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EDITORIAL.

The Scheme of a New Farmer King.

Some time ago the "Farmer's Advocate" called attention to the fact that the King of Italy had on hand a big co-operative agricultural scheme, in connection with which a conference was to be held during the early part of the summer. The conference has come and gone. One hundred and nineteen delegates, from 38 different states in all parts of the world, were present at it, and though few of its deliberations have as yet been made public, enough has been divulged to intimate that the meeting has been a success, and the King's plan one which is likely to command a great deal of attention in the early future.

So far as known, the most important resolution passed provides for the establishment of an International Institute of Agriculture, to be established permanently at Rome, for the commercial and agricultural benefit of all the nations which choose to enter it. The Institute will be chiefly made up of a staff and committee, composed of representatives from all the countries and colonies of the world, and its duty will be to collect and publish all kinds of statistics and information in regard to agriculture—production, prices, insurance, wages, diseases of plants and animals and the best methods of combating them, etc. It will also strive to promote mutually helpful co-operative schemes of various kinds, and will suggest to the different governments means for improving agricultural conditions in their respective countries. In addition, there will be an International Assembly, which will meet once in every three or four years. The annual sum required to maintain the Institute has been calculated at \$170,000, but of this amount the King of Italy has offered to provide \$60,000 from his private revenue, and ratification of the resolutions by the various Governments by whom delegates were sent is now all that is necessary to secure the first donation and bring about the establishment of the Institute.

The whole scheme is decidedly novel, and is intensely significant of the tremendous importance which agriculture is assuming in the economics of the world. King Edward has often been referred to as the Farmer King. Victor Emmanuel is establishing his claim to a similar title. It may be surmised, however, that the man who takes such an interest in the crops and Thoroughbreds at Sandringham will be quick to endorse the plan projected by the Italian Sovereign, and that he will be by no means a silent partner to the contract.

"Back to the land!" It is the old call over again. Having gone just as far as possible from the pastoral life with its idyllic simplicity, the reaction has set in, and the whole world—from King to shopman—is turning little by little to the benediction of old Mother Earth. It is not altogether with a purpose, but as an unconscious result, that the cry for a "Simple Life" has arisen, and with it all comes the glorification of the farmer. He has seen his period of depreciation; his time of appreciation is already here.

Whether the King of Italy's scheme will meet with all the success that is hoped for it or not, remains to be proved, but at all events the effort will have redounded much to the honor of the King. In the light of twentieth century ideals he cannot but stand as a revelation of benevolence, dignity and common sense, and his International Agricultural Institute is much more likely to im-

press the nations of the world than the "Big Pistol" parade of the warships which the German Emperor is sending forth on a voyage of triumph this coming fall.

The Great Meat Trust.

Those who have been following the exposition of the big American trusts, which has become such a popular feature of late in some of the leading American magazines, are likely to come upon the assertion occasionally that it is the "system" that is wrong, and that those who stand with their hands upon the wires by which the markets under Trust control are manipulated are, on the whole, a rather good sort of fellows—men who are "models of business integrity," having and adhering to "their own standard of rectitude"; men generous to a fault, and zealous of good works in relieving such cases of distress as come beneath their ken.

Now, to a degree this may be all true. Courteous, agreeable gentlemen these magnates are likely to be; good Samaritans on occasion—to a certain extent. But to place all the blame upon the system, to the practical exoneration of those who benefit by it, and who have, in fact, created it, is to trade upon the assumption that those who read such assertions are—to use a slang expression—decidedly "easy." Most certainly the system is wrong; but what has made it so? Systems do not generate of themselves; neither do they grow without direction, and it is rather straining an issue to assert that the man who invents or countenances or grows rich by an evil system is any better than the system by which he trafficks. So long as the evil in great business transactions is attributed to "system," absolute cleanness can scarcely be looked for in lesser ones. There is always the weak man, contemptible though he be, who will find salve for his own misdeeds in contemplating those of the "great."

The name "Rockefeller" carries with it the idea of king of the Trust magnates, the incarnation of the Trust evil in its most virulent form. True, Rockefeller has made his \$900,000,000 out of "Standard Oil," but while Thos. W. Lawson and Ida M. Tarbell have been uncovering the many sins of the Standard Oil, another investigator, Mr. Charles Edward Russell, has come forward with an exposition, outlined elsewhere in this issue, more startling still. In the U. S. West he finds a Trust, previously known to our readers as the "Big Four," beside which, in comprehensiveness of its designs, Standard Oil fades into insignificance, and the big steel corporation dwindles. Not content with the ownership of steam and electric railroads, entire trolley services, factories, shops, mills, lands and land companies, plants and warehouses, ad infinitum, this great combination has laid hands upon the very food supply of the American people. To-day it controls, not only the price of live animals, but the price of every pound of beef, mutton or pork sold in the United States, and also, to an enormous extent, that of all fruits, fertilizers, canned goods, soaps and dairy products, and is still reaching out for more influence. Already, within certain limits, its grip is upon the wheat, corn and oat trade of the Republic, and when it has accomplished its full purpose, it will have at its pleasure the price of practically every morsel that goes into the mouth of every man, woman and child in the United States. Should no checkmaking power intervene, the little knot of men at the head of this vast machine will then see within their grasp the realization of visions

of untold wealth, and the power of boundless extortion. But, of course, there is always the chance of the "slip." For reasons not more urgent there have occurred before this seasons of "a reign of terror." Though America may stop short of the horrors of a revolutionary war, there may be, underneath the present surface of submission, latent forces which may yet burst forth, to the consternation of the trust and all in connection with it.

To the uninitiated this policy of waiting seems an incomprehensible one. "Why doesn't the Government put a stop to it at once?" one says. "This is a free country, then why does the Government stand still and let such a thing exist? What is the law for?" Nevertheless, tramping upon legislators, politicians and congressmen at will; terrorizing great railway companies and forcing them to hand over millions of dollars on demand, the Trust, like a mighty Juggernaut, goes on, and if the people dragging it against their will go under, or are crushed beneath the relentless wheels, what matter? There are others who must take up the burden, and the jewels hang all the more thickly on the nose of the idol. It goes against the grain of a democratic American citizen of the 20th century to confess that, in the face of such an evil, the Government is either helpless or else is a fellow-conspirator against the common people. But the people are being awakened. Public sentiment, aroused by the press, is crystallizing. A Federal investigation has been in progress. Enough evidence has been unearthed to warrant the issue a few days ago at Chicago of indictments against seventeen men and five big companies for conspiracy in restraining trade, constituting a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Popularity of the Horse.

Any apprehensions of danger of the horse being displaced as a means of transportation by the artificial motor on the common roads of the country and in cities and towns, is easily dissipated from the mind of the man who attends a first-class horse show, or witnesses an open-air horse parade, such as that seen in the City of Toronto on Dominion Day, where, notwithstanding that a large proportion of the people take advantage of the holiday excursion rates to leave the city, probably a larger crowd assembles in Queen's Park to see the horse show than is attracted by any other event of the year, with the possible exception of the National Exhibition in the same city in the early days of September—an exhibition in which horses are one of the most attractive features, if not the most attractive, to the greatest number of people. The pleasure excited by seeing or handling an artificial contrivance sinks into mediocrity compared to that inspired by the graceful movements and intelligent co-operation of an animal instinct with animation, ambition and courage, while equally amenable to the will and wish of the driver as any machine yet invented. And the beauty of it is that a horse can go where a machine dare not venture, and that he improves in value and usefulness with his years up to a certain or uncertain point, while the machine deteriorates in every respect from the start, and finds an early end in the scrap heap.

The love and pleasure inspired in his owner and others by a well-mannered horse stands in striking contrast with the feeling for an automobile and the average operator of such machines as seen on the country roads—the one admired for himself and his manners, the other hated