

### East York Observations.

Harvest is well in hand. The hay crop has been good. The fall wheat is above the average both in yield and in quality. The oats and barley are somewhat short in the straw in many cases, though it is significant that farmers who feed extensively for the beef market, or who pay considerable attention to dairying, have an abundance of both grain and straw. The persistent drouth of June, and of the early weeks of July were hard on the pastures, and those men who had not provided against this contingency by having ready a succulent fodder crop, found that the milk yield fell off considerably. The practice in vogue on some dairy farms, of sowing a seeder width of peas and oats for fodder purposes around the grain fields, has proven beneficial. It means succulent food when the pasture fails, to say nothing of preventing waste by providing a clean path for the binder. At any rate, it is found expedient to provide fodder crop for the drouth that seems to be a feature of every summer.

The fruit crop promises to be light. The fruit set nicely, but the long drouth precipitated the young fruit to the ground most universally.

The root and corn crop are both looking well. The fine rain of the last week in July did both these crops a world of good. Nearly every farm has its silo, and every barn has its cellar, hence the welcome given to the rain.

Arrangements are being made for the holding of a short course in judging live stock and farm seeds. The meeting is expected to take place in Markham in January, 1911, and will be under the direction of the Provincial Government. Every effort will be put forth to make this two-day course interesting, because instructive. It is to be hoped that farmers and their sons will take an active interest in this matter, and so justify the labor and money expended.

The directors of Scarboro' Agricultural Fair are offering fifty dollars in prizes for the three schools presenting the most complete collection of farm weeds. Last year a similar competition brought out some really fine collections of weeds. Some farmers in this locality are alive to the seriousness of the weed menace, and this is one way in which the children and others are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these robber pests. It is a pity that farmers generally were not more alert in the matter of detecting the advent of new weeds, having them identified at Guelph or Ottawa, and apprising their fellow agriculturists of their danger.

O. C. York Co., Ont.

### Athletics in Rural Communities.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To-day we read a great deal in magazines and farmers' papers about the young men of the country becoming discontented with the farm, and choosing occupations in the city. All writers do not agree as to why, or as to a remedy. That such is the case, is not only a fact, but it is a most lamentable fact. That the farm offers a more profitable and independent occupation than most work found in cities, is, I think, one thing that all writers agree upon. The thing is, therefore, how best to keep the young men interested in the farm. The introduction of athletics into a neighborhood in the country, I believe, would be a step in the right direction. Farmers of the old school will, no doubt, ridicule this idea. They will claim that, after a boy has performed his day's work, he would not be fit for work on the coming day if he indulged in athletics; that he gets plenty of exercise on the farm. That farmers, as a rule, do get lots of exercise, is a fact which I would not attempt to dispute, but does this satisfy the farmer's son? Boys between the age of seventeen and twenty-four must have some kind of recreation, and if they can't get the good healthful kind, they will have some kind. In these days, young boys are too apt to drift up town in the evenings, and spend their time in questionable places. In the locality where I was raised, some of the older men encouraged the boys to organize a football club; they gave it their support, and encouraged the boys in every way. Apart from it being a most successful club—in fact, it won on a number of occasions the championship of Western Ontario—the boys who played in the club, and those who were members, are to-day model young farmers. Out of some twenty-five boys who graduated from the club, not one of them, as far as I know, knows the taste of whiskey. This only goes to show that boys do not naturally turn away from the farm. It is only when the farm and the farming community cease to be attractive and interesting that they look elsewhere.

Farmers, since the commencement, have always been considered slow. Many a splendid business transaction has been lost to him because of his inability to come to a quick decision. Boys playing football, baseball, and such games, simply have to think fast. In time they become so accustomed to it that, instead of "waiting," which is a favorite method employed when something of importance turns up, they give their decision quickly, clearly and intelligently, and thereby get the start of the fellow who is only thinking. In

playing games in the country and surrounding towns, the young farmer gets the rough, rustic edge worn off; he meets all kinds and conditions of men; he makes acquaintances in a great many different places, which in after-life may prove of untold value.

In comparing the farms where the father did everything in his power to discourage sport, and would not allow his boy time to indulge, with those where he gave his boy a day off once in a while to play, and contributed to the expenses of the club, the difference in favor of the latter is apparent to even the most conservative.

Farmers would do well to look further ahead than to-morrow; encourage the boys in anything that will keep them interested in the farm and the community. As the saying is, you will not miss the day he loses when you are eating next Christmas turkey.

R. H. ABRAHAM.

Kent Co., Ont.

### An Economic Reaction.

I am loath to attempt to answer through the press Mr. Flavelle's letter, as some things which must be said in answer might be misconstrued. I believe Mr. Flavelle wrote the said letter with the honest intention of doing good, of helping our farmers, in the doing of which he would be helping the country in general. But, as I see it, he has not got at the true cause of the high prices of food products, at least not at all that goes to make up the cause. The letter asks, "Why are food products at extreme prices in Canada?" and then discusses the reasons. Among other things he says: "Congested Europe is being supplied, or is supplying itself, with many lines of food products at prices below present values in Canada," and then proceeds to give the reasons why. He also says: "No serious consideration has been given to the added demand occasioned by the extended markets which have been opened to the producers of Canada through the enterprise of manufacturers and distributing merchants, who have brought to the problem fine courage and high intelligence."

I can assure you, Mr. Editor, and Mr. Flavelle, as well, that the farmers of Ontario have given much thought to the question discussed in the letter referred to, but, through scarcity of help, they find their hands tied, and, instead of showing themselves lacking in thought and vision and business enterprise, they have, by the very things Mr. Flavelle complains of, shown they can and have adapted themselves to a condition forced upon them. It has not been of their own seeking. There was a cause, and now we have the effect, which could not help but follow. The tariff conditions enabled the manufacturer to pay a higher wage for labor than the farmer could afford to pay. We lost our young men from the country who should have been producers and helped with the intensive farming and a greater production, but they became consumers, instead. In conversation with a farmer, a few days ago, he said: "There are more good plowmen in the city of Toronto than in the County of Durham. We could not afford to pay the wages, so we lost them." The labor question has assumed serious proportions in Ontario. No wonder congested Europe could produce cheaper food products. Labor, not land, is what did it. The greatest problem facing the statesmen of the future is how to keep enough men on the land to make it produce the food required, cheap enough for the consuming masses. (I speak of the statesmen, not the politicians. The latter care not about such problems, so long as they get into office. We have too many politicians in Parliament.) We will never do it by high tariffs. Canada is getting to-day just what she has asked for, and what some of us knew must surely come as a result of the conditions forced upon us by the different organizations of manufacturers. Farmers saw they could not prevent such conditions, so made the best of them. It is not so easy for them to organize as it is for the manufacturers, hence the conditions. I was talking to a farmer a couple of days ago about Mr. Flavelle's letter. He said: "I was keeping quite a number of cows, and sending milk to Toronto, and it paid, but I had to quit it because I could not get help." Another said: "I am ashamed of the weeds on my farm, but I cannot help it; I can get no help. I am about discouraged." Another said: "I am working 200 acres, and I cannot get a man; what am I to do?" Yet another said: "My wife and I are slaves because we cannot get help." There is a cause for all this, and it is not as Mr. Flavelle says, "because farm help is not treated well." He simply does not know the conditions, or he never would have made such a statement, and should, in all honesty, apologize to the farmers of Ontario for saying so. The hired man eats at the same table as the farmer and his family; he gets

better food than any man in the city who has to buy his food second-hand; he has as good sleeping accommodation as the average hotel gives; he does not work as hard as the farmer does, and not anything like as hard as the mechanic; neither does he work as long hours as the mechanic, take it the year round, and he gets the purest air that heaven affords to breathe. What more would Mr. Flavelle give him?

The conditions in Ontario are forced conditions, and the farmers have shown, by adopting a mode of farming calling for less labor, though it may not give the greatest returns, that they are not so lacking in vision and business enterprise as painted. They have suited themselves to the forced conditions, and the country is reaping what it sowed. Instead of having dear machinery, we should have it as cheap as possible. We cannot get manual labor, and that should be offset by cheap machinery to enable us to do the work. Everyone who keeps cows should have a cream separator; but look at the price at which they are sold. No one pretends to defend the price at which the cream separator is sold by the cost of production; and what is true of the cream separator is true of a great many other lines of machinery. Tariff regulations enable the manufacturer to take away our laborers to build machinery to sell to us at high prices. Every farmer should have a hay-tedder, but every farmer can't afford it, however much he might like one. We also should all be able to buy a small gasoline engine for the purpose of assisting in the work of the house—to turn the high-priced cream separator, the churn, the washing machine, the wringer, and also furnish light, perhaps not as much as one horse-power, but light convenient and cheap.

Mr. Flavelle says the orchard acreage has been reduced. That may be true of Western Ontario, where the San Jose Scale and other pests have compelled farmers to abandon apple culture, but the Lake Ontario district has doubled its acreage in the last ten years.

Then, the hog question. That is what Mr. Flavelle is more interested in than any other. I have known several times that farmers did produce an oversupply of hogs, and did get a price less than the cost of production. "A burnt child dreads the fire." The farmer has to be careful, lest the same conditions prevail again. If farmers were assured of a fair profit on the hogs after they had fed them, the supply would increase; but that kind of thing works its own cure. A steady price will go a long way to securing a constant supply.

I have just returned home from a three-weeks' drive among the farmers of Durham County. I have been talking to them about how to grow clean clover seed, and how to have less weeds on the farm, and I should know something of how difficult it is for farmers to get the necessary help to do their work.

SEC. WEST DURHAM FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

### July Crop Report for P. E. I.

The weather has been ideal for crop growth in Prince Edward Island this year. As a consequence, most crops are reported very favorably. Hay in both quantity and quality has been excellent. The outlook for wheat is good; oats have seldom looked better at this time. There is a considerable increase in barley, and, except on low lands, it is excellent. Corn is much below the average, but is improving. The potato crop has been quite a miss this year, and the beetles are much more in evidence than is usual, so that this crop will be shorter than usual. Root crops promise an abundant yield. The fruit crop is not promising. There will be few early apples, and about half a crop of fall and winter varieties. Better methods are being practiced in orcharding, more trees are being set out, and more strawberries are being planted. The pastures have been splendid all season. There has been an increase of about twenty-three per cent. in the amount of milk received this year over last year, up to July 15th, while the increase in cows has been but five per cent.

### Manitoba Elevators.

Splendid progress is being made by the Manitoba Elevator Commission. Up to date, there are nine elevators owned and operated by them, with deals for several more pending. There are nine new elevators in course of erection, and new sites are being selected for still others. The Commission estimates that over 200 petitions have been presented to them, and they are coming in at the rate of from three to six per day now. Fully half of the privately-owned elevators have been offered to the Commission. Every offer receives consideration, but the price is the chief obstacle in the way of transactions.

I like to follow in the wake of the gang-plows, that I may drink in the odor of the newly-turned land. It is the most strangely subtle odor in the world. It is the concentrated essence of the four seasons.—[Extract from Jane's Canuck in the West.]