

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1863

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 11, 1914.

No. 1133

## EDITORIAL

Time savers are money savers.

Harrows and weeders save hoeing.

Break up the crust on the corn field.

Be on the job and see that it is made to pay.

System is profitable on the small as well as on the large farm.

Go after this farming proposition; it can be made worth while.

Norfolk County is a county of trees—fruit trees and forest trees.

The man who keeps his eyes and his mind open generally succeeds.

"There is sorrow on the sea," wrote the weeping prophet long centuries ago.

Once more with fearful emphasis hath the world been taught to haste not upon an unknown, chanceful way.

Land in Western Ontario has been a veritable hot bed of late. With frequent showers and warm weather growth has been very rapid.

A good farm poorly tilled is often a losing proposition, but a poor farm well tilled and well managed is generally a money maker, and is not long a poor farm.

About the nearest approach to perpetual motion is the folly of spreading gravel on ungraded, undrained hill roads to wash back into rivers for contractors to haul on again next year.

For the right man specialized agriculture brings highest returns, but the average farmer is safer with mixed farming, making each branch as much of a specialty as lies within his power.

There may be nothing new under the sun, but there is a great deal roundabout us that is new to most of us, and it only requires observation to reveal it. Cultivate the faculty of seeing your own neighborhood.

Nearly fifty years ago an English journalist anticipated the coming of a day when work would be paid for in proportion to its disagreeableness. "The man who carts muck," he said, "will be better paid than the one who sells tape."

In litigation as in war, the victor is often the loser. The noted Donnelly-McArdle twenty-three-year law suit over a bill of goods, has just been concluded in New York state. Donnelly got the final verdict of \$48,000, but it cost him \$186,000 to do so. The time and energy frittered away would amount to another fortune.

## Systematized Agriculture.

System or lack of it means much towards the successful operation or failure of farm undertakings, just as it does to the progress made in any other line of human endeavor. Elsewhere in this issue there is an account of a large farm, which, for methodical and economic regularity, might well be held up as a model. True, not many farms are as large, but many things which work successfully on the large farm may, in a modified form, be equally valuable on the smaller holding. We were particularly favorably impressed with the care of the implements. It means no loss of time for the man or team to draw the drill, cultivator, disc, or any such implement to the implement shed when coming from work at noon or night. And while the small farm could not provide work for a special mechanic or handyman the principle could be carried out, the teamster himself taking five or ten minutes to go over his implement, tighten nuts, and put things in running order for the next half-day in the field. And apart from the time saved and breakages avoided the implements and machinery are, when not in use, under cover and not exposed to the weathering agencies which soon place them in the discarded fence-corner heap. This is system in one department of the work; try it and see how soon it will spread to other departments to the satisfaction and profit of all concerned.

## A Farmer's Knapsack.

It is not a usual sight to see a farm laborer or the farmer himself going to the field with or without his team and carrying a leather knapsack on his back—a sack which looks much like a school bag only, built of heavier leather and with stronger straps and handles; and yet this knapsack is an important item in systematized agriculture on a large farm where several of these sacks are provided. This is another small item, but it saves a lot of time. Oh, but you say, "what does the sack contain." Just tools—common small wrenches, pincers, wire, a few small bolts and necessary nuts, washers, etc., a screw-driver, cold chisel, a file, and like handy small tools, so often needed in the field, and so often lost in an improvised tool chest or among the litter generally found on a farm work bench. There is nothing to prevent the farmer having such a sack or bag no matter how small the farm. If the farm is large more than one are necessary, but they will pay for themselves many times over in time and steps saved. If a small break occurs, nuts loosen, or screws drop out, the necessary tools to make repairs are right in the field, and the workman always knows where his tools are. If he doesn't it is his fault. The bag should be returned to the barn each night with the team. Isn't this worth a trial?

## A Farm Smithy.

A small forge on the farm is not always a necessity, but it is often a great convenience, and few farms situated any considerable distance from a blacksmith shop can afford to be without it. Any man possessing a very ordinary amount of mechanical genius can soon learn to make many useful little articles needed almost every day, and can often save a drive to town which would spoil a half day by repairing his own breakages. A cheap set of tools should go with the outfit. These little things are essential parts of system on the farm, that system which should be carried right up to the main departments of operations.

## The Onus is on the Man.

Men living on the most fertile land in the country are often heard to find fault with their opportunities and results. We were recently talking with a man on the train who remarked how well the country looked at this season when another man chipped in with the statement that most likely the owners of the fine crops growing in the fields, through which we were passing, would have something to "growl" about even though everything was so promising, and to back up his statement cited the case of a farmer upon whom he once called and who had two hundred acres, the heaviest crop of wheat he had ever seen. This man, when congratulated upon the fine crop which his acres were producing, after a moment's hesitation to dig up a reason for his "grouch" replied, "yes, it is a fine crop but it is awfully hard on the land." Are not many of us often given to looking at the wrong side of everything? Surely the man whose farm is producing him a good crop year after year should not always be complaining. He has troubles of his own no doubt, but many of his fellows have more and grumble less. Is it not a fact that a great many of the things about which we find fault give cause for grumbling only because of our own neglect or failure to put in practice the best methods on the land? We have often wondered how it is that some men make money and do well on the poorest of soil; in fact many take a run-down farm and soon convert it into fertile fields, while others far more favorably situated have a struggle to make ends meet on the best of land. After all success or failure depends largely upon the man not the farm, and if things do not work out satisfactorily the man should apply his "grouch" to himself, and not put the blame on wind or weather, land or crops. Place the blame where it belongs, and by a knowledge of mistakes and studying the success of others it will soon be found that grumbling is generally done without a just reason. Fault-finding never accomplished anything, but studying mistakes and successes and applying the knowledge gained with common sense has made over poor farms to such an extent that they are now numbered among the most profitable in their districts.

## The Young Farmer's Business.

It is often said that what is everybody's business is nobody's business and this in a sense is true, but with the government of our country there is a difference. The making of the country's laws is just as much the business of the voter as of the representative, and he should feel the responsibility when he casts his ballot. It is not of the voter that we wish particularly to speak, but rather of the representative in parliament. Farmers are often heard complaining that there are not more of their number filling seats in the Legislature or House of Commons, and we believe the complaint is justified. But why are conditions as they are? No one doubts but there are men from the farms capable of filling the seats, but many of those who should be there are too busy at practical farming and are in business too extensively to afford the time. It would mean loss to them. And then again too small a percentage of the rural population pay any serious attention to the doings of politicians and politics generally, voting as father used to vote. They are not up to all the dodges worked in by political machinery, and,