

**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.

**Hints in the Sugar Orchard.**

The best sap, for color and flavor in results, lies at the surface of the tree. The deeper we bore the darker is the sap and sugar. I never bored deeper for sap than six inches, and this only for an experiment. The first two inches made very white sugar, the second two inches darker, and the fifth and sixth inches made very dark sugar; yet the saps were virtually all taken from the same hole on the same day. It took just double the sap from the last two inches to make the same amount of sugar that it did from the two inches. Hence, quantity and quality lessen as we deepen. Still, the deeper we bore the more sugar we make (injury to the quality), from the fact that we got more sap, because the tree runs later, drying up at the surface first (where it begins to run first) and at the centre last.

At a given height of a bore and on a given side of the tree there are as many grades of sap as the tree is years old (or as many as there are rings), provided sap would run to the centre or heart. So, in boring 1 1/2 inches, we will usually have fifteen grades of sap. Sugar-makers who do not understand this are apt to have molasses in their tub sugar. Sap from the fifteenth ring needs to be boiled much longer than that in the first ring. The molasses that we drain out of tub sugar comes from the deeper rings and was not sufficiently boiled, and this partially at least explains the dark color of the molasses, and also why we have molasses at all.

Virgin forests of maples are deficient in quantity and quality of their products yielding from 2 to 3 per cent. of sugar in the sap, while open sugar places will average from 5 to 6 per cent. I have found a few scattering trees, peculiarly located, whose sap contains from 7 to 10 per cent of sugar. Trees that give us the most and the sweetest sap make the whitest sugar, having the best flavor. Trees standing beside cold springs make much and nice sugar. I am acquainted with one tree thus located which yielded 30 1/2 lbs. in one season; two spouts and one tub were used. Individual trees and individual cows vary in their individual products, as to quantity and quality. Expert sugar makers ought to be able to select the best trees at sight, in an orchard that they are not acquainted with, the same as they can select the best cows from a strange herd. The sugar orchard needs thought study, observation and experiment.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

**England's Interest in China.**

It appears just possible that, before the storm in the Far East is allayed, the nations which insisted on opening up Corea to foreign intercourse may wish they had refrained. Not only does Corea itself threaten to become a new Egypt, with Japan and Russia in the stead of England and France; but a whole new Eastern question seems in a fair way of growing up in that greater East beyond India where we have interests whose magnitude is imperfectly realised. Japan is held, generally to have given great hostages to fortune when she risked Russian enmity by occupying Corea. It is clear that her purpose of reforming Corea can be accomplished only by the exercise of such a protectorate as shall result in "japanising" the Government and people. To admit Korean independence in fact, as it is alleged in theory, would clearly—in face of the popular hostility—mean letting the country fall back into the Chinese ways from which it has been ruthlessly aroused; and it remains to be seen whether Russia will approve the constitution of a new Japan on her Siberian frontier. The jealousy with which France regards England in Egypt would be complicated, in such a case, by the apprehension with which she would view a German protectorate of Belgium. The same reasons might lead Russia to oppose annexation of the Manchurian peninsula, which would give Japan permanent possession of Port Arthur. Besides, neither Russia nor England wishes to see China permanently weakened, or permanently subjected to the pressure from Tokio that would be involved in the existence of a Japanese naval station at the port of the gulf of Pecheli.

Not satisfied with the situation in the north, the Japanese government seems bent, with the very recklessness of chivalry, on arousing English susceptibilities in the south. We can scarcely imagine that the British government will acquiesce calmly in a Japanese occupation of the island of Formosa or of the Pescadores. The objection which might apply to the creation of a Japanese naval station at Port Arthur would be complicated, in this case, by inconvenient proximity of Hong Kong. The possibility of Japan requiring Formosa as a condition of peace has been discussed in this country, hitherto, with a placidity that will be surely ruffled if the prospect assumes definite shape. It is not only the territorial expansion that the enterprise would imply. Our commercial interests in Formosa might be safeguarded, under the Japanese flag, as efficiently as they are at present. It is from a political point of view that powers interested in upholding Chinese independence may well oppose the creation, in the south, of a naval station that would enable Japan to exert on Fokkien and Kwangtung a pressure as great as the possession of Port Arthur would enable her to exert on Pecheli and Shantung.

For not only is Formosa a great and fertile island; it is situated exactly opposite Amoy and Foochow, and within striking distance of Swatow and Canton. It is, moreover, within two hundred miles of Hong Kong. It lies directly in the path of vessels going up the Chinese coast towards Shanghai, and the Pescadores lie in the southern mouth of the channel which separates it from the mainland. Annexed or not annexed, the Pescadores are in the grasp of power that holds Formosa, if that Power be a naval Power and if they

are not fortified and defended by a power as great. They possess an advantage, too, which Formosa lacks. The only really good harbour in Formosa is Kelung. The other inlets on the East coast appear to be small, and the ports on the West coast are inconvenient. Makung, the chief port of the Pescadores, would supplement those defects, and give Japan command both of the channel and the coast.

**Dominion Parliament.**

The Dominion Parliament met on Thursday last. Below is the speech from the throne.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:  
Honorable Gentlemen of the Commons:

It is with much satisfaction that I again have recourse to your advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

By the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the empire, as well as tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been generally appreciated by the people of Canada.

Satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the treaty of commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

The recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australian governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing colonies of the empire affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the colonial conference are being favorably entertained by Her Majesty's government.

In conformity with a recent judgment of the lords of the judicial committee of the Privy Council to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the governor general in council against certain acts passed by the legislature of the province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have heard in council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the legislature of the said province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada, but fortunately to a less degree than in most other countries. Although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from customs and excise.

In order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

During the period that has elapsed since the last session of parliament I have had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, and the Northwest territories and British Columbia. Throughout these tours I have been impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, I observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which is one of the characteristics of her people and which furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

The government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of my advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the island government and discussed with them the terms of union. It will be subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's eldest colonial possession into the Canadian confederation.

Measures relating to bankruptcy and insolvency and to joint stock companies will be laid before you. You will also be asked to consider certain amendments to the insurance act, to the act respecting Dominion notes, to the Dominion Lands act, to the Indians act, to the Northwest Territories representation act, also a bill respecting the land subsidy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

**Gentlemen of the House of Commons:**

I have directed that the accounts of the past year shall be laid before you. The estimates of the ensuing year will also be presented. They have been framed with every regard to economy compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

**Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:**

**Gentlemen of the House of Commons:**

I now leave you to the discharge of the important duties devolving upon you with an earnest prayer that being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism your deliberations may under the divine blessing conduce to the unity and well being of Canada.

**Norway and Sweden.**

There is serious trouble between Sweden and Norway, and it is said that King Oscar takes a pessimistic view of the political situation. The Montreal Star gives the following explanation of the trouble:—

The Stang ministry resigned on January 31, the day before the Storting (parliament) met. During the last month there has hardly been a day that King Oscar has not called up to the royal palace in Christiania—whence he went from Stockholm—one or more politicians from all three parties, viz: the Radicals, the Conservatives and their allies, the moderates. But all conferences have been of no avail. The trouble in Norway is caused by a clause in the Act of Union with Sweden, in which it is stated that the minister of foreign affairs must be a Swede. Although in every respect an independent kingdom, Norway has, as is well known, a king in



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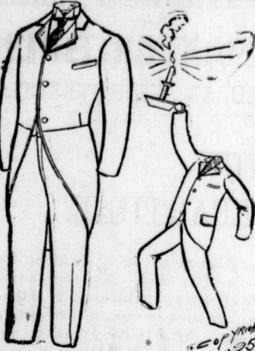
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common with Sweden, but what is not so well known is, that the other link in the union between Sweden and Norway, is a mutual minister of foreign affairs, who is responsible for his acts to the Swedish King and Riksdag (parliament)—alone. The Norwegian Radicals did not think it compatible with the independence of their country to have a foreigner deciding questions perhaps of vital interest to it, and so they started at first an agitation for a change in the paragraph so as to make it read "a common minister of foreign affairs who may be either a Swede or a Norwegian." Soon afterward they set forth a second claim—that for a separate Norwegian consulate service. The first proposition was rejected several times by the Swedish Riksdag, until 1893, when a compromise was offered to the effect that the minister might be either a Swede or a Norwegian, but, as a preservation of the union, must be responsible only to the Swedish Riksdag. But by this time the Norwegians' demands had grown; in their turn they rejected the peace offering, and demanded a separate Norwegian Minister of foreign affairs. As this would have been synonymous with a dissolution of the union, it was opposed most strenuously by King Oscar, and it is safe to say that he will never give his consent to such an arrangement. The consular question is on a somewhat different footing. The radical majority in the Storting carried in 1891 a resolution in which the Norwegian cabinet was asked to make an arrangement to discontinue the joint consular service. Now, this service has been in accordance with the act of union of 1815, in which act it is also stated that when a question concerning both countries comes up for decision at a cabinet meeting both countries shall be represented in the same council, thus making a joint cabinet council. When the question of the disestablishment of the joint consulate service was to be taken up in the Norwegian cabinet King Oscar summoned two of his Swedish ministers to be present—the minister of foreign affairs and another. The admission of these Swedish ministers to the council was resented by the radical ministers, who asserted that it was a purely personal affair for Norway to decide whether she would have her own consuls. King Oscar's decision was that he would not allow the question to be taken up in the council if he was not allowed to have the advice of his Swedish ministers, whereupon the ministry resigned.

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There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the office of Hartley & Carvell, in the Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, on Monday the sixth day of May next at the hour of eleven of the clock in the forenoon, all my right title and interest in that free hold lot with the buildings thereon, situated in Bristol, Carleton County lately owned and occupied by John E. Kelly, and assigned to me in Trust for the benefit of the creditors of this said John E. Kelly. Dated the 9th, day of April, A. D. 1895. F. B. CARVELL, Assignee.

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