

The Problem of the Indifferent Farmer

"In the Province of Ontario we have 175,000 farms, the annual production of which totals about \$350,000,000. If by some magic process of regeneration we could turn all the indifferent farmers into wide-awake progressive, up-to-date farmers, the total production would easily be doubled and it is not beyond the reach of possibility to treble our output."

These were the words of Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, in an address before the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, held in Washington, D.C., last week. Other prominent Canadians at the meeting were: G. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Institutions for Ontario, who has been president of the International Association for the past year; Dr. G. C. Creelman, President of the O.A.C., and W. J. Black, President of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

Mr. James' speech was an eloquent effort to bring the attention of the resident of the city and the town, to the banker and the business and professional man, the fact that whatever helps the farmer to larger production and larger life necessarily contributes to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community.

A GREAT PROBLEM

"The possibility," said Mr. James, "of adding two or three hundred million dollars yearly to our rural income surely makes this a big problem. Let me ask right here: Is there any other problem on the American continent that comes into the same class with it? You gentlemen who are engaged in this field know how it is to be worked out. You know the foundation courses upon which this great wealth may be built. These courses are plain and simple: (1) Drain the soil; (2) sow only the best seed; (3) carefully protect and store the products of your fields or orchards; (4) feed these products only to profitable stock; (5) put the finished product on the market in the best form."

"If we could in some way bring the indifferent farmer to the knowledge of these five plain, convincing lines of work, we would have solved the problem—all else would come easily as a natural sequence. And what a solving of other problems there would be! A man in our Province who has been a failure for many years said to me the other day: 'Push the drainage of land; spend money on it. If you can get all the farmers to drain their land you will solve the problem of good roads, for they will have money enough to build them for themselves. Increase the incomes of the individual farmers and we will have the means at our disposal to develop the public school system along rational lines. And so we might enlarge upon this question along many lines."

EASIER TO BUILD DREAMDROUGHTS

"All this line of development looks to be so simple, and therein is one of the greatest difficulties—it is its simplicity that makes it so difficult. It is easier to build a Dreamdrought than an agricultural college. We can accuse the interest of two continents in solving the problem of aerial navigation, but it is difficult to get the people to support the proposition of spending money freely in teaching the indifferent farmer how to drain his land, why he should use only the best seeds, why he should test his dairy cows, why and how we should spray his apple trees, and how, in short he can increase his income by \$1,000 a year."

"Now we are to solve the problem of the indifferent public. If the development of our agriculture means the greatest wealth creation within

the nation and if the stirring of the indifferent farmer to better things is the key to the situation, why do not our people—manufacturers, bankers, professional men, business men, and intelligent farmers—rise in a mass and demand that this work be undertaken and carried through? There are at least two reasons: In the first place, there is a too prevalent opinion that work done among and for the farmers is a charitable contribution to a class that should be able to take care of themselves. What a woeful misconception of this movement! Helping the farmers to larger production and to larger life can be justified only on the ground that thereby we are contributing to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community.

A town of 5,000 people is surrounded by a farming community. Through the agricultural uplift \$1,000,000 could easily be added to the annual production of the surrounding and contributing country. It is conceivable that such an addition could be made without touching or affecting every banker, every manufacturer, every storekeeper, every doctor, every lawyer, every newspaper owner in the town!"

What was needed, Mr. James continued was that the subject should be taken out of the country and discussed in the city, by Boards of Trade, Bankers' Associations, Retail Merchants' Associations, Teachers' Conventions. People should be brought to realize that it was not local, but national; not charity, but an investment of public funds that would yield big returns to the whole people. It should have the attention of men who have built big industries, planned great enterprises.

Pointers about Swine

Skilful feeding has much to do in rearing the best pigs. No other animal on the farm shows neglect quicker than a pig.

Be sure that the breeding sows are not getting too fat, or too thin.

The pig is so sensitive to the cold that it will completely bury itself in the bedding to keep warm if the shelter is inadequate.

No other farm animal is given such poor quarters as the pig. Still none will give better returns for good care and treatment than this same pig.

Keep the pigs growing constantly. The best results will be obtained by feeding a little under their capacity, rather than all they can consume.

Sows may be kept from eating their pigs by giving them a great variety of food for two months or more before the pigs come along. It should include some animal food and plenty of salt.

The secret of feeding pigs is to know how much and enough without feeding too much.

To fatten pigs profitably, the individuals selected for feeding should be good ones. There is a vast difference in pigs in fattening proportion of bone, weight, and so forth. There are several good breeds of pigs having similar degrees of aptitude for fattening. These breeds have been so distributed over the country that any farmer who is willing to make the effort may have only improved animals in his pens. Not to do so is exceedingly stupid.

The man who pig receive nothing but kicks and blows will never succeed in the pig-raising business. The man who is not on the best of terms with his sows will lose many litters of pigs, to get out of the way whenever he comes near to feed or care for her and in her tramping and worrying some of the little fellows will be sure to get hurt. Sows with pigs too young to get out of the way should be kept as quiet as possible. This can never be if she distrusts her attendant.



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