public policy was essentially Canadian. Those who are familiar with his speeches in latter years can recall the prominence which he gave to the Canadian idea in the administration of the country. No doubt this idea had grown upon himself, as I trust it has grown upon all of us. But in his case it was to a large extent the shibboleth of his appeals for popular favor. (3) When early in the history of Confederation, he was attacked for making better terms with Nova Scotia and for altering the original compact on which Confederation was based, without the consent of the separate provinces who were parties to that compact, his answer was not so much an argument that the original terms were unfair and inadequate, but that the Nova Scotians were our fellow-subjects, that their acceptance of Confederation was a sine qua non, and to conciliate them, even if it did require an adjustment of the original terms, was a trifling matter compared with the consequence likely to flow from their continued irritation or their ultimate separation from the union. (4) When his opponents attacked the policy with regard to the Canadian Pacific railway, his answer to their attacks was not that the road would be a financial success, or that it was actually necessary for the immediate wants of the remoter provinces, but that the road was necessary for national purposes, that Confederation without it would be to a certain extent, inoperative and that the only way to bind the provinces together in perpetual bond of political unity was by the iron bands of a railway from east to west. (5) When he launched the National Policy in 1878, one of the most specious arguments by which the public mind was influenced was that it meant Canada for the Canadians, that it would make our own manufacturers independent of foreign competition, and would furnish within ourselves to a great extent a market for surplus produce. The National policy was represented as the embodiment of that commercial independence and self-reliance which would place Canada on a national footing in the eyes of the whole world. But there was more than this. While Sir John Macdonald was able to impress himself upon the public mind as pre-eminently a Canadian in spirit, he superadded to that Canadian sentiment the still larger one of attachment and devotion to the great Empire to which we belong. Any person acquainted with the history of Canada can easily see the political advantages of such a course. In the early history of the country we were almost entirely dependent for the security of our property and lives upon British protection. The attempt made to overthrow the supremacy of Great Britain in Canada at different times by the United States, of which this day reminds us, intensified the attachment of Canadians to their natural protector, and when to this is added the fondness with which the Anglo-Saxon always turns to the land which gave him birth, you have a condition of things in which the loyalty of Canadians, if we are possessed of any gratitude whatever, is necessarily sympathetic and strong. Sir John Macdonald claimed for himself the right to represent this feeling. As one of the Fathers of Confederation, he assisted in framing a constitution for the country in the words of the preamble to the Union Act of 1867, "similar in principal to that of the United Kingdom." As her Majesty's representative at different times at Washington, he negotiated treaties involving vast Imperial interests. As premier of a great dominion, he received from her Majesty's hands many distinguished honours. As leader of a great party, he declared himself in favour of Imperial connection, and taught the people of Canada to believe that in that connection, and permanence of our institutions were involved. These varied relations with Imperial matters furnished him with special opportunities for appealing to the patriotism and loyalty of his Canadian fellow-subjects, and when that appeal was made with all the dramatic power which he possessed, one need not wonder that it was so effective. Although as a Liberal I do not believe that he either embodied or presented a more patriotic feeling than prevailed among those who could not recognize his leadership, still I am prepared to record my hearty endorsement of Canadian and British spirit which formed such a prominent feature of his character. In erecting this statue to his memory in the capital of the Province of Ontario, I see no reason then why we should not, irrespective of political differences, recognize that force of character and continuity of purpose by which he raised himself from the ordinary ranks of citizenship to the highest position in the councils of the country. We can remember too, without any compromise of principle, the energy which he displayed as an administrator in the development of the



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resources of the country, and last and best of all, we can record our unhesitating approval of his loyalty to Canada and his enthusiastic devotion to the British Empire, of which we form a part. (Applause.)

In fighting the battles of his party and his country, Sir John Macdonald's policy did not at all times commend itself to a large minority of his fellow-citizens. In asserting their right to differ from him they but asserted the rights of British freemen. Now that he has gone, while still believing that in many respects a different policy on some questions would have been better for the country, still I am free to say, at least speaking for myself, that no Canadian of this century ever filled a larger place in the history of Canada than he has filled, that no party leader ever commanded more fully the confidence of his followers, and that few Canadians have done more than he has done to unify the Canadian provinces and strengthen the influence of our young dominion. (Applause.) Whatever was faulty for human nature in the best of men has its frailties, let us forget.

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