

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

... BOOKS ...

....FOR....

FARMERS, STOCKMEN, DAIRYMEN AND FRUIT GROWERS.

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THE FARM LIBRARY.

One very noticeable feature in the home surroundings on most farms is the smallness and incompleteness of the Library. Whether for general reading, whereby the long winter evenings may be robbed of their lonesomeness and emptiness, or for literature more especially bearing on the farmer's work, whereby the working hours on the farm may be informed with an interest and a meaning hitherto unknown, the average country home is ill supplied with books.

The purpose of this bulletin is to point out briefly what advantages, material and otherwise, come from the possession and use of wisely-selected books, how best to use books, and to submit a list, some or all of which it would be well for every Ontario farmer to own.

Since this is addressed principally to farmers, the books to be recommended all treat of agricultural topics. General science and literature are not mentioned, not because the farmer may not be interested in these as well, but because these subjects are beyond the scope of the present bulletin.

The farmer need not be, should not be, merely "The man with the hoe." He may think, and be a better farmer for so doing. He may observe, and commit fewer blunders for so doing. He may theorize, and help himself and others by his speculations. He may read, and if he reads wisely, his thinking and observing and consequently his farming will be improved. In fact the advantage in the wise use of books on Agriculture, as well as on other topics, consists not only in the information obtained; thinking and observing are also excited, and hence a good book introduces into farm life one great essential to making it interesting, namely, the healthful employment of the mind as well as the body.