

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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ture. This is also wise. Undoubtedly, there should be someone to study the matter with an eye single to the farmer's need. He should be a practical, level-headed man, in close touch with the farmer's needs, and should have a knowledge of electricity.

At the moment of writing it has not been announced who is to be the representative of the Agricultural Department, but it certainly ought to be Wm. H. Day, Professor of Physics at the Ontario Agricultural College. Keen, painstaking, and practical, he enjoys to an extraordinary degree the confidence of Canadian farmers. He studies and expounds scientific subjects in their practical bearings. His professional knowledge of electricity was supplemented by the careful preparation of a thorough, lucid and very popular article on "Electricity in Agriculture," published in the 1907 Christmas Number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." For the sake of his collegiate work, Prof. Day should be chosen, but, more important still, we urge his selection because probably no one else could bring back a report that would so completely command the confidence of Canadian farmers. We shall await with eagerness the Commission's report.

"The Garden of the Gulf."

Not how big, but how good, may aptly be said of Prince Edward Island Province, and the annual report for 1910, by Hon. John Richards, Commissioner of Agriculture, deserves similar commendation. The outlook is most encouraging, nearly every branch of farming being taken up with energy, enthusiasm and success, largely due to the dissemination of reliable information. It is gratifying to know that the area under crop was the highest ever yet reached on the Island; and, still better, that one of the judges in the field-crop competitions was able to say that he had never reviewed crops of higher or more uniform quality. That such heavy grain should stand stiff and straight is attributed to fertilization with sea mud carrying a great deal of salt. The chief dangers in sight are the incursions of weeds, and a tendency to rely on a one-crop system, instead of a short rotation with clover,

which would supply humus that the soil appreciably needs. With regard to weeds, as elsewhere in Canada, a more rigid enforcement of law is called for. The superiority of grain selected under the rules of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association is reported clearly in evidence. The Island farmers justly take pride in their operations and their homes, and orcharding is making good progress. Horse-breeding has enjoyed a revival, and last autumn lambs reached a higher point than ever before, while egg production showed an increase of 14 per cent., with continued high prices. Like several other Provinces, Prince Edward Island began shipping cream to the United States, receiving 30 cents per pound butter-fat, delivered at Charlottetown. The Island cold-storage plant is being utilized to some extent to hold products over periods of depressed prices. Classes in agriculture and botany are conducted in Prince of Wales College by Prof. Ross, and sixty-five scholarships of \$10 each were granted to encourage farmers and farmers' sons to attend the short course at the N. S. College of Agriculture, upon the nomination of local Farmers' Institutes in good standing. The report embraces an admirable chapter by A. E. Morrison, President, and E. T. Carbonell, Secretary of the P. E. I. Fish and Game Protection Association, with illustrations of many varieties of birds, which farmers are encouraged to protect as an aid in the war against insects, thus promoting the general prosperity of the Island.

Growing Into Value.

The present condition of a majority of the wood-lots in Ontario leads to a great deal of wrong thinking and false argument. Because a neglected wood-lot yields small return, those who are indifferent to the question of reforestation, or opposed to it, find it easy to figure out just how much a man loses every year by having part of his farm under trees. The acreage represents a definite part of the farm investment, and if there is no return, there must be a loss. Those who argue in this way miss the whole point of the reforestation movement. Its purpose is to restore the wood-lots to a condition in which they will be productive. If they had been kept in the state in which they were at the coming of the first settlers, they would now be yielding, at a very conservative estimate, a revenue of from two to six dollars an acre from trees that matured each year. If the cattle had been kept from pasturing in them, and the young trees had been protected, the trees that matured each year would be constantly replaced by the young trees. Another favorite argument against reforestation is that the man who plants the trees will not live to reap the benefit. This is not true, any more than it is true that if his land increases in value, he will not receive the benefit. Every year, a wood-lot that is properly cared for increases in value, just as land in a thriving community increases in value, and if at any time the owner should decide to sell out, he will get his profits. They are there all the time, ready to be realized. Of course, direct cash returns are slow in coming in, but they differ only in degree from the returns the farmer gets for all his other work. When he plants corn, he must wait for months for payment of the work of plowing. The work he puts on his wheat will not be repaid for a year, and the work of clearing or reclaiming land will not bring returns for several years. The returns from forestry are the slowest of all, but they are no less sure than the others, and the man who leaves a good wood-lot to his descendants is leaving them a first-class investment that may yield them as much as a block of stock—a good deal more than some stock. But, beyond the question of the neglected wood-lots, there is the question of reclaiming waste land, hillsides, gullies, and useless stretches of sand. All these can be made productive by planting them with suitable trees. At present they are not only a waste, but an eyesore. None of the arguments that apply to good fertile land that is kept under trees applies to them. Only by planting them with trees can they be made of any value at all. This is the time of year to begin with the work, and, as the Department of Agriculture is ready to supply enough trees to plant two acres each year, there is no excuse for neglecting this work. The labor in-

volved is small, and the returns will be almost immediate in the improved appearance of these waste places.

Prosperity, Comfort, Contentment.

"Taking these Maritime Provinces as a whole, I believe, man for man, and acre for acre, there is no country under the broad canopy of heaven in which there is a greater degree of comfort and contentment." Hon. J. D. Hazen, Premier of New Brunswick, amid the approving applause of a prosperous agricultural audience, concluded a public address last season with the foregoing words, which are incorporated in the annual report on the agriculture of New Brunswick for the year 1910. The expression is the keynote of the document, which resounds with a hopeful confidence. This is evidenced not merely in the utterances of those who officially direct the agricultural affairs of the Province, but reappears again and again in the reports of the local agricultural societies, where the views and aspirations of the rank and file of the farmers find expression. Among other details in the latter is the encouraging attention paid to alfalfa-growing, in some cases futurity prizes being offered for the best plots.

In another address, Hon. D. V. Landry pinned his faith to education as the secret of continued progress. If farming had not in the past proved the success it should have been, the reason was because young men did not realize the necessity of preparing themselves properly for so important a work. In a Province like New Brunswick, where so many young men are making their living on the farm, there should be two agricultural colleges like the one at Truro, Nova Scotia; but he laid it down as fundamental that education should begin in the public schools.

Referring to the work of agricultural societies, W. W. Hubbard, Secretary for Agriculture, called attention to the valuable results possible by systematic co-operation among farmers, but said one of the very first things was to inspire the faith of the individual members, particularly the boys and girls, in their own country, which, under proper development, should enable them to make more money, live better lives, and have more real pleasure right here in New Brunswick than in any distant districts about which so much boasting is heard.

It is significant and hopeful that fruit-growing occupies so conspicuous a place in this report. The conviction has secured a firm hold on the minds of the leaders of agriculture that the production of the staple fruits is destined to become one of the most profitable branches of New Brunswick farming, not only because of the adaptability of the St. John Valley, the Petitcodiac Valley, and many other sections, for producing fruits of fine quality, but because of their advantageous position in relation to markets. The Province has some nineteen illustration orchards, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, and the efforts of the Fruit-growers' Association, and A. G. Turney, as Provincial Horticulturist, during 1910, were exceedingly encouraging.

New Brunswick readers of "The Farmers' Advocate" will find a great deal of helpful information in the papers and discussions at meetings reported in this volume, in relation to fruit culture, dairying and other branches of farm work. In order that people may be put intelligently upon their guard in regard to possible invasions of the Brown-tail moth, a fine, full-page colored engraving of the moth at various stages as it operates upon foliage, is given.

The illustrations constitute an admirable and useful feature of the report, which does the Province credit, and will prove useful in many respects as a work of reference in farm libraries.

Not maximum yields, but maximum profit, is the commercial end of good farming. Big crops are sometimes produced at a loss. It is the long-term average that counts on the balance sheet. It is poor economy to devote fifty dollars' worth of manure, cultivation, seed, etc., to produce forty dollars' worth of wheat or corn. Yet, we have known farmers to win local fame as "good wheat farmers," because they made a practice of growing big wheat crops by bare-fallowing and excessive manuring. A farmer of this species was once boasting of an enormous yield of wheat that he had secured from a certain field. He dealt, of course, in expletives, "the greatest crop ever seen," "hardly room for the shocks to stand," etc., "but," said he, "it ought to be good, for I covered it a foot deep with manure." "Well," said a Scotch Canadian present, "A' think eleven inches is a gey gude dungin'."