

pared to receive applications, and is in a position to supply a large amount of help the coming season.

It is reported that the Dominion Immigration Department is engaged in similar work, and is distributing men to Ontario farmers largely through local agents in the counties. While farmers will, no doubt, welcome any and every agency that will help to relieve the farm help scarcity, it is just a question whether too many Government agencies in the field may not lead to confusion. A combination or a co-operation of effort, as between the Provincial and the Dominion authorities in this respect might be advisable. If the work can be better done through the Immigration Department at Ottawa, let it be done there, or if the Provincial Department can handle it better, let the men be distributed through its agencies. It does not matter which, so long as the work is well done, and the farmer is assured of an adequate help supply. With both covering the same field the men sent out cannot be so well controlled, and the farmer who persists in abusing and ill-treating his men cannot be as well disciplined. The Dominion and Provincial authorities might well get together in this matter and discuss ways and means of working in union.

#### A New Move in Agricultural Education

Although not definitely announced yet, it is understood that the Ontario Government will at the present session bring down a measure inaugurating an important experiment in the teaching of agriculture. The scheme is said to embody the co-operation of the trustees of county high schools, the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture. It provides a grant for each high school that will establish as one of its regular classes a class in agriculture, and will agree to support a teacher recommended by the Agricultural Department. The plan provides for plots adjacent to the schools, which will be used for actual and practical experiments, the material for which will be supplied by the Ontario Agricultural College. The teachers to be selected for this work will be men who have taken high standing at the Ontario Agricultural College, and are qualified in other ways for the work. Several such graduates are now available for such work, and it is proposed to begin in four or five schools as soon as possible by way of experiment. The time of the teachers when not wholly taken up with this work will be available for assisting or encouraging agricultural or nature study in the rural schools.

While it is, perhaps, too early to comment on this proposed legislation, the general outline, as stated above,

gives promise of something more aggressive and advanced in the way of agricultural education, than anything we have yet had in this country. Agricultural education to be effective and lasting, should begin in the rural school, but the average rural school teacher has neither been trained nor educated to teach it effectively. This new proposition is evidently intended to provide for this deficiency. We shall, however, be able to discuss the scheme more fully and intelligently when the measure is brought down in the Legislature.

#### Keeping Farm Accounts

To keep a set of books showing all the operations of each department of farm work would undoubtedly be a splendid acquisition for any farmer. Because of its supposed value a great many journals find it into the farmer in season and out of season, suggesting lack of business ability, indifference to business methods, and so on. We wonder whether any of these ready writers ever lived and worked on a farm or know any of the conditions surrounding the farmer's life. If they have, they should know that it is not indifference to its value which prevents its acceptance, but it is that life on the farm is too strenuous. At some seasons it is a physical impossibility to pay any attention to bookkeeping of the sort advocated by some. The result is such work so accumulates that it would take days of steady application to catch it up again. These are not to be had except in winter, and where live stock is a principal feature it is found difficult to accomplish much even in that season. Experience has proven in many cases that to keep the books posted and up to date is to make many a farmer a slave without opportunity for anything but work. Work outside and when daylight is gone work inside. All this is a weariness to the flesh and few men on an average sized farm will keep it up long. Simple accounts are kept by many of our brightest and best farmers, but they relate more to cash transactions and not much to a system calculated to show the cost of certain crops, profits obtained, etc. Some prominent men transfer their money to the bank, keep account of their receipts and show by the stub of the cheque book in connection with the bank book itself the payments out. Thus ends their bookkeeping, yet they prosper and add to their lands as opportunity may offer.

Keeping farm accounts will not add to the yield of any field on the farm. It does not increase the revenue except indirectly, but it does reveal the weak spots in some cases which no doubt the wise farmer has already more than guessed at. Our view is that correct farm bookkeeping is an ideal not easily reached by the ordinary man, but when properly realized becomes a great satisfaction and often shows the way towards improvement. Success, however, can and has been attained without it

and we object to the steady scolding on this subject handed out regularly by those entirely without experience of the surrounding circumstances. A simple system of keeping farm accounts adapted to the needs of the every-day farmer would undoubtedly be of value, but some of the elaborate systems advocated would be worse than useless.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

Get ready for spring. The warm breezes and the growing time will soon be upon us.

The agricultural implement men are asking for an amendment to the Division Court Act, so as to have trials of Division Court actions on promissory notes made at places to suit the implement makers. The law at present calls for all such trials to be made at the signer's place of residence. While such a change would, perhaps, effect but few, as most farmers will not let such notes go to court, there is a chance of it working a hardship on the farmer in some cases.

A word of praise where praise is due. The executive of the Ontario Horse Breeders' Association, who piloted the recent show through so successfully, making a big event, well attended, well patronized, and paying, or nearly paying, its own expenses, have made a bid for public confidence and esteem that should not be forgotten. That this is the case is directly due to their business ability, and thorough competency in the handling of big public events such as this.

The severe winter of the West has told heavily in the swine business. Losses necessarily were very great, especially in young pigs. In the case of cattle, the severe losses in the far west will certainly make a comparative shortage. If, as has been prognosticated by more than one of the prophets, it will mean the breaking up of the ranching business, then the much derided "cow-hospital" will become a little bit more fashionable, with added popularity for a little Shorthorn or even dairy blood, and the catastrophe may not be without its benefits to the country.

#### Most Northerly Grown Wheat

That wheat can be grown farther north than many people realize is shown by the report of Mr. J. S. Lawrence, a farmer living at Peace River Crossing, a point 283 miles from Vermilion, Sask., and who arrived at the latter point a few days ago with a sample of No. 1 Northern wheat grown on his farm, which grain dealers say cannot be beaten. Mr. Lawrence travelled some three hundred miles in a dog sled for his year's supplies.

What books are you reading these days, or are you reading any? The man or woman, boy or girl, of the twentieth century has a wonderfully rich heritage in the literature that the centuries have laid to his or her hand. Surely it ought not to go neglected. And the best that there is none too good.