

THE DAILY

THE DRESSED MEATS TRADE

The Policy of the Government.

Professor Robertson's Views.

It is true that Sir Charles Tupper (senior) has consented to accept the Premiership of Canada...

In his speech at Bolton during the North Ontario election the Hon. Dr. Montague gave a public intimation of the intentions of the Government regarding the export of meat to Great Britain...

BRITISH IMPORTS, 1894.

Table with columns: Value, Quantity, and various meat categories like Cattle, Sheep, and Poultry.

Value.

Table with columns: Value, Quantity, and various meat categories.

Quantity.

Table with columns: Quantity, and various meat categories.

Next she shows the quantity of dairy products imported to Great Britain...

Table with columns: Value, Quantity, and various dairy products like Butter and Cheese.

Butter and Cheese, 1894.

Table with columns: Value, Quantity, and various dairy products.

Next he dealt with the sources from which Britain draws her supply of beef...

Table with columns: From, Cattle, Sheep, and various sources.

After explaining the inferiority of Argentine beef to United States and Canadian products...

Table with columns: From, Cattle, Sheep, and various sources.

In passing the professor points out the large increase in our export of sheep during the present season...

Table with columns: From, Cattle, Sheep, and various sources.

Professor Robertson then announced the scheme which is under the favorable consideration of the Dominion Government...

"The prosperity of the farmers of Canada is dependent to a great degree upon the measure of success and profit with which they rear, feed and market animals and their products...

The United States is to begin the new year by borrowing a hundred million dollars.

There are 13,000 schoolmasters in Germany whose salaries fall below \$200 per annum.

Great Britain pays the continent upwards of \$70,000,000 a year for sugar, and makes not an ounce.

The fox-hunting championship of Vermont is claimed by John Davis, of Bennington. He is 40 years old, and has killed 251 foxes.

Special bargains in boots and shoes during this month. Call and see for yourself at the "Cheap Shoe Store," R. K. Jost, Two doors below Brown Bros.

Thinking about warm winter under wear? Remember there is one place where you can be perfectly suited—that is Moore & McLeod's.

Blankets, good stock, \$1.40 to \$6.25 at the London House.

Boy's overcoats, 25 to 28 in, selling at clearing prices at the London House.

and Quebec since 1890. The following table shows the numbers shipped from Canada to Great Britain:

Table with columns: Year, Cattle, Sheep, and various statistics.

"For ten months only."

The figures from 1890 to 1894, inclusive, are for the years ending 30th June, and the figures for 1895 are taken from those published in the Montreal Gazette, compiled from the returns of the shippers during the period of navigation at Montreal.

Of the 26,554 cattle shipped in 1895, it is reported that over 40,000 came from Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

The shipments of cattle from Ontario and Quebec were checked in 1892, doubtless by the regulations of the British Board of Agriculture, whereby our cattle are required to be slaughtered at the port where they are landed.

That leaves no alternative market, and the restriction to use to be imposed upon the Canadian farmer, in so far as the restrictions prevented the shipment of store or lean cattle from Canada, it was not an unmitigated evil, except to the Scotch and English farmers who purchased and fed them.

They have been agitating for the repeal of the restrictions ever since. But what are they among so many who are resolved to continue the relaxation of the regulations? Even if the repeal of the unwarranted action scheduling Canadian cattle would give relief and safety to the business, it is not a relief that is to be expected from that quarter.

I am of opinion that relief should be sought, and I am confident that it can be gained, by the opening up of a trade by which the cattle may be slaughtered in Canada, and the dressed beef supplied direct to the consuming purchasers in Great Britain.

There are many difficulties in the way, which I think no private individual or joint stock company can do more than suggest to the Government. The business is one which is urgently and essentially important to the welfare of Canadian farmers; and because the Government cannot overcome the difficulties successfully, without the expenditure of a large, if any, sum of money, it seems fitting that the Government should take it up.

1.—MARKETING DIFFICULTIES.

When our cattle are shipped alive by rail, and afterwards by steamer, they arrive in Great Britain in a jaded condition. They look at their worst, and are about the worst, for finding for sale, in both of the conditions enable the British buyers to beat the price down.

Formerly, when the cattle could be rested and fed on grass or succulent fodders on British farms for a few weeks before being sent to the market, they arrived in better condition, and the price was higher.

The Canadian shippers, with the cattle at the port where they have been landed, have no alternative but to sell at once, or within two weeks, at whatever prices they can get.

If they hold out for even a fortnight the cost of feeding becomes a large item of expense, and the arrival of fresh shipments by the next steamer gives the buyers an additional argument, which they use most effectively, in further depressing the market and lowering the prices.

The beef from Canadian cattle, when shipped and landed in that way, does not reach the consumers in a condition which permits it to secure a good reputation for the excellence of quality which it would have if the consumers were able to purchase the beef at its best from such cattle as are fed in Canada.

As a matter of fact a considerable quantity of the beef from Canadian cattle does not reach the consumers under the name of "Canadian beef." The misrepresentation which finds a place in that practice works directly and continually to the injury of Canadian interests.

These two powerful motives, although united from entirely different motives, may readily bring about such a condition of affairs as to wreck almost irrevocable disaster upon our live stock interests. That would be a calamity to our farmers for many years to come.

An alternative means of reaching the British consumer with Canadian beef is the only way whereby a safe and elastic outlet can be provided for the increasing large numbers of cattle which are being reared and fattened in Canada.

At the present time there is no opening for the exportation of small-sized cattle, such as are reared in Great Britain and fattened in the Province of Quebec. In one of our feeding tests on the Central Experimental farm, it was found that the cost of feed consumed per 100 pounds of increase in live weight was least in the case of a half-steer of the French-Canadian or Quebec Jersey breed.

The beef from such cattle is of excellent quality; but their small size has deterred them from being exported, as the freight charges are reckoned per head, and a small animal occupies the space in a steamer which would otherwise be filled by one of heavier weight.

Dressed beef has not been shipped from Canada hitherto, because cold storage in warehouse in Montreal and on board ocean steamships was not provided for the adequate sort of perishable food products until it was taken up by the Government during the current year.

Even a greater measure of service has been attended the cold storage service for the putting of Canadian creamery butter on the British markets can attend the shipments of dressed beef and other meat products to Great Britain.

That this matter cannot be inaugurated by private enterprise is evident from the tremendous disabilities from which the great United States packers and shippers, backed by millions of dollars, have not been able to escape.

The question of sending to the British consumers is a most powerful and far-reaching factor in determining the way they buy and the prices they pay for the articles of food which they consume. The name of "frozen mutton" and the stories set afloat about the abominations of slaughtering houses, deceased animals, etc., are powerful to keep the best class of customers from buying, or from letting it be known they buy anything but the best English and Scotch beef. If beef as good and as cheap as the best English and Scotch beef could be obtained from shops or depots in Great Britain under the name and supervision of the Canadian Government for one year, as an object lesson and introduction of the business, the best class of buyers and consumers in each of the large cities could be attracted to give preference to Canadian products.

The beef could be sold at prices much lower than the current prices for a similar quality of English and Scotch beef, and an ever-growing demand for our beef could be created at such prices as would leave it possible for Canadian farmers to obtain higher relative prices than they have been getting during the past few years.

II.—THE PLAN RECOMMENDED. 1. The prime object should be to put Canadian beef and other meats within reach of the British consumers in their best condition under their own name, and in such a way as to attract the best class of purchasers and to be our permanent customers.

In shipments of beef and other meats from Canada it is necessary that they should be chilled only. The distance and the time required for ship and over-land more than sufficient to permit the beef and other meats to be properly cured when they would reach the stores and depots in Great Britain. The meats might be designated "chilled Canadian beef" or "chilled Canadian mutton."

When the quality and reputation of Canadian meats under their own names are recognized by purchasers and to be our permanent customers, it would continue in competition with all other countries upon an equal footing and with a fair chance of securing the best customers—particularly in such a way as to secure recognition of better meats, at even the same prices per pound.

To permit this to be done, and as an object lesson to the producers and shippers of animals and to be from Canada, I recommend that provision be made for the purchase of 500 head of cattle per week during the shipping season at the port of Montreal, and that the dressed beef from such cattle be sent as "chilled Canadian beef" to Great Britain and distributed through retail depots in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and London.

As a matter of fact a considerable quantity of the beef from Canadian cattle does not reach the consumers under the name of "Canadian beef." The misrepresentation which finds a place in that practice works directly and continually to the injury of Canadian interests.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO THE EXAMINER.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER TO BE PREMIER.

Reported That Sir McKenzie Bowell Will Resign.

Seven Ministers Have Left His Cabinet.

Policy on the School Question to Be Maintained.

OTTAWA, Jan. 6. Within a week it seems as if a new Dominion ministry will have been formed with Sir Charles Tupper (senior) as Prime Minister.

Sir Charles Tupper (senior) is said to be quite willing to undertake the task of forming a new ministry. The reasons assigned by the Ministers for their resignation are partly personal, and partly because Premier Bowell has not been able to fill the vacant Quebec portfolio.

Supporting a new leader assumes command of the question, but it is "what effort will I have upon the policy of the Government?" It is generally conceded that there can be no change in the Government's policy on the School Question.

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Sale of English, Scotch and Canadian Blankets.

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The greatest salesman in the world is price. Wit, humor, eloquence, oratory, all sit down when price rises to speak. Price is the greatest conqueror, the invincible salesman. That's why our special inducements go far. Price sells them. It was the low price that sold over 200 Golf Jerseys. It was the price that sold over 1,000 Feather Boas. It's the low price that will sell the balance of them. See you get one.—James Paton & Co.

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