

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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USEFUL INSTEAD OF WASTED EFFORT.

As pointing the advantages to be expected of
the new system of vocational education that is
coming into vogue throughout America, succeeding
none too soon the time-honored academic and
dilettantish ideal, we quote the following apposite
illustration, cited by Prof. George Herbert Locke,
Dean of the School for Teachers in Macdonald
College, St. Anne de Bellevue, Que.:

"There are still those among us to whom the
connotation of education is the three R's—that
familiar trio, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic—
and who look askance at what they call the in-
troduction of new subjects into the curriculum.
They ask for the perfection of the means, for ex-
pertness in handling the tools. Their attitude re-
minds one of the man who, having a field, plowed
it, plowed it again, and yet again; and on being
asked if he meant to plant anything said, 'No, I
am cultivating it.' As if planting were not as
much cultivation as plowing, and as if raising a
crop were not of much more social value than
mere exercise."

Further on in the same address, Prof. Locke
alluded to the iron-clad conservatism which re-
tards educational progress, remarking, that we
have become so accustomed to speak of the school
as reflecting civilization that we have come to
look upon it as a proverb incontestably true. As
a matter of fact, the school not only fails to re-
flect the civilization of to-day, but reflects a
civilization that has long since passed away,
whereas it should be leading the way—the pillar
of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night—
at all times the outward and visible sign of an
inward and spiritual reality, that urges forward
and points the way toward greater possibilities
for usefulness, and for enjoyment through that
usefulness.

"We are all ready to subscribe to the doctrine
that times change, but we hesitate to change with
them. If we realized this we should more en-

thusiastically endorse the position of those edu-
cational prophets of to-day who are urging us to
look to the occupations in which modern men are
necessarily engaged, and who seem to see the pos-
sibilities of constructing on these subjects a cur-
riculum with such additions and improvements as
may be needed to make it definitely useful in pro-
moting the social efficiency of the modern indi-
vidual. Through the familiar and useful occupa-
tions, the intelligence may be as well trained as
through the logic-grinding process of the antique
curriculum, and, indeed, to more social purpose,
by demonstrating how scientific method may be
usefully employed in ordinary pursuits, and how
valuable manipulative skill may be thus incident-
ally acquired."

WHERE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FALLS DOWN.

No true Canadian is prepared to admit failure
of the principle of responsible government, but in
the application of the principle as we have it in
Canada there is room for improvement. The two
great requisites of success are, first, an intelligent,
honorable and stable electorate; and, secondly, an
efficient means or instrument for giving effect to
their will. The responsibility of the franchise in
conjunction with the enlightening and chastening
influences of church, school, platform and press
have been gradually raising the standard of the
electorate in all democratic or semi-democratic
countries. The results have been reflected eventu-
ally in a higher plane of administration as re-
spects purity, efficiency and regard for public
rights. This does not insure, however, against
occasional frustration of the people's will through
the treachery or weakness of elected representa-
tives. A case in point is the action of a major-
ity of the Hamilton City Council in concluding a
bargain for electric energy with the Cataract
Power Company, which had practically offered the
city power on its own terms, in order to block,
if possible, the success of the Hydro-electric Power
policy. In January, 1907, the preliminary by-
law looking to participation in the Hydro-electric
scheme had been carried in Hamilton by a public
vote of over 2 to 1. This year a second by-law,
providing for the issue of debentures for the con-
struction of an underground system was carried
by a vote of 3,039 for and 1,673 against. A
mayor favorable to the Hydro-electric policy was
elected, and it appears to have been believed that
the most of the aldermen were favorable. Sub-
sequently, however, the Cataract Power Company,
backed, it is alleged by an electric ring, under-
took to outbid the Hydro-electric Commission, on
condition that the city should tie itself up to a
contract that would virtually exclude the Hydro-
electric enterprise from the field. Then Hamilton
experienced the disappointment and chagrin of
witnessing her aldermen one by one going over to
the side of the Power Company, and binding the
city hand and foot for the sake of a few volts
of electric power at a knockdown figure. Granted,
for charity's sake, that some of the aldermen be-
lieved they were consummating a favorable deal
for the city; granting that some of them may
have felt that the power company was being sub-
jected to unfair competition in the form of pub-
lic distribution of power; nevertheless, the fever-
ish anxiety to rush this very different bargain
through without allowing the public to express
its desire at the polls reflects very unfavorably
upon the motives of the aldermen. The Mayor
and his faithful minority of the council deserve
every encouragement for their stalwart adherence
to the will of the people as twice expressed at
the polls, and it is earnestly to be hoped that some
means of invalidating the action of the council
may be found, so that the will of the citizens
may rule. Otherwise the incident must pass down
to history as an instance of the failure of respon-
sible civic administration through the duplicity
of elected representatives. Some means are called
for that will render such eventuality impossible in
future. If the law does not prevent that, it
should; the will of the people must prevail.

AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

NOTES BY AN ONTARIO FARMER.

The portion of New York State to which
these remarks apply lies in what might be called
the west central part of the State. In that
region there is a series of beautiful lakes, some-
times called the Finger Lakes, on account of their
being long and narrow and lying side by side like
the fingers of the hand. The most central one of
the group is Seneca Lake, forty miles long and
three miles wide, at the north end or foot of
which is the town of Geneva, noted for its nur-
series, and as being the site of the N. Y. Experi-
ment Station. At the south end is Watkins'
Glen, a famous beauty spot. Cornell University,
Ithaca, of whose excellent agricultural experi-
mental work we hear a good deal, is situated at
the south end of Cayuga Lake, the one next east
of Seneca Lake, and only a few miles distant.
Just west of this lake region lies what used to
be spoken of as "the far-famed Genesee Valley,
the best wheat-growing section of America."
Some of us remember an agricultural paper, now
defunct, that once had a wide circulation in Can-
ada, the Genesee Farmer, to which old John John-
son, of Geneva, N.Y., a noted farmer in his day,
was an extensive contributor.

It is interesting to notice that wheat is still
the principal grain crop of the whole region, and
that splendid yields are yet produced. In olden
days, when Albany was the famous stock market
of the east, considerable attention was given to
the fattening of cattle, but now, to a Canadian
farmer, stock farming seems to be lamentably
neglected. There are no creameries, no cheese
factories, and, so far as could be learned, no one
making a specialty of cattle-fattening. Cheese
is, of course, manufactured in the Utica and Little
Fall's region farther east, but not in the section
of country visited. Butter, in limited quantity,
is made on the farm, but at present, at least,
brings a lower price than with us.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS LARGELY USED.

Still, the farms are kept up. Crops average
well. How is it done? It must be admitted,
somewhat reluctantly, perforce, that it is princi-
pally by the use of commercial fertilizers. The
best farmers have always been careful to have all
roughage consumed or rotted on the farm. But
now everyone uses fertilizer. It is sown with the
grain, by means of drills specially constructed.
It is applied more liberally to the corn crop, the
cabbage fields and the beans. Quantities used per
acre vary from 100 lbs. to 350 lbs. A fair qual-
ity costs at Buffalo \$20.00 per ton. A common
saying in the country is that if you begin to use
fertilizer you are sure to keep on. It is univer-
sally admitted, however, that the use of fertilizer
alone would be disappointing. Barnyard manure,
in addition, is considered essential.

CABBAGE RAISED AS A SPECIAL CROP.

The growing of cabbages for shipment in car
lots has, in the last ten years, become a great in-
dustry, and has been a large factor in removing
the discouraged feeling which was settling down
upon the agriculturists. Every farmer has now
his field of cabbage. The acreage per farm runs
from four up to seven, ten, twelve, and, in some
cases, as high as twenty acres. On one farm of
sixty acres, for instance, there is this year a
seven-acre cabbage field. That is, however, con-
siderably higher than the average percentage de-
voted to the crop. When the crop is ready to be
harvested the cabbages are cut, but not trimmed
and hauled at once to the cars, though some-
times they are stored and held for a time. Buy-
ers, of course, operate, and New York cabbage is
sent to every city and town of the United States
from Boston to St. Louis. Baltimore receives
the bulk of the crop grown in the district visited.
From one small village station there were shipped
last year five hundred carloads. A good average
crop is ten tons per acre, and a fair price \$7.00
per ton. As much as twenty tons per acre have
been grown, and the price has varied from \$4.00
to \$18.00 per ton. Cabbage is grown in rows
about four feet apart, and from two to two and
a half feet in the row. The needs of the grow-
ers have resulted in the invention of a cabbage-
planter, a machine which causes wonder at the
ingenuity of the human, and particularly the
Yankee mind. It requires three to operate it.
The driver guides the team and keeps them at a
slow walk. The two others handle the plants,
each alternately dropping one into a tube. The
machine does the rest, planting, and even water-
ing each plant in its turn, and making firm the
ground about it.

In addition to the ordinary grain crops, such
as wheat, oats, barley and corn, beans are very
generally grown for sale, but as there is nothing
very different in the methods of culture and har-
vesting from what prevails in our own country,
a mere mention is sufficient.

FRUIT-GROWING A PROFITABLE INDUSTRY.

Fruit of all kinds grows freely, and the per-
centage of farmers' returns from the sale of
apples and pears is much larger than obtains in
Ontario, except in a few favored sections. To-
wards the south end of the lakes mentioned,