

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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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, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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judicious co-operation with those who supply the cream, there is no reason why the quality of creamery butter from gathered cream should not be of superior quality.

Tile Drainage and Corn-growing.

To extend the area and increase the yield per acre of well-matured corn, is an achievement of first-rate importance to the Canadian farmer. To this end, the Ontario Corn-growers' Association will devote all its energies and all the resources at its command. These objects it will aim to accomplish directly by the improvement of seed of the best-adapted varieties, and by improved methods of cultivation. But the more the subject is considered, the more clearly does it become apparent that President J. O. Duke was getting down to fundamentals in classing drainage as a foremost prerequisite in the process of highly-successful corn-growing. Early maturity is the problem of problems which it is confidently believed that drainage will help to solve. Climatic reasons frequently restrict the length of our corn-maturing season, but the advent of the tile, wherever sufficient fall can be secured, will lengthen it, and reduce the labor consequent upon any system of surface drainage. To the busy corn-grower, time means money. It is probably well within the mark to say that land well underdrained can be worked satisfactorily from a week to ten days earlier than fields not thus relieved of their saturation of water. That length of time added to the corn season frequently means easily the difference between failure and success in securing a properly-matured crop of ears and fodder. An underdrained field, too, can be sooner cultivated after heavy summer rains, and does not suffer to the same extent from the incidental filling of furrows and watercourses in the process of intertillage. As a rule, the early planted crop is the best crop. More frequent tillage, earlier cultivation and more effective weed-killing are made possible; and it is probable that, in a well-drained district, the effects of occasional early frost will be very greatly reduced. Trouble

from flooding by heavy summer rains is also avoided in large measure. Through the aeration and warming of the well-drained soil, the more rapid growth of the corn plant will be promoted, and this means more speedy growth, ahead of autumn frosts, and readiness for the harvester, the silo and the corn crib. Corn will not stand cold, wet feet, and, by planting even good seed of an early-maturing variety under such conditions, is to defeat the objects which the grower has in view. The splendid and necessary educational campaign of the Corn Association, with its judging schools, exhibitions, and corn clubs or institutes, will doubtless include drainage as one of its main doctrines.

A Demonstration Orchard.

Faith backed up by works is the faith that carries strongest conviction to the doubting mind. For so many years, "The Farmer's Advocate" has been preaching the gospel of better orchard practice, that reiteration has grown tiresome, yet to-day, thanks to a combination of circumstances, into which we need not enter here, the apple trees of Ontario are, with the exception of a few orchards and a few localities, disgracefully neglected, the owners having long since lapsed into a chronic state of apathy and inertia. One of the worst districts in this regard is the fertile and otherwise progressive County of Middlesex, which A. E. Sherrington declined to represent in the councils of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association, declaring it a "dead county."

With a view to demonstrating by a practical example the results that can be produced and profits made from an apple orchard in Western Ontario, by means of up-to-date orchard practice, the publishers of "The Farmer's Advocate" this spring leased for a period of three years, a three-acre apple orchard, consisting of standard winter varieties, twenty-two years planted, near the village of Lambeth, Middlesex Co., Ontario, between six and seven miles from London. This orchard is being pruned, sprayed, plowed, and will be thoroughly cultivated until some time in July, when it will probably be seeded to a cover crop, to be plowed under the following spring. No crop but apples will be harvested from the land. The orchard will be manured next year, and, incidentally, a small fertilizer experiment is being conducted with material supplied by the Dominion Agricultural Offices of the Potash Syndicate. Accurate account, is being kept of every item of expenditure, liberal wages paid for doing the work, and, at the balancing of the books, a fair and full statement of expenditures, income, and profit or loss, will be published in "The Farmer's Advocate." While operations are necessarily conducted at a disadvantage, as compared with the farmer who has the orchard on his own farm, and can do the work himself at his convenience, it is hoped to show a fair profit. In any case, a candid statement of results will be made public, and if our readers are interested in the experiment, and derive a degree of instruction therefrom, we will feel liberally repaid for any effort and expenditure put forth.

Trusts and Combines Under Protection.

The very word "combine" has come to have a sinister meaning. We at once think of an immense organization controlling a certain line of production, conscienceless and brutal, "without a body to be pricked or a soul to be damned," using its remorseless power to crush weaker rivals out of existence, to oppress its own employees, and to pillage the general public. And, looking at the matter in the light of what revelations have been made of their methods of operation in this and other countries, we must calmly acknowledge that this view, extreme though it may appear, is not more so than facts would warrant. And yet it would be untrue to say that all combines are of this class. I am a firm believer in the utility of combinations. Very often a group of men engaged in any industry can combine, co-operate—call it what you will—to their mutual advantage, and the advantage of the general public. They can introduce cheaper methods of production and marketing, can do away with wasteful competition, can buy to better advantage, and many other things advantageous to themselves, their workmen, and the consuming public. But when a combine uses its power to restrict production, to crush rivalry, and to fix the prices of

its product, it becomes a robber organization, and worthy of our strongest censure.

It is worth noting that a long-continued policy of protection, particularly in a young country, is almost certain to result in the formation of combines of the last-named class. Protection is at first designed to help "infant industries," industries which are not yet firmly established, but which it is intended shall finally grow beyond the need of protection. They, of course, do not begin to supply the wants of the home market; and so, as we pointed out in a previous article, experience at once the full effect of the protective tariff in a rise in the price of their product. This at once stimulates production, new establishments spring up, and the business prospers. But soon comes a time when the home market is supplied, or nearly so. If the industry continues to grow, prices must soon be fixed by that received for the exported surplus—in other words, the world price—less by the rate of duty than the protected price. This must mean reduced profits for those engaged in the business. In order to avoid this, a combine is formed, and one of two lines of policy is adopted, either: (1) Production is restricted to less than the needs of the home market, that the tariff-enhanced price may still be enjoyed, and a policy of destructive competition is carried out against rivals that may refuse to come into the combine, and against new establishments that may threaten to increase the total output; (2) two prices may be fixed, one for home consumption, at the old protected rate, and one for export at the world-price. This does not necessarily stop the growth of the business, as the first method does. A modification is found when the establishments enrolled in a combine agree to pay out of their profits a bonus on the exported output of such a number of establishments as will leave the home market undersupplied by the rest. There is every evidence that all these methods are in use by combines in Canada at the present time.

In February last a deputation from the Dominion Grange waited on the Dominion Government, pointing out that there was every indication of the existence of combines formed to restrain trade, and asking that some action be taken in the matter. The deputation consisted of James McEwing, M. P. P.; H. J. Pettipiece, ex-M. P. P., and the writer. With us we had J. W. Currie, K. C., formerly Crown Attorney in Toronto, and of large experience in the investigation of illegal combines; and J. W. Woods, of the Gordon Mackay Co., a merchant and manufacturer, able to speak with authority. The evidence which these gentlemen were able to furnish was truly astounding. Quoting from the report of the proceedings of that deputation, we find it stated that, "Evidence collected in Toronto by J. W. Currie, K. C., when that gentleman was Crown Attorney, indicated that there were then well on to a hundred trade combinations in Ontario, and that these were collecting, in the aggregate, millions of dollars a year in the form of unfair profits." It would be too great a trespass on space to give in detail the statements made. It is enough to say that it was shown beyond a doubt that combines existed; that they crushed rivals by cutting prices till they again controlled the field; that they restrained production; that they persecuted to ruin any firm succeeding from the combine; that they prevented importation by underselling, in the cover of the tariff, whenever this was attempted, and that they divided their customers into classes of more or less favored dealing, this policy bearing most heavily on the small country dealer. These practices can be called by no other name than robbery. They are designed to get unfair profits, they oppress the consumer, and undo the very object for which the protection they enjoy was given, by preventing the expansion of their own business.

The cotton manufacturing industry, which has shown no increase in number of establishments since 1891, and which is employing fewer hands now than in 1901, in spite of the fact that the consumption of cotton goods and their importation into our country is rapidly increasing, affords an illustration of the way our protective tariff encourages the growth of industries. This industry is practically controlled by one company, whose interest is certainly not to overstock the home market. It is true, these people blame their lack of expansion to insufficient protection. In a circular, issued to their employees at the time of the recent strike in Quebec, it is stated, "Unfortunately, the cotton trade of this country does not receive sufficient protection, and it is possible for the manufacturers of England and the United States to undersell us, which means that we do not secure all the business to which we have a right." But, in evidence given before the commission to inquire into that strike, the secretary-treasurer of the company testified to the payment, out of profits of the business, of a fifty per cent. dividend on the cost of common stock, of a dividend of seven per cent. on preferred stock, and of six per cent. on bonds, besides a very large amount for repairs and betterments. Surely a business paying such profits is not prevented from expanding by "insufficient