

Today's Probabilities.
Toronto, October 29. (Spec.) -
Westerly winds, fair and cooler.

THE MORNING GUARDIAN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1902.

THE PORK BUSINESS.

The great hog question, or in other words the pork-packing possibilities of the Island may be locked at in various ways. We all want to see the industry developed, and to have it grow and prosper. But there are certain obvious limitations to which the industry must be subject. Farmers have been accustomed to have a brood of swine born in the spring-time as calves and lambs are, to grow during the summer and be fattened and marketed in the fall or early winter. This course accords with nature's laws of breeding, and it is the course by which a given amount of pork can be most cheaply produced. To produce a monthly supply of hogs throughout the year would necessarily involve a considerable change in the farmers' plans and also a considerable increase in the cost of production. From the factory standpoint—that of the packer, especially the proprietors of a very large factory—the ideal conditions would be to have a constant supply of hogs throughout the year. A factory with a capacity for handling a thousand hogs a day is obviously beyond the present or near prospective needs of the Island, and must necessarily involve loss from its heavy capitalisation when not fully employed, and especially when working far below its capacity during many months of the year. Hence to many minds it would appear that a factory with a daily capacity for say 300 hogs, and which could be built and equipped for from \$20,000 to \$25,000 would have much better chances of doing a paying business than one of three or four times that capacity. As the business grew the factory could be enlarged and added to, and thus the payment of interest on locked up capital would be avoided. There is some question as yet as to how far our people will respond to the factory demand for hogs during the late winter, spring and summer seasons. There is the obvious fact that if they do so the production must be made as the result of a change of plans, at somewhat increased cost, and also to some extent at the expense of lessening to proportionally our present production of beef. It must also be borne in mind that on capital invested in the pork-packing industry interest must be paid and also the loss on any large investment in plant which is wholly or partially unused. This leads to the question whether the large capitalisation of the Dominion Packing Company can be made to yield paying returns except by shutting out and keeping out the competition which is always necessary alike for the producer and for the consumer. It is just here that the danger arises from the proposed Government guarantee of the company's bonds. Those who think most see this danger most clearly. The sense of danger is based upon a rational consideration of the undeniable facts and existing conditions. Again we are told that the Doukhobors are restless and that a body of 1,500 have started on a pilgrimage and that many of them are in a destitute condition. As we understand it, the principal body of the Doukhobor settlers, some 7,500 in all, are quietly working away, are well content and are rapidly making themselves comfortable. The reports from time to time sent out concerning the Doukhobor "crises" are said to be much exaggerated, and the public should read future reports of the same sort as at least in part sensational. The Patriot points with pride to the fact that the pork factory has already handled two thousand hogs since starting up a few days ago and adds, "Yet strange as it appears, there are still some persons who fight against this great enterprise." We know of no such persons. So far as we know everyone would like to see the Dominion Packing Company do a large, flourishing and prosperous business. But there are a very large number who do not believe it necessary, or prudent for the Government to endorse the Company's bonds. Let the "great enterprise" stand on its own bottom, let competition remain free and all the people will say amen to its prosperity! Great interest centers in the coming vote on prohibition in Ontario. The temperance people, though much disheartened by the hard conditions imposed in the referendum, appear to have decided to do their best to secure the stipulated majority. The liquor men on the other hand are raising a large fund to fight for the maintenance of the traffic. How this will be used we can only guess. They are avoiding the public platform in their advocacy but are distributing abundance of printed matter. The temperance people are doing platform work on an extended scale. Should they succeed in securing the required majority the prohibitory law, which is mainly a copy of the Manitoba Act, will come into force at the end of the license year. The uncertainty of the political situation in Ontario rests upon the almost even numbers of the members elected to support the two parties, while a number of close elections are being adjudicated in the election courts. Just now the Ross Government have scored a trifling advantage by the unseating of the Conservative member elected for North Perth, Mr. Moore. He had been declared elected by the majority of one vote, but the judges find that the actual result was a tie and have ordered a new election. What the final result may be it is impossible now to say, but should the Ministry succeed—and they will try very hard—in carrying the seat, it would increase their majority by two. We are glad that the strong addresses of Rev. Mr. Hector have borne fruit in a resolution in favor of asking the Government for a more vigorous enforcement of the Prohibitory Law. Passed as it was unanimously at a very large meeting of citizens, this resolution may be taken as expressing the dominant sentiment and the best sentiment of Charlottetown. In pursuance of this resolution a meeting will be held in the Y. M. C. A. A FAMILIAR NAME In the homes of Canada and the United States there are few names more familiar and more reverently spoken than that of Dr. A. W. Chase, the great physician and suffering book author. He is blessed for the relief he has relieved and the disease he has cured; his remedies are used and endorsed by the best people in the land; they are popular because they cure when others fail.

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The death is announced of Dr. Simon W. Dodd, and will be leased with universal regret. The deceased gentleman was son of the late Hon. Thomas W. Dodd of this city. He studied medicine at Harvard and graduated at the early age of 22 years. He practised his profession for some three years at Margat, after which he established the Medical Hall in this city, which he conducted with good success until about three years ago when he sold the business to J. G. Jamieson. Dr. Dodd, was a courteous gentleman, strictly upright in his business relations and leaves many friends to regret his demise. He had been for some time seriously ill and his death was not therefore wholly unexpected. Mrs. Dodd who survives him will have the sympathy of a large circle in which The Guardian respectfully joins.

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Hall on Friday evening, at which a committee will be appointed to wait upon the Government. We bespeak a large attendance at this meeting, and hope for the best results from its deliberations. The matter to be attended to is of the first importance to the welfare as well as the credit of the City.

Any man disposed to "straddle the fence" on the prohibition question must have felt rather uncomfortable when listening to Rev. Mr. Hector's humorous delineation. A man might sit astride the old-fashioned rail fence in comparative comfort. But times have changed. The fences to-day are of barbed wire and the man who can sit astride of a barbed wire fence must have a very hard conscience. Besides, we are told to have a "conscience void of offence." Behind the humor of the description lies a great and important truth. A man who is a man must be on one side or the other of a question so vital as that of prohibition. He must stand with the lawless liquor sellers in their awful death-dealing work, or with those who would save our City from the rum-curse. There is no room on the fence for any one at such a crisis as the present on the prohibition question.

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