

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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drudgery in work which is interesting, and farm work will be more interesting and will generally prove more remunerative when the farmer makes a study of his business and thoroughly enjoys the development of better strains of crops and stock. Experimentation on a small scale, the growing of pure seed, the breeding of a selected strain of pure-bred stock, studying the science of feeding, weighing milk and testing milk and cream—these things make farming worth while.

### The Transformation of a Township.

There is a township in a certain county in Ontario which a few years ago was known as "the God-forsaken township of —". At the present time the said township is one of the most fertile and most productive in the county, due to what causes? Alfalfa, one of the best crops for soil and stock has made the change. We would not have our readers believe that alfalfa can be successfully grown on all soils, because it can not. Climate and soil seem to have a great deal to do with the success or failure of this plant, and on flat, heavy, poorly-drained, cold-bottomed soil it will not thrive. On some rolling land it does not do well, while on other rolling land, such as some of that in the Grand River Valley, it thrives and produces abundantly. It has been so successful in certain parts of the Valley, in the township referred to that it has built up the land, built up the stock and improved the farms until now this land will grow almost any kind of a crop and grow it well. This only serves to illustrate the fact that most land can be made good for something if properly handled. Red clover has transformed many a farm from poor land to good land, and we believe that sweet clover, which to all appearances will grow on any soil, may yet be found very useful as a soil builder, particularly on land which will not grow red clover or alfalfa successfully. It will alike improve heavy clay and light sand. Undoubtedly there is a suitable crop for all soil and once we find out what that crop is much more forsaken land may be made to flow with milk and honey.

### To Dairy Fame or to Canned Beef?

Some years ago, at the time Shorthorn cattle were a drug on the market, a certain breeder sold a calf to an Indian for a small price. No pedigree was furnished with the animal, and years later the cow drifted into the hands of a progressive young man who undertook to weigh her milk and keep some record of what she might do. We have not the figures for a year's production from this cow, but she was known to be a heavy milker and she produced some choice heifer stock, which, of course, was pure-bred but could not be registered. This cow gave as high as 66 pounds a day when at her best and was one of the most valuable animals in the herd. Weighing the milk demonstrated to her owner the real value of the cow. The scales proved what had been surmised, that she was a good cow. Scales will likewise show the owner which are the unprofitable cows in his stable. They should be used in every dairy herd, regardless of breed or class, to take the guesswork out of the milk business. No man can afford to do so much guessing about his cows and their production that it keeps him "guessing" to make a living. Facts are the only sure foundation to work upon and the milk scales are the best means to get at the facts. If the scales and the tester could be used on all the cows producing milk for dairy purposes in Canada there would be many surprises. Some cows, thought very ordinary, would become famous and many others would become canned beef.

### What Some Inspectors Say of Consolidation.

The last three issues of "The Farmer's Advocate" have contained articles dealing with the need of some change in our educational system in Ontario, and the advantages of consolidation in rural districts. It might please some of our readers who are taking an interest in the subject to know what some of the inspectors of rural schools in Manitoba think of consolidation as a means of improving the chances of the rural boy and girl to get a public and high school education on a level with the city boy and girl, or even better. Consolidation started in Manitoba in 1906 and has made rapid strides. So it would in Ontario if placed on the proper basis and pushed. How many people leave the farms so as to be able to keep their children at home while giving them the advantages of an education! How many more send their children away to school at considerable expense! It is necessary, for commercial and industrial progress have developed so fast that children are greatly handicapped unless they have the advantages of advanced and thorough education. If money now spent by fathers and mothers in rural Ontario to pay board and tuition fees for their children at town and city schools could be turned toward consolidation of schools nearer home, it would go a long way toward meeting the extra expense of transportation to and consolidation of the country schools, and the boys and girls would get the right kind of public and high school education while living at home on the farm. Read what these inspectors say in their annual reports to the Minister of Education in Manitoba:

"These schools (nine consolidated) continue to do excellent work, and the foresight of the Department in encouraging consolidation has been amply vindicated. The superior efficiency of the graded school over the ungraded is everywhere acknowledged. Gratifying progress has been made and will continue, as the ratepayers become convinced of the advantages of this method."

J. BOYD MORRISON,  
Inspector Division No. 3.

"I had the pleasure of meeting both boards of trustees (two consolidated school boards) in the latter part of May this year, and found that there did not appear to be a single complaint to make. The attendance from the country has been remarkable, and the rural ratepayers are perfectly satisfied with the change."

A. J. HATCHER,  
Inspector Division No. 4.

"These schools give better educational facilities, and, although, in one or two cases, the cost may be slightly higher than of the one-roomed rural schools displaced, yet much greater value is received for the money expended. In these schools there is the possibility of arranging the pupils in classes large enough so that the children in recitation meet with other children to 'measure against' in the friendly rivalry

and inspiration that come from a properly conducted class work."

GEORGE HUNTER,  
Inspector Division No. 5.

"I am of the opinion that the consolidated school plan is growing in favor. In almost every case where an opponent of this plan has been persuaded to attend consolidation day session at the Trustees' Convention, he has returned home a strong supporter of the idea."

D. J. WRIGHT,  
Inspector Division No. 7.

"The principle of consolidation is gaining wider favor each year."

A. A. HERRIOT,  
Inspector Division No. 9.

"The policy of consolidation is steadily growing in favor."

J. E. S. DUNLOP,  
Inspector Division No. 10.

We may say that in 1915 there were 58 consolidated schools in operation in Manitoba, and in his report R. Fletcher, Deputy Minister of Education in that Province, says: "Wherever the plan has been put into intelligent operation the results have been good."

### Register Promptly.

In travelling over the country, it is a surprise to find such a large number of animals, pure-bred as far as blood lines are concerned, but without pedigree. In most cases this is due to carelessness on the part of breeder or owner in not having the eligible stock recorded early in life, when sire and dam are known and no difficulty is met in getting the papers put through. In some cases it occurs that purchasers have trouble in getting pedigrees of stock bought which has been represented to them as pure-bred and which is, in most cases, as represented, but the owner has not had them recorded, and, through carelessness, neglects after the sale has been made to get the papers. We would advise all breeders of pure-bred stock to be prompt in registering their animals whether kept in the herd or sold. Thousands of dollars have been lost through this carelessness, because neglecting to register an animal throws all the future progeny out of the books. Register promptly.

### Studies in Political Economy—X.

Last week it was shown how, and to what extent, our system of taxation through custom's duties discriminated against Canadian agriculture. I propose now to trace out the consequences of substituting a direct tax on "land values" for the indirect tariff tax from two points of view. First, how would such a change affect agriculture; and secondly, what revenue would it provide? Both questions will be answered by the same investigation, which we shall apply for simplicity's sake, to the Province of Ontario.

The Census of 1911 estimates the value of Ontario farm lands as \$612,000,000, and that of Ontario farm buildings as \$314,000,000. Municipal Bulletin No. 9, gives the 1914 assessment in Ontario townships as \$687,000,000, compared with an assessment of \$669,000,000 in 1913. The latter figures indicate a slight increase in the value of farm property, probably due in part to the general rise in prices. Therefore, we may assume that a value of 612 plus 314, or \$926,000,000, in 1911 has averaged about 1,000 millions (one billion dollars) during the last few years.

The essential accuracy of this estimate is confirmed by the following conditions. In 1912 the Dominion Grange sent out a circular letter of inquiry to Ontario rural municipalities asking them how near the assessed values came to the actual values. Replies were received from 128 townships, showing an average assessment of 73 per cent. of actual values. With a rural assessment of \$687,000,000 in 1914, the actual value of the property assessed was therefore approximately one billion dollars, as already otherwise determined.

The proportion between "land" and "buildings" will not be appreciably different now from what it was in 1911, viz., two-thirds land and one-third buildings. We may therefore conclude that the present value of Ontario farm lands is about \$660,000,000. But this is not the "land value" of Ontario farm lands. Improved farm land is cleared, fenced and drained, and such improvements are identical in their nature with buildings and should logically be so assessed. While no figures are available, I doubt if the value of unimproved land is more than half that of improved. Let us be on the safe side however, and assume that the "land value" of Ontario farm lands is \$400,000,000.

The assessment for municipal purposes in Ontario towns, villages and cities in 1914 was \$1,202,000,000, somewhat less than half of which is that for "land". The total assessment is also much less than the selling value. In 1912 an investigation into the sales of 458 pieces of property in Toronto revealed the fact that the selling value was on the average about 60 per cent. above the assessed value. Assuming that this proportion holds good throughout Ontario urban mun-

icipalities, \$1,223,000,000, less 40 per cent., leaves \$753,800,000, or approximately \$750,000,000.

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