

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED)

JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

is published every Thursday.
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.

2. **TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.**—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.

3. **ADVERTISING RATES.**—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.

4. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE** is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.

5. **THE LAW IS,** that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

6. **REMITTANCES** should be made direct to us, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.

7. **THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL** shows to what time your subscription is paid.

8. **ANONYMOUS** communications will receive no attention. In every case the FULL NAME and POST-OFFICE ADDRESS MUST BE GIVEN.

9. **WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED** to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

10. **LETTERS** intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

11. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.

12. **WE INVITE FARMERS** to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.

13. **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Enterprise and Favoritism.

"In one of his (Mr. Biggar's) pamphlets, issued in the interests of the trade, he pointed out disastrous conditions existing in English boot-and-shoe factories some years ago, when the keen competition of American makers, with their much-improved machinery-made footwear, led to the closing up of many English works. But mark the results, as told by Mr. Biggar. The Englishmen visited America, studied out the whys of their inability to compete, purchased proper machines, set their wits to work, and opened out their factories, to remain open and flourishing ever since."

This paragraph, quoted from Mr. Campbell's article, headed "Dutiable Wool," illustrates one of the strongest free-trade arguments ever penned. One of the worst effects of favoritism to a person, an industry, or a class is that it undermines self-reliance. When difficulties are encountered, the first impulse is liable to be not to see how one can overcome them by his own efforts, but to see what he can get the Government to do for him. Hence the complaint set up whenever an enterprising foreign competitor offers consumers something they prefer. And the more the Government helps, the longer the favoritism continues, the less self-reliant the beneficiary becomes. Competition is still in a very real sense the life of trade. It matters little whether the competition is domestic or foreign, so long as it is vigorous and free. Brain-rust, lethargy, adherence to antiquated methods, and general indolence and helplessness commonly characterize enterprises protected from effective competition. Business-like people progress when it has to progress in order to "keep its head above water." When the manager does not have to exercise his wits, the business almost invariably settles into a log trot, and then to a sleepy walk, till it becomes, as we may say, an indolent, a barracks upon the coast.

There is no doubt that competition must be maintained in the interests of the consumer, even though temporary inconvenience may be caused. It only works to the benefit of the consumer, and it only works to the benefit of the industry upon which a protective tariff is levied, and the industry, in turn, benefits the consumer and the industry.

stead of constituting a burden upon the community, becomes a valuable national asset.

Or if it cannot meet the competition, it dies, as it usually ought to do, and the capital and labor employed in it are diverted to some line where they can be more advantageously employed.

There are, of course, many other factors bearing on this complex question of free trade versus protection. We cannot discuss the whole subject in a column, but the above phase of it should command more attention than it generally receives.

Elements of Success in Fairs.

A show, whether of Provincial or district proportions, is complex in its composition; its constituency is heterogeneous, making many and diverse demands. Many who attend come only for the races; some would think an exhibition scarce a success without a balloon ascension and a score of like attractions; others would be unsatisfied if there were no side-shows or fakirs. There are a goodly number of attendants, whose number is rapidly increasing each year, who come not so much to laugh and be laughed at as to derive some particular knowledge while at the show. These are to be found studying the rings of live stock, the machinery, the fruits, the grains, the seeds—everything that is educative. All these various types, together with the manufacturers, the advertising agents and the exhibitors, constitute the basis upon which the successful show must be built.

To be successful a fair must pay, not for this year alone, but for a series of many successive years. Probably every essential of a successful fair is implied in that one statement. To pay it must attract the people, must therefore serve its constituency, and so be a true factor in the upbuilding of its community. The fair must be centrally and conveniently located. The management must understand its people, not simply to cater to them, but rather to know wherein they need upbuilding. The directors must be capable of directing that educative policy of their fair. This does not mean to entirely abolish the amusing features; for to many pleasure and business are at this time combined, and many attractions and amusements are instructive. But it does mean the discriminative selection of such features and the abandonment of that policy which admits every applicant for privileges, providing he pays his license fee. Amusements and attractions may and should be clean, wholesome and educative. If they are not, they make for the ultimate failure of that show.

Further, that a fair pays there must be a fair, not the appearance of a few animals or implements in the rings simply to claim the prize money, without merit or competitors. This large competition is obtained by a liberal prize list, which carries numerous prizes. If six prizes instead of three are offered, an exhibitor's chances of winning are doubled; this will induce many more competitors to appear, which in turn interests very many more people, thus making a greater attendance. This influence is vast and cumulative. If attractions are necessary, and perhaps they are, many times more so are exhibits, and they are gotten like attractions, by paying for them.

Next in importance to a full exhibit is a competent judiciary. Local talent usually receives small thanks for services faithfully rendered; good judges may exist locally, but it is preferable to employ them. Outside talent is difficult to get so impartial and usually satisfactory. But it must be capable, otherwise much of the education sought is perverted.

With a central location, a direction in management, clean attractions, a full competition, capable honorable judges, and fair weather, a successful event should be fairly assured.

Something Being Done.

Few country people live up to their privileges. Still fewer make an honest effort to make the best of their surroundings. Loss of every sort is the inevitable result of this unhappy combination of lack of appreciation and inaction.

To be specific, it is often claimed that country life, as compared with city life, is dull, uninteresting, and conservative to the point of being unprogressive. Now, it is undoubtedly true that the grim necessity that drives the city dweller relieves his days of monotony. To be in the lead in church or business, or social life, in city or town, renders it essential for one to devise some new thing almost every day. The aggregate efforts of those who in the city are really making progress presents an aspect of life that is anything but dead-level in appearance or in reality.

But, on the other hand, if country people find country life dull, the fault is in themselves, rather than in the country. To the country man whose faculties are alert to what is going on around him, there can be no dullness. At the same time, when we say this, we must admit that many country people seem to have allowed themselves to lose their powers of noting, appreciating, and finding delight in the treasure-house of marvels and delights in which our lot is cast. Our chief interest in soil and plant and animal is the commercial one. Even in cases in which some housewife finds pleasure in the appealing tenderness of flowers, her husband is too likely to grumble about all effort expended on their care as "not paying." Birds are sorely begrudged their titance of fruit, while ornamental trees or shrubs or flowers are regarded by some as simply hindrances that must be removed as speedily as possible.

Now, while it is a fact that Canadian farmers must bend, for many a day to come, a great part of their energies to money making, they will be unworthy of their inheritance, and they will in the end prove unequal to their opportunities, even in a strictly commercial sense of the word, if they make money getting the end-all and the be-all of their existence. Only that life may be regarded as complete which takes into account all phases of the human spirit; and only the man or woman who tries to attain this completeness of life and activity may hope for happiness.

That our country people are awakening to the value of a richer life, is evidenced by the increased interest that is being taken in our schools in elementary agriculture, the object of which is familiarizing the children with the laws that govern the warm, living realities around them. A second proof of this awakening may be cited in the work done by one of our young people's organizations. These young people have arranged for a series of nature-study meetings, at which such subjects as "Plant Life," "Bird Life," "Weather," "Bacteria," etc., are discussed. It is not to be expected that these young people should handle their subjects with the precision of experts, though the best leaders procurable are being secured to suggest and to lead in the discussions. Nor will the amount of knowledge acquired at these meetings be a matter of first importance. But what cannot help proving valuable will be the fact that those taking an interest in these studies will have their eyes open a little wider upon the great, interesting world they live in. All around us there is a freshness and loveliness and vigor of life with which we are familiar in only the faintest and most external manner, to our infinite loss in solid pleasure. The only way to correct this mistake and to recover this loss is for us to do as these young people are doing—to study, under the best scientific direction available, to know as fully as we can the objects with which we are at present only partially familiar. By so doing, we will make the discovery that even the meanest flower will stir our natures to depths of thought, and afford us a pleasure to be had in no other way.

Already two of these topics have been discussed. To the amazement and delight of those who had the work in hand, "Bacteria" proved to be a subject of fascinating interest. Scarcely any realized the work done by these wonderful little organisms in promoting plant and animal life. In fact, it was a discovery to most to learn that not a plant or an animal or a man returns to his kindred dust in the ordinary process of dissolution without the agency of these wonderful beings. The discovery of these creatures revolutionized, surging and sanitation. A proper understanding of their varied forms and activities bids fair to revolutionize farming. All this, this group of nature studies, is achieved with all the charm of a game.

Another subject that has been accomplished, but which has not been done to rouse interest, by bringing it into the homes of some of the fruits of science, is the study of the weather, and by encouraging all to study it, to know it, and to adapt the scientific knowledge to the life and labor that has to do with it. It is hoped that in other departments the same results will be achieved.