

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED"

ESTABLISHED 1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1911.

VOL. XL.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., OCTOBER 19, 1905.

No. 682

EDITORIAL.

Let Us Give Thanks.

It is well that we should be reminded occasionally to consider the things for which we ought to be thankful. Too readily we dwell on reasons for grumbling, and being so largely creatures of one idea at a time, we are very apt to overlook the other, the brighter and bigger side. That there are some things to complain of who can deny? Are we to be grateful that automobile demons make driving on our own roads dangerous, so that women forego the pleasure and privilege rather than run the risk? Can thanksgiving be offered that in the change of date for Thanksgiving Day the interests of farmers were completely ignored? Is it cause for rejoicing that our legislators have demeaned themselves in the affair of the salary grab, or that our public expenditure is increasing so much more rapidly than our ability to pay? No, we get savage, instead, when we reflect upon such things, and in the heat of our feelings forget that we ourselves are largely responsible by our selfish indifference and lack of public spirit for the conditions of which we complain, and forget, also, the good things which bulk so much more largely in our surroundings.

What a splendid season this has been! Scarcely a failure in anything. Take it all round, it is doubtful if ever the Canadian farmer had a better. In both the older and newer Provinces grain crops are good. Scarcely up to expectations in Ontario, perhaps, but then these expectations were at one period in the season raised exceedingly high; the actual yield is very satisfactory. The great dairy industry, which has grown to such proportions, and which is so important a wealth producer for the farmer, has had a booming season. Prices for cheese have ruled unusually high throughout the whole season, and this, with the steady strong price of hogs, has made the year one to be remembered by factory people. The fodder crops—corn, roots and hay—are all good, corn, which for the past two seasons has been rather light, particularly so in most districts. It may be doubted whether prosperity is an unmixed blessing, but it is certainly a blessing for which we hope and labor, and when labor is so abundantly rewarded as it has been in the season now closing, the thankful spirit should prevail. Dependent as we are on things beyond our control, a grateful mind becomes us, even though crops fail and reverses come. A Scotchman whose tongue proclaimed his origin, asked an Irishman where he came from. "I was born in Ireland, thank God," came the prompt answer. "Aye," said the Scotchman, dryly, "it's right to be thankful for sma' mercies." And while the retort was sarcastic and conceited, it expressed a truth we too often forget. For even what may seem to be small mercies thanks should be given. This year, when plenty abounds, when mercies are not small, but great indeed, our thankfulness should be in proportion.

In this land, where fine weather is the rule, it has been so very fine of late as to occasion general remark. The daily papers comment upon it, and appreciative words concerning it are heard in every salutation. One man well expressed the general feeling when, in answer to something said about the fine weather, he replied, "Splendid; it has been a grand summer all through." And so it has. With the exception of a very few uncomfortably hot days, how enjoyable the summer has been! But when October

is fine, as it has been, when the sunlight is mellowed by the haze, and the forest trees are a glory of color; when the air is pleasantly warm, and at the same time delightfully cool, all other seasons seem outdone. It is a delight merely to be alive and outdoors.

That brings us to the thought that Canada is a good place—a country of which we may well be proud, and for which we ought to be thankful. Peopled as it was by U. E. Loyalists who gave up home and comforts rather than join in what they thought was wrong, and by emigrants from Britain, France and Germany, all of sturdy adventurous liberty-loving stock, we have a noble ancestry, who have left us a heritage of high ideals, and won for us free institutions, as well as converting forest and buffalo-trodden prairie into fruitful fields. At this thanksgiving time let us remember gratefully our noble parentage, who gave to Canada such a splendid start.

Some will demur slightly when we say our country possesses a splendid climate. Too cold in winter, they will say. Let us remember that the rigor of winter induces vigor of both mind and body. Energy, industry, prosperity and long life characterize northern peoples, who have always been superior to those living in the south. We doubt if anywhere else in the world can there be found a larger proportion who live to be over ninety years of age than in Canada.

Mention need scarcely be made of the resources of our country. The air is vibrant with the spring of growth in agriculture, in manufacture, in trade, and in the discovery and development of mineral wealth. Our vast northern regions, where unsuited to agriculture, may yet prove to be the richest mining country in the world.

Famine and pestilence, the dread and scourge of peoples, are unknown to us except by name. The fact that three times a day year in and year out our meals have awaited us in commonplace because of its unbroken continuance, but will bear thinking over. No bare, stunted meals have they been, either, but abundant, wholesome, satisfying, and usually partaken of with healthy appetites. And it should not be a matter of indifference to us that diseases such as yellow fever, bubonic plague and cholera, which sweep across some countries like a fire, never reach our borders.

Comfortable homes stud thickly our country roads, along which our children go unmolested to school, bare-footed and happy in summer, rosy-cheeked and full of life in winter. Churches dot the landscape, where each after his manner may have his thoughts directed to Him who in ages past prepared this land for human habitation, and who watches over it still, "giving us rain and fruitful seasons, and filling our hearts with good and gladness."

A Visitor From Australia.

Mr. J. S. Larke, Canada's efficient Commercial Agent in the great Australian Commonwealth for ten years past, is about to return to that quarter of the British Empire, after the summer's sojourn in the Dominion, where he has been conferring with the Government and the representatives of various commercial interests. Climatic and other Antipodean conditions have agreed with Mr. Larke, who has lost none of his old-time vivacity and vigor. He tells the "Farmer's Advocate" that he is forcibly impressed with the striking change in the spirit of Canada now, compared with when he left its shores ten years ago. The spirit of advancement in Australia is not so apparent as here. He doubts if the population has increased

5,000 in the ten years, and capital is not flowing there as it is doing into Canada. The Commonwealth is progressing, but the changes are slower. The home market is not developing rapidly. Great Britain is its market for agricultural products, but the greater distance and cost of transportation from there give Canada a decided vantage ground. The agricultural possibilities of Australia are very great, but are in process of slow evolution. The pastoral idea and immense holdings of land still dominate. The Canadian does not think of Australia as a great wheat-raising country. Manitoba and the West fills the eye—but still, in 1904, the Commonwealth shipped \$30,000,000, while in that year Canada only exported some \$13,500,000 worth. And then, remember," said Mr. Larke, "the value of their wheat exports was only one-fifth of that of the wool exports. A few years ago the sheep population of New South Wales alone was some 61,000,000, but since then, owing to drouth, it has fallen off heavily, but the stocks are now being slowly replenished. Merino is the great foundation sheep stock of Australia, but many cross-breeds are now reared where mutton is the object in view. Butter dairying is being steadily and intelligently developed with rigid Governmental inspection from start to finish. Trade with Canada in manufactures and other products is growing, the two great needs for a still more rapid growth being cheaper transportation and mercantile corporations to reduce the cost of handling various lines of goods. Australia is face to face with serious industrial problems, the idea of the extension of Government ownership and operation of public utilities having taken hold of the minds of a very large element in the population, but the problem is not yet worked out. Mr. Larke, in conclusion, expressed no apprehension as to Australia being a serious immediate competitor with Canada in her mixed-farming products, although Australian agriculture will no doubt now tend steadily in that direction.

The Embargo Agitation.

The pronouncement recently issued by the British Board of Agriculture, and the comments of leading British agricultural journals like the Scottish Farmer and the Live-stock Journal, ought to make it tolerably clear to the politicians and political papers in Canada that have been harping upon the subject that in the so-called "Embargo" there is no discrimination against Canada, as compared with other countries. The Act applies to all countries alike, and is designed to protect the live stock of the Old Country from the possibility of invasion of disease from all quarters, whether it be Canada, the United States, the Argentine, Australia, European countries, or anywhere else. That there is a degree of fiscal protection afforded by this measure no one can deny, and it is also clear that the Imperial Parliament is not disposed to disturb the Irish situation by meddling with it, for a large industry in the production of high-class feeding cattle has developed under it in that island. Now, Great Britain and Ireland, in this matter, are acting, as they believe, in their own interests upon constitutional rights, with the same freedom which Canada, as a self-governing portion of the Empire, insists upon exercising in fiscal and other matters. It is quite possible that the removal of this embargo would stimulate the price of feeding cattle temporarily, at least, by promoting their export to Great Britain, but in the long run the chief beneficiaries would be the shipping interests and