

The Daily Mail

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THE EGG INDUSTRY

There can be no two opinions about the importance of the egg industry in Canada, and that importance might be vastly increased if eggs were made less perishable than they are—says the Toronto Globe. A Scottish humorist has classified eggs as “new laid eggs,” “fresh eggs,” and “eggs” the implication being that “new laid eggs” are the only ones that may be eaten with safety. So long as eggs are cooked by boiling—by far the best method of preparing them—the consumer is safe from the unpleasant effects of eating bad ones, as it is not possible to make a boiled rotten egg palatable. On the other hand, it is comparatively easy to conceal its real condition when it is used in the production of pastry. The egg is so nutritious on the one hand and so perishable on the other that whatever is possible to keep it fit for food should be done.

Mr. Gunn of Montreal, who deals extensively in food products, gave at the Guelph Fair statistics which show the necessity for action along some line. In 1909 Canada produced a hundred million dozen eggs, valued at twenty-four million dollars. He estimated that seventeen per cent. of these eggs were bad, and in order to prevent the continuation of such loss he advocated appropriate legislation, such as has been adopted by the legislatures of some of the American States. This was objected to by others as being drastic, and a co-operative educational campaign was suggested. There is no incompatibility between these two proposals; in fact, the work of education would probably be much more effective if it were carried on under the shadow of penalties for selling eggs that have become perceptibly deteriorated. The results of the legislative prohibition of frauds in apple-packing are worthy of study in this connection.

At the Fair some useful hints were given on egg production. Certain breeds are popularly believed to be better layers than others, and the eggs of some breeds are preferred by connoisseurs as being of superior quality. Professor Graham of the Agricultural College says that in a carefully conducted experiment the ordinary Plymouth Rock hens made a better showing than fancy breeds in the production of eggs. He impressed on his audience that in the way of success much depended on housing and feeding—a truism, of course, but one that cannot be repeated too often or insisted on too strenuously.

Ottawa Free Press.—Sir Charles Tupper used to deliver his “great speeches” but he was a terror to the stenographer who attempted to report him verbatim. He would begin sentence and sentence and he would never complete them—they ended in a veritable desert of parentheses. Geo. E. Foster impresses everyone who hears him with his wonderful facility of speech, yet phrases require much reconstruction when reported. The rounded periods of Robert L. Borden would not read nearly as well as they sound if followed exactly. The beautiful diction of Sir Wilfrid Laurier frequently requires editing, which is not surprising, seeing that French is his mother tongue. Sir Geo. Ross has a reputation for oratory, especially of the after dinner variety, but few of his speeches will stand verbatim reproduction. Other prominent men, noted for their speech-making are equally faulty—indeed, as has been said, few, very few, are perfect.

Garry Herrmann the ring boned spindle legger imported by the Hazen government from Kentucky was quite a racer in his younger days but he couldn't “come back.”

Montreal Witness.—Nature is prodigal in her bounty to men if they will only give her a chance to do for them as she would. What has been said of northern Ontario is to a great extent true of northern Quebec, with obvious differences. What the Dominion owes to the discovery of the great arable region north of the height of land in Ontario is quite incalculable; but for the explorations of 1900 the construction of a great transcontinental line through it from east to west would certainly not have taken place soon, and it might have been deferred for many years. Perhaps the systematic exploration of northern Quebec would be as productive of good to the Province itself, and also to the whole Dominion. It would be interesting at least to ascertain the limits of the fertile area which is a continuation eastward of the one in Ontario, and is, like it, traversed by the main line of the National Transcontinental Railway.

Halifax Chronicle.—It is a pleasure to announce that Premier Murray returned to Halifax yesterday morning and that he is now in good health and spirits. Throughout the trying illness which has incapacitated him during the greater part of the year, Mr. Murray has had in full measure the sympathy of the public, and now Nova Scotians without distinction of party affiliations, will unite in congratulating him upon his return to public duty and in tendering him their best wishes for his future welfare.

Montreal Herald.—Andrew Carnegie is putting aside a slice of his fortune to help those who would substitute arbitration for war. The creed of Grotius certainly makes progress in our day, and at the Hague they have done some things that not long ago would have been thought impossible. Still, there are some knots in sight so big and complicated that only the sword can untie them.

A good deal has been heard about the guarantees of the King to Mr. Asquith. The London correspondent of the Toronto Globe cables that “Mr. Asquith has not asked for guarantees, and has not in his pocket, as some have said guarantees from the King. These are not necessary. There was an understanding between the King and Premier Asquith and Lord Lansdowne that in event of a Tory defeat, which is now assumed the Lords would yield.”

Kingston Whig.—Mr. Borden should adopt Mr. Balfour's experience. The leader of the opposition in Ottawa has been wobbling in his policy. He wants to do something, and he would be the better if he acted upon his own judgment, but he accepts advice so freely tendered, and with the usual result. Some members of his party have demanded his resignation, and sooner or later it will be handed in. Balfour and Borden will presently find themselves back numbers.

Among the many educational institutions of which Nova Scotia boasts none is doing a worthier work or is more deserving of public support than the School for the Blind. Dr. C. F. Fraser is a man among men, he is doing a great and ennobling work, and he has made the institution under his direction take rank with the best of its kind.

As The Mail pointed out a few days ago no administrative act of any government in Canada has been fraught with so much benefit to the farmers of Canada as the British preference. The farmers' delegation at Ottawa have shown their appreciation of the preference by asking that it be increased to fifty per cent.

The farmers of Canada want reciprocity with the United States and they want free trade with Great Britain and the day may soon come when their demands will be complied with.

CORONATION MAY BE POSTPONED

London, Dec. 15.—The coronation may possibly have to be postponed owing to an interesting event in the royal family.

PREMIER ASQUITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES

London, Dec. 15.—On the one side of this historic conflict there is the united Liberal party supported by the Liberal group and the Irish Nationalists, on the other the Conservatives. In Mr. Asquith the Liberals have a leader of an entirely different temperament to any other recent Liberal Prime Minister. A Yorkshireman and a lawyer, he does not wear his heart on his sleeve. He succeeded to the Premiership on the death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman amid a chorus of doubts and fears. To a generation of Liberals who had fallen under the spell of the mighty Gladstone, who had known the fascination of Lord Rosebery, and had experienced the charm of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Asquith seemed an impossible leader. The Liberal party has also been a difficult party to manage. It is apt to be sharply and sometimes, unreasonably critical. Those of greater vision, who remembered the attacks on Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, were content to “wait and see,” and their wisdom has been justified by events.

Mr. Asquith has all the defects of his qualities, but his qualities are great and outweigh his defects. He has been as I described him in a letter some months ago, “master of the political situation” since the crisis in November, 1909, by the Lords' rejection of the budget. He has never wavered and never turned back. With all the northerner's hatred of emotional display, he is yet capable of deep feeling, all the deeper, perhaps, because he never shows it. His speeches are masterpieces of concentration, but, in spite of the absence of rhetoric, in spite, too, of his rare economy of words, there is in him the true spirit of the mountains and the fens; the freedom-loving spirit that revolts against aristocratic pretension. No other of our leaders, not

the fiery and impulsive Lloyd-George the brilliant and irascible Churchill, the lofty-minded elusive Sir Edward Grey, or the scholarly Haldane, could have led the Liberal party so surely and so safely as Mr. Asquith has through the past perilous twelve months. He is the Saxon in politics as Mr. Lloyd-George is the Celt.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the most winning personality in the Cabinet, and he is never more winning than when he loses his temper and pours the vials of his wrath and scorn on, say, Captain Pretymen, of the Land Union, when that gentleman has been playing some unusually smart trick. More than any other Cabinet Minister, Mr. Lloyd-George lifts politics into the atmosphere of the mountaintops, and it is there that this fight is going to be won. Mr. Winston Churchill has the same spirit, but it is in leash with an aristocratic temperament that does not understand the people so intimately as does Mr. Lloyd-George. In these three leaders, each so different and each so excellent, the Liberals are thrice blessed. Standing behind them there is a host of good men. There is, for instance, Dr. Macnamara, the Canadian-born Secretary to the Admiralty; Mr. Masterman, second in the Home Office to Mr. Churchill; Mr. Birrell, most delightful of essayists, and in the second Chamber there is Lord Morley and the Earl of Crewe. With these men and many others I might name, to lead them, Liberals will emerge triumphant from this crisis, and, inspired by still loftier ideas as the years go on, will, in spite of all the frantic efforts of Garvin, the Fenian; Blatchford, the Athiest—Socialist, and other dubious allies of Toryism, make of these little islands set in the silver seas a nappy, contented and prosperous people.—J. F. Watson, in The Toronto Globe.

IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING ACT

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—The House of Commons spent the afternoon discussing get rich schemes. Mr. Armstrong abused the government for having allowed Sheldon to use the mails for his operations. He declared that the government should have prosecuted Sheldon.

Mr. Bureau, the solicitor general, declared that as soon as it was known that the Sheldon operations were fraudulent, the post office had seized his mail. It was not the business of the federal, but of the provincial government to institute the prosecution.

The evening was spent discussing a proposal to fix an eight-hour day on public works.

In the absence of the finance minister, Sir Wilfrid introduced the bill to amend the bank act. He explained that the bill was needed, as the bank charters expired next July.

There were a few changes from the old act. One gives the shareholders authority to employ auditors to have a bank's affairs examined.

Another provides that in addition to the president the annual statement of a bank must be signed by three directors. Reports must be signed by the proper officers of the bank and upon them rest civil and criminal responsibility, if they do not investigate the proper condition of the bank before they sign.

To keep the double liability clause in mind, it is provided that it must appear on all the shares issued.

If promoters fail to organize a bank they must return the money paid in.

Another provision makes products of the forest, such as logs, railway ties and lumber, security on which a bank may make advances. This change is due to a recent decision that only the forest in its natural state was legal security.

To Mr. McLean, Sir Wilfrid said that the changes had not been suggested by or submitted to the bank.

Mr. James Ready of St. John is at the Barker House.

FERGUSON COMMITTED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 15.—The King vs. Miner was taken up before Stipendiary McKenzie this afternoon. Mr. O'Hearn appearing for the crown. D. M. Ferguson was sworn. He was asked if he had, in company with Seymour Miner, visited the Ferguson block in September last for the purpose of viewing the electric wires.

Ferguson declined to answer, stating that in so doing he was acting on the advice of counsel. On his refusing to answer Mr. O'Hearn asked that he be remanded for one week for contempt of court. Mr. Power then asked to be heard on behalf of the witness. This was objected to by Mr. O'Hearn, who claimed that a witness could not be represented by counsel. The stipendiary ruled in favor of Mr. O'Hearn's contention.

Mr. O'Hearn afterwards withdrew his objections and a lengthy argument took place between counsel on the question of Ferguson appearing as a witness in a case in which he was charged with being an accomplice of the prisoner, Miner.

The stipendiary finally decided that Ferguson would have to answer or be sent back to jail for another week and issued a warrant of commitment to that effect.

Mr. Power stated that he would test the magistrate's decision by applying for a habeas corpus and demanded that Ferguson be released on bail under the order granted by Justice Longley last Saturday. This was opposed by Mr. O'Hearn on the ground that the order for bail contained only the signature of one justice, whereas the statutes required two.

After some more wrangling between the solicitors the witness was sent back to jail for another week.

Mr. W. R. Gillen of Hartland arrived in the city today.

Mr. I. C. Archibald of Boston is in the city.

Mr. E. A. Smith of St. John arrived in the city last evening.

Mr. L. H. Higgins of Moncton is registered at the Queen.

Messrs. C. B. Crossdale and J. J. McLean of McGivney are in the city.

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AMERICANS ADMIRE BRITISH FIGHTERS

London, Dec. 15.—The United States officers during their stay at Portland have been taking a great deal of interest in the three British battleship cruisers of the Indomitable class which have been lying at anchor there especially since the announcement that Japan is taking up this design by the ordering of such a ship from Messrs. Vickers.

Up to the present, although every naval power of consequence has been building vessels of what are known as the Dreadnought type, only Germany has followed Britain's lead with regard to the battleship cruiser of the design of the Invincible and her sisters.

The American officers, of course, have not been making the acquaintance of the British Indomitable for the first time, for a year ago they saw the Inflexible at New York on the occasion of Admiral Sir Edward Seymour's visit. Since then, however, Britain has completed a fourth ship of the type, the Indefatigable, which has been running trials lately, and Germany has commissioned her first Invincible, the Von der Tann, which will soon make a trial cruise to the South.

St. John, Dec. 16.—(Special)—A meeting will be held on Friday night to form a New Brunswick Hockey League.

There will be teams in the proposed league from Chatham, St. John, Sussex and it is hoped Sackville, Fredericton and Marysville will also participate.

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