

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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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.
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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.
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the people of a nation to extend their commerce on broad lines. A village is a better market than a single family, with its irregular and whimsical demands; a county is better than a township, a province than a county, a nation than a province, a continent than a nation, and the whole world is better than any restricted number of nations. The whole is greater than its part. The wider the zone of reciprocal free trade, the better for producer and consumer, both.

Planting the First Tree.

"I am going to plant six acres of hardwood trees this spring," writes a correspondent. "Do you think I could get Mr. Sifton, of the Conservation Commission, the Minister of Agriculture, or Dean Fernow, to plant the first tree? If I dared, I would invite a bishop to do it." We suspect that our correspondent is joking, but his joke has the root of the matter in it. The man who plants trees is performing a public service, as well as engaging in a private enterprise. A plot of perfect woodland, with its native beauty, wild flowers and specimens of wild life, is of as much use to a civilized community as a public library. It is a gallery of nature's masterpieces and a storehouse of useful knowledge. To the lover of beauty and the student of nature, it is a priceless boon. On the other hand, it is a good investment for the farmer who plants and cares for it, and a permanent asset to the whole community. The thriving wood-lots help to regulate the flow of streams and maintain the balance of nature. Our forefathers of blessed memory did not understand this, and in their rage to clear the land for the plow they cleared many areas that should have been left in their native state. To borrow a couple of expressive country phrases, they cleared stretches of drifting sand "that not even a mortgage can keep within the line fences," and land that is so hilly "that a squirrel can't cross it without wearing breechings." This land is now useless, and, as the Department of Agriculture is willing to supply enough trees to plant two acres each year, there is no excuse for hav-

ing it lying waste. We are learning to give much well-deserved praise to the pioneers who cleared the land, but the day may come when people will give more praise to the pioneers of re-planting. The citizen of the future will certainly take more pride in pointing to a fine wood-lot, and saying, "My grandfather planted that," than we can in pointing to a waste and saying, "My grandfather cleared it." The man who plants trees in Ontario to-day is not only doing a good work, and providing wisely for future generations, but he is building for himself a monument more enduring than brass. Our public men should give the work every encouragement. To plant the first tree in what is to be a permanent wood-lot is surely as honorable an act as laying the corner-stone of a new jail or turning the first sod for the construction of a jerkwater railway. Our correspondent might do worse than to send his invitation in all seriousness to Mr. Sifton, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Duff, or Dean Fernow. None of these gentlemen could be better employed than in giving this kind of encouragement to such a work as he has in hand.

Agriculture the Corner Stone.

Some Canadian newspapers are quoting from an article in "Farm Machinery," a journal published at St. Louis, Mo., a few paragraphs to the effect that manufacturers in Moline—in all the tri-State cities, in fact—had waited with a flutter of anticipation for the presentation to the public of the Canadian reciprocity agreement. It was immediately brought to their attention, owing to the fact that a good part of these cities' implement output goes to Canadian Provinces.

"They had arrived at the place where they knew there must be expansion, in order to handle the growing Canadian trade, and THEY WANTED TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE NEW TARIFF WOULD NECESSITATE BRANCH PLANTS IN CANADA, OR ENLARGEMENT OF THE HOME PLANTS HERE. . . . It is safe to say that the new Canadian-American tariff agreement, as proposed, will be pleasing to Moline. The opinion is that the lower duty on implements into Canada will mean an increase in business, with resultant benefit to the tri-cities, and discard of the embryo plans for branch establishments across the northern border line."

If a twenty-per-cent. duty on implements is necessary to bring those Moline factories to Canada, we had better let them stay in Moline. Every time an American firm ships a thousand dollars' worth of machinery into Canada, paying a twenty-per-cent. duty, two hundred dollars is paid into the Dominion treasury in the form of public taxes. Attract that industry to Canada, and it will in all probability continue to charge the same price to consumers, but, instead of any part of it going to the Federal exchequer, that \$200 goes as an excessive profit to the new factory, or, worse yet, is sunk into the morass of economic waste, or, more probably still, is partly excess profit and partly waste. Canadian agriculture is helping to support enough non-self-supporting industries. We have no objection to making some sacrifice for the sake of establishing in the country large industries that promise soon to be able to stand on their own feet, but any business that needs a protection of 17½ or 20 per cent. had better be allowed to do business elsewhere, until conditions become more favorable to it. Industries, like experience, are a good thing if they don't cost too much; but an increasing number of consumers are becoming averse to paying high duties to establish industries for which the country is not ready.

It is a great mistake, anyway, to assume that we could have little or no manufacturing in Canada without a protective tariff. The manufacture of cream separators in this country has grown tremendously, notwithstanding that cream separators are on the free list, while the making of them is handicapped by the abnormal cost of manufacture that must necessarily obtain in a protectionist country. Under conditions of freer imports, with lowered cost of labor and supplies, those lines of manufacturing for which Canada is naturally best adapted would grow rapidly. Many of them would, no doubt, find it more profitable to manufacture in Canada than across the line. One of the reasons assigned by Elbert Hubbard for the Oliver Plow Works establishing a plant at Hamilton was that they could

thence cater more advantageously to foreign trade, partly because the high-tariff policy of the United States had been met with reprisals by foreign countries, and also because the United States had no important merchant marine; thanks, again, very largely to its high-tariff policy. It is reassuring to note that the announcement of reciprocity has caused no change in the plans of the Oliver Plow Works for building at Hamilton.

And not only will the lowered cost of living and supplies directly benefit manufacturing industries in Canada, but the development of our foundation industry, agriculture, will expand the home market of the Canadian manufacturer, thus making conditions even more favorable for a complex industrial development, without artificial aid.

We hear much about the effect of tariffs in bringing capital into the country. Instances like the Oliver Plow Works show how a high-tariff policy, inducing retaliation by foreign countries, drives capital out. Furthermore, we again beg leave to draw attention to the fact that, while something like \$170,000,000 of American capital were said to have been invested in Canadian manufacturing plants in a ten-year period recently passed, American settlers are estimated to have brought \$100,000,000 into the country in a single year. The fastest way to bring capital into Canada is to make agriculture prosperous. Give the foundation industry a chance to develop freely, and other industries, finding conditions favorable, will flock in, with little or no further encouragement. The way to build a large factory is to lay a deep, wide, solid foundation. The chief corner-stone of Canadian industry is agriculture.

Rural Life Reviving.

"A Brighter Look at the Country Churches," is the appropriate title of an optimistic article in "The Continent," of Chicago (a continuance of "The Interior" and "The Westminster"), which by the way, is vindicating its adoption of the broader name by its unshackled and reinvigorated policies in religious journalism. Looking over the American field, the writer notes the springing up of new and beautiful churches in place of the old, and here and there the formation of new ones where formerly none existed. And surrounding them are prosperous farming communities, for they seem to go hand in hand with a reviving agriculture and a renewed appreciation of country life. An auto tour of many miles, observes this writer, will reveal one rural church after another showing unmistakable signs of prosperity. "So the country church is doing well, and is on the road to better things. The people are again taking pride in the 'city set on a hill,' and the religious, social and intellectual light streaming from these beautiful little edifices is again illuminating the rural homes, and making the country a good place in which to live. The country has always supplied the city with its best blood and brains, and it would be a sorry day if the churches fell into decay, as they once threatened to do. But the crisis is past, and the country is coming to its own again."

The country church and the country minister have a large place to play in making the life of the nation, and one of these days some of the younger men, whose yearning ears are said to be so often to the ground, hearkening for a "call" to a city pastorate, with its multifarious distractions and undreamed-of burdens, will re-awaken to the greater possibilities and opportunities latent in the rural lives and conditions about them. The task of pulpit-ministry to the rural congregation is not always simple. Including persons who have more time for reading and reflection, they require a higher grade of discourse than a group of town business people; and yet, the great majority being usually alert, young people, sermons need be illustrative and adapted to this habit of thought. Sermons may be profound, without being prosy, awakening without pulpit-pounding, and bright without being juvenile. Furthermore, the rural minister strengthens his hold for good who keeps abreast of agricultural thought, acquainted with the processes and operations of the farm, and manifesting a genuine appreciation of the importance of farming and the farm home.