

CORN AND OATS.

The Corn Duties Discussed from an Island Farmer's Point of View.

BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

What Mr. Davies Knows About the Food of Fishermen.

OTTAWA, Feb. 15.

ON Thursday evening, 14th February, instant, in Room 9 of the House of Commons at Ottawa, the Island members of that body met members of the Provincial Government then in Ottawa, for the purpose of discussing the effect of the proposed abolition of the duty of 7 1/2 cents per bushel on corn imported for feeding cattle for export.

MR. S. F. PERRY was unanimously chosen Chairman.

HON. MR. LEVINGUE said it had been brought to the notice of members of the Local Legislature in Ottawa that a motion was before the House of Commons to abolish the duty on corn imported for feeding cattle, and he considered that it was of the utmost importance, in the interest of P. E. Island, that this resolution should not pass. The only profitable market now remaining for our oats was in the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the eastern part of the province of Quebec, and the only safeguard we had for its continuance was the duty on American corn; for, once that duty was removed, corn would enter into competition with our export of oats to those places. The object of this resolution is only to remove the duty on corn imported for feeding cattle for export; but once the door is opened for the importation of corn, we will have to look for a market for Island oats in some other country. It was well known that the export of oats to Great Britain and European countries had become almost a thing of the past. Last fall not one cargo had been shipped, and there had only been one or two cargoes sent to England the year before. The members of the Provincial Legislature, then in Ottawa, considered it their duty to take this opportunity of meeting the representatives from P. E. Island, to urge on their attention the fact that if corn is admitted duty free, for feeding purposes, it will lessen the price of all our export of oats.

MR. WELSH considered that taking the duty off corn, imported into Canada, would rather tend to increase the price of our oats. It is well known that the Americans send corn to England duty free, where it competes to some extent with oats. Taking the duty off corn imported into Canada would tend to raise the price of that article. He thought the effect would be felt greater in the United States than with us. If farmers can buy corn for feeding purposes at a cheap rate, it will pay them to sell their oats and buy corn. The price of oats this year was exceptionally good in Canada, but there was no guarantee that it would continue so. He had always been a free trader and believed in buying in the cheapest markets. He thought all temperance men should vote for the resolution. Although he was in favor of the motion now before the House, yet he had paired with Mr. Curran, of Montreal, who was unavoidably absent to-night.

HON. A. J. MACDONALD said he was largely interested in the oat trade. He had been in Halifax last fall, when several large shipments from the Island, especially the cargo of the steamer Harlow, had arrived in that market, and had heard the question of corn versus oats pretty well discussed. It was then found that the buyers would import corn, unless they could get oats for 42 cents per bushel. Agents of American firms were offering to place corn in Halifax at equivalent prices. This was a vital question for the farmers of P. E. Island, for if the duty is taken off corn, our present market in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be seriously affected, and American corn will supplant our oats.

MR. L. H. DAVIES differed with the hon. gentleman who had just spoken. He looked at the question from the same standpoint as Mr. Welsh. The duty on corn, especially, is a hateful tax, as it taxes the food of poor men like the fishermen of Nova Scotia. These men now have to pay a duty of 40 cents per barrel on cornmeal, and it was unjust to tax their food in that way. He understood that farmers were now going more for dairy farming and fattening cattle. Leading agriculturists are improving their cattle, with the hope of increasing their export to Great Britain. This business was not so largely followed in P. E. Island; but in other parts of Canada the breeding and fattening of cattle for export was a most important business. Ontario farmers assert that unless the duty on corn is removed, they cannot compete in this business. Nine-tenths of the oats we export to the Maritime Provinces is fed to horses in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and corn will not take its place. The corn that will be imported, if the duty is removed, will be fed to fattening cattle, thereby lessening the cost of meat production. He was opposed to taxing the food of the people. Allowing the free importation of corn will lessen the cost of production of beef, he did not think oats were fed to cattle for fattening purposes, and consequently the free importation of corn would not interfere with the sale of that product. He did not think a great deal of corn would be imported into the Maritime Provinces, even if the duty was removed.

HON. MR. MACDONALD said cheap corn always regulates the price of oats. MR. L. H. DAVIES did not think we sold many cattle to the Halifax and St. John markets. MR. MCINTYRE wanted to know why the price of oats was less now than when corn was on the free list. The production of oats in P. E. Island is now greatly curtailed, and not nearly so much is grown as formerly. He was not aware that we exported many fat cattle to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

HON. MR. FERGUSON said his experience was, that nothing was so profitable as oats for feeding cattle. By taking off the duty from corn, it will enter into competition with our oats in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We have to send our oats, at considerable expense, to those markets, and if the duty is taken off corn the question of cheapness will come in, and corn will displace the oats we now send there. And more than that, if corn is admitted duty free, the feeders of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be able to compete with our farmers who fatten cattle for those markets. It is a fact that we are not now sending as much oats abroad, but our farmers are using a great deal more at home. He agreed that raising large quantities of oats was not judicious farming; but many of our poorer farmers have not the stock or means to feed cattle, and they cannot quickly change the system they follow. For a long time our poorer farmers must depend on the sale of oats for obtaining money. He did not think it was the duty of Island representatives to think solely of cheapening the food of the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Our principal cattle buyers are from those provinces, and if we enable the feeders of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to obtain cheap corn, our own farmers will obtain less price for their beef. The oat trade of last year shows that we must look to the Maritime Provinces and the eastern part of Quebec for a market for oats, for, with the exception of a few cargoes of white oats to the West Indies and a small export to Newfoundland, our crop was sold in those places. He believed the demand for oats in the Maritime Provinces will get stronger each year, and that they will be our future market. Towns in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are rapidly increasing in number and growing in size, especially along the route of the Intercolonial Railway, and they will annually take an increased quantity of oats. It would be a serious loss to P. E. Island if anything were done that would shut our farmers out of these markets.

MR. L. H. DAVIES understood that hon. gentlemen were afraid that the removal of the corn duty would interfere with the price of oats in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The admission of corn, duty free, would not interfere with the consumption of oats in the cities, where it was largely used for feeding carriage and express horses. He had never heard that the importation of corn in former times, when there was no duty on it, interfered with the price we got for our oats. The resolution before the House says that the proposed change is asked on account of the rebate of duty given to distillers on the liquors they export; and it should also be remembered that the distillers thereby had a rebate on the refuse they used for feeding. It was for this reason the motion had been made. Farmers had surely as much right to get a rebate on the corn they fed to animals for export, as had the manufacturers of whiskey on the liquors they exported.

MR. ROBERTSON thought that farmers were growing less oats than formerly, and were turning their attention to dairying and other branches of farming. He had enquired from persons on the Island respecting the cost of improved dairy utensils; showing that a change in our farming system was being considered. He did not think the proposed change would be prejudicial to the farmers of the Island. MR. PERRY thought the reason we did not now send oats to England was owing to the fact that we did not trade as much with that country as we used to do. The distillers had a rebate on the corn they used in their business for manufacturing liquors for export, and it would be denying the farmers equal rights if they were not given in their business for manufacturing liquors for export. He did not approve of the duty on cornmeal.

MR. WELSH did not agree with Mr. Perry as to the reason for the decline in the export of oats to England. Large crops in European countries had decreased the price in the old country markets, and it could not be sent there with a profit. HON. MR. ARSENAULT knew that the poorer farmers had to depend on growing oats to pay their bills. If the duty is taken off corn, it will be largely used in the lumbering woods for feeding horses, for it is well known that corn can be used for feeding any animal. As a matter of fact, corn is always used in the lumber woods, when they can get it cheap enough. If corn is allowed to come in competition with our oats, it will lower the price of that article. It may look a little selfish to take this view of the matter, but he noticed that every province seemed to be looking after its own interest up here, and he thought the Island members should guard the interests of our own province. MR. YEO said he could not agree with the speaker of the question put forward by the members of the Local Legislature, and he would vote to remove the duty. MR. JAMES RICHARDS, M. P., was also present, but did not express his opinions. After some further talk, Mr. Welsh invited the gentlemen present to look at the lower halls of the building, and the interview ended.

OTTAWA, Feb. 15. In the House yesterday, the question of the corn duty occupied the greater part of the day. Sir John was heard to say that the House was getting pretty well corned. While the officers were preparing for the division at 11.30 p. m., the House was entertained by several songs, both in English and French, sung by hon. members. A large dinner party was given last night by Hon. C. H. Tupper, Minister of Fisheries. Hon. Mr. Allan, Speaker of the Senate, also entertained a number at dinner. The conversation to-night, in the Geological Museum, is to be a great society event. One thousand invitations have been issued. G. F. O.

Personal. We are pleased to learn that P. Blake, M. P., who has been seriously ill for several weeks past, is rapidly recovering. Mr. John A. Macdonald, M. P., for Victoria County, C. B., has been appointed Ministerial whip in place of Hon. C. H. Tupper. Among the arrivals at the Davies are Mr. L. D. McPherson and wife, Winnipeg; Robert W. O'Mullin, Halifax, and H. R. Cole, St. John. The SS. Circassian arrived this morning at Liverpool after a very pleasant passage. Mr. W. W. Beer, of Beer Bros. was one of the passengers. Countess Martinez sells stamps in Philadelphia post office. She was a Baltimore girl; and her husband is a real German Count, at present in reduced circumstances, and in a Philadelphia hospital. A Berlin despatch says that the Czar, Czarina and Czarowitch will attend a reception to be given by Sir R. D. Morier, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, to-day (Tuesday). In view of the quarrel between Sir Robert and Prince Bismarck, much comment has been caused by the announcement, as the attendance of three members of the Imperial family at a reception will be a mark of individual patronage.

WANT TO BE INCORPORATED.—St. Andrew's, N. B., and Londonderry, N. S., are anxious for incorporation.

LONDON HOUSE.

New Goods Received by S. S. "Stanley."

- White Cottons, Sheetings, Pillow Cottons, Printed Cottons, Flannelettes, Gingham, Shirtings, Tickings, Striped Hessians, Osna-burgs, Cotton Ducks, Blue Serges, Tweeds, Selesias, Sateen Linings, Hamburg Embroideries, Veiling Nets, Kid Gloves.

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Notes and Clippings.

Principal Grant: "Every man is attached, less or more passionately, to his own Church, and if other churches attack it he feels himself in honor bound to defend it, even when he suspects that he is on the wrong side. But as fellow-citizens, we are all in one boat. Whatever hurts the boat hurts all alike. Let us therefore enlist the sympathies of all in stopping leaks, repairing fractures, and putting down encroachments or attempted mutiny on the part of any."

The annual report of the Minister of Public Works for the Province of Ontario shows that prior to Confederation 1,455 miles of railway had been completed in the Province; that since Confederation (1867) 4,153 miles have been completed; and that there are at present under construction or contract 1,142 miles. The same report shows that there was expended on public works during the past year, the sum of \$459,524 of provincial funds, and from Confederation to the close of the year 1888, the sum of \$6,201,512 was spent.

Montreal Gazette: Sir John Macdonald's declaration that the Canadian Government has not paid, and is not now paying, money to Le Caron, the Times witness before the Parnell Commission, will be well received. Le Caron's evidence was not of a nature to receive general credence; he knew too much. He has been emphatically contradicted by those who were implicated by his statements, and their denials have been received with a fair amount of faith. This will now be increased. The Premier of the Dominion has no reason to tell aught but the truth, and his emphatic contradiction of an important part of Le Caron's testimony will shake public belief on the whole, and will do much to break down the Times' case.

In the course of a recent speech the Minister of Agriculture said:—"I say, without fear of contradiction, that, taking an average of the different articles which our farmers purchase, it will be found that they pay 25 per cent. less to-day for them than they did in 1878. I have the figures here by me to prove this, but it would take too much of the time of the House to read them. They are, however, at the command of hon. gentlemen to inspect. I will, however, mention a few articles. Mowers in 1878 were sold at \$90, and in 1887 they were purchased at \$70. Reapers in 1878 brought \$120; to-day they can be bought for \$80. Horse-rakes, which in 1878 were worth \$32, can now be had for \$28. Binders, which in 1878 cost \$275, are now purchased for \$160. This is pretty clear evidence that the National Policy has not injured the farmer, and that the farmer is able to buy his agricultural implements, his tea, his sugar and other articles much cheaper to-day than he could under regime of hon. gentlemen opposite. I believe these hon. gentlemen when in power put a tax on tea, so that every farmer's wife had to pay a tax on the tea she consumed."

Facts like these are not pleasing to Opposition theorists, but the practical farmers rejoice. The Chicago Tribune says that the new Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic ferryboat St. Ignace, which is now making regular trips in the Mackinac Straits, is a boat specially built for crushing the thick ice of these regions. She has two powerful stern screws, and what is a novelty in navigation circles, another upon the lower part of the bow, which is low enough down to be beneath the thickest ice, and serves two purposes: to draw the boat forward upon the ice, and to create currents which sweep the broken ice back towards the stern and clear the channel. The captain of the St. Ignace says that he can make a trip between Mackinac City and St. Ignace, a distance of seven miles, through four feet of ice, in from forty-five to fifty minutes. The boat is built to crush six feet of ice. It is heavily sheathed and braced like the Jeanette, and so far is a complete success. In the spring, lake navigation will no longer need to wait for the ice to break up in straits, as the Ignace, between her regular trips, may be chartered to break channels through the ice which remains in the straits long after the lakes are open.

"I have used Ayer's Pills for the past 30 years, and am satisfied I should not be alive to-day if it had not been for them. They cured me of dyspepsia when all other remedies failed."—T. P. Bonner, Chester, Pa. Ayer's Pills are sold by all druggists.

CARD.

MISS M. HARRIS will receive a few Pupils for instruction in PAINTING and DRAWING. Residence—Corner of Euston Street and St. Peter's Road. 11—feb19

Ho! for the Pacific Coast,

Y. M. C. A. HALL.

A LECTURE will be delivered by the REV. J. M. MACLEOD, in the Y. M. C. A. HALL,

ON TUESDAY EVENING, 19th INST.,

ENTITLED: "A Trip to the Pacific Coast."

Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock. Tickets, 10 cents each. R. M. BARRATT, Secretary. feb16-31

Dramatic Performance.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB OF GEORGETOWN will perform the popular Drama

'ESMERALDA,'

—IN THE— TOWN HALL THERE,

—ON— Friday, 22nd Inst.,

AT 8 O'CLOCK, P. M., Under the patronage of His Honor the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Macdonald.

The Boys' Band will be in attendance. Admission, 25 and 35 cents. feb16-27

ORCHESTRA.

MR. VINNICOMBE,

Assisted by his Pupils and some of the best Vocal and Instrumental Talent of the City, will give one of their

Popular Orchestral Concerts

—IN THE— Y. M. C. A. HALL,

—ON— Tuesday, 5th of March.

Particulars will be given shortly. feb13

CARNIVAL.

A GRAND Fancy Dress Carnival

WILL BE HELD IN THE Victoria Skating Rink, Victoria,

—ON— Thursday Evening, Feb. 21,

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

The Rink will be tastefully decorated, and a large number have promised to skate, a good time may be expected. Music will be furnished by Worth's Band. Admission, 25 cents. Skaters in Costume, free. PERCY H. PALMER, Secretary. Victoria, Feb. 7, 1889.



GREAT SALE OF HOUSE FURNISHINGS.

Most Attractive Sale of House Furnishings in Charlottetown. Great Clearance Sale of Remnants in every Department. Grand Chance to buy Cotton Goods at Special Prices. Genuine, Down-right, Serious, Wonderful Low Prices on House Furnishings.

BEER BROS. BEER BROS.

Carpet Department. Curtain Department.

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Over Six Thousand Yards of Choice Carpets, newest patterns, personally selected from leading English and Scotch manufacturers. The Largest and Finest Stock on the Island. Special inducements now offered to Cash Customers. Large variety of Rugs to suit Carpets. Over Three Hundred Pairs of Curtains— Nottingham, Calais and Scotch makes—wonderful value. Prices from 50c. to \$8.50 per pair. Exquisite patterns in White Cream and Golden Brown. A few pairs of Winter Curtains remaining, will be sold at a bargain.

Linens Department.

When Linen Goods were at the very lowest price we made heavy purchases in Table Damasks, Napkins and Towels, and are now offering our large stock at special prices. Housekeepers will find this the opportunity of the year to purchase new supplies.

Eighty Rolls ENGLISH FLOOR OIL-CLOTH, superior quality.

Thirty Bales New English, American and Canadian WALL PAPERS and BORDER-INGS, choice new designs, all prices.

Cotton Goods. Embroideries.

Before the recent heavy advance in Cottons we made large purchases at lowest prices; and having received some Twenty Cases and Bales per S. S. "Stanley," we are now offering these goods at wonderfully low prices.

Our new stock of EDGINGS, INSERTIONS, FLOUNCINGS, &c., is now open, and customers will find many lines of unusual value.

FLANNEL EMBROIDERIES at very much under usual price to clear. TORCHON LACES and LACE EDGINGS of all kinds, very cheap.

EARLY INSPECTION INVITED. Everything Marked in Plain Figures.

No Long Credits or Discounts, as Prices are entirely too low for either.

BEER BROS., BEER BROS.,

QUEEN STREET. CHARLOTTETOWN.



Great Bargains!

JUST ARRIVED BY THE "STANLEY,"

—A FINE ASSORTMENT OF—

Worsted, Spring Overcoatings,

—AND— FANCY TROUSERINGS

Which will be sold Regardless of Profits for the next Two Weeks.

SEE OUR NEW TIES AND SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.

P. J. FORAN,

Queen Street, Three Doors Above Apothecaries' Hall.

February 19, 1889—eod & wkly

Sherwood Cemetery. Notice of Meeting.

THE ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING of the Sherwood Cemetery Company will be held in the Office of the Steam Navigation Company, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, 20th inst. at 3 o'clock, for the election of Directors for the ensuing year and transaction of general business. All Shareholders are earnestly requested to attend. Proxies for voting must be left with the Cashier on or before WEDNESDAY, March 6th. By order, F. W. HALES, Secretary. feb15-m w f t d

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Microban's Bank of Prince Edward Island, for the election of Directors and receiving a statement of the affairs of the Bank, will be held at the Banking Office on THURSDAY, March 7th, at the hour of Eleven o'clock, a.m. Proxies for voting must be left with the Cashier on or before WEDNESDAY, March 6th. By order, WM. McLEAN, Cashier. feb15-m w f t d