

# The Farming World

## And Canadian Farm and Home

VOL. XXIII

TORONTO, 1 DECEMBER, 1904

No. 23

### The Future of the Institute

WHAT is to be the future of the Farmers' Institute? is a question many are asking. We are casting no reflection upon anyone connected with its present management when we say that we believe the parting of the ways has been reached in connection with this important and valuable organization, especially in Ontario. Since its organization the Farmers' Institute has been one of the most potent factors in the promotion of better agriculture in this country. But the Institute has reached a stage in its development when a step in advance must be made and its energies directed into new channels. Unless this is done, we believe the influence of the Institute will wane and its grip upon the farmers of this country become gradually lessened. Such a thing would be a national calamity.

In taking this stand we would not for a moment belittle the efforts of the past and the self-sacrificing work of the able army of workers who for small thanks and small pay have rendered their country a service that it can never repay. But these gentlemen will, we think, agree with us in the contention, that the Institute cannot go on doing the same kind of work and covering the same ground year after year and hold the attention and interest of farmers generally. There are, no doubt, hundreds of farmers, even in Ontario, whom the Institute has not yet reached. But for a quarter of a century the rank and file of our farmers have been attending Institute meetings and listening to addresses and discussions upon practical farm topics. And is it not reasonable to suppose that a day would come when the pupil shall equal in knowledge and experience his teacher, no matter how well equipped the latter might be. A glance over the situation today would lead one to conclude that that day had arrived, and that many farmers have graduated from the Institute of the past and present, and are looking for something in the nature of a post graduate course, that will lead them out into a wider experience.

But what can be done, and how can the present method of working be improved upon? And just here we must confess that a question arises that is most difficult to answer. Perhaps those in close touch with the work may have some suggestions to offer. In making a change it is neither necessary nor advisable that present methods be discontinued. But at this stage in our Institute development something more is needed to hold the interest and maintain the Institute on the high plane of the past. What that something is, is what many would like to know. It has been suggested by not a few that the

Institute turn its attention in the direction of holding plowing matches, of maintaining rural libraries and in other lines of work quite distinct from the often stereotyped meeting. How far these suggestions can be worked out through the Institute it is for those in charge of the work to say. The system has a capable superintendent and others directing its work, and we feel sure they will rise up to the occasion and devise some means of continuing this important educational work on the high plane which has marked its progress since its inception.

In the meantime, we shall be very glad to have the views of farmers, Institute workers and others on this important topic.

### PLEASE NOTE

that we are desirous of adding 20,000 new subscribers to our list for 1905. We therefore invite your personal help to attain this end.

Our constant aim is to provide the best farmers' paper in Canada, to always continue to improve *The Farming World* and make it more and more helpful to the farmer—on whose prosperity the future of our vast Dominion entirely depends.

Our large circulation enables us to put at the disposal of our subscribers the combined experience of the highest authorities at a very low price. With a still larger circulation, we shall be able to serve your interests even more efficiently, and for that reason we confidently ask your co-operation.

Please read the announcement on the front cover of this issue.

### The Percheron and the Trotter

Mr. W. S. Spark, who spent several months in Canada during the past year, in the interests of horse breeding, read a paper at the Colonial Institute, London, Eng., recently on the wealth of Canada as an agricultural country. He is reported as saying that he was convinced that when Canadians get rid of their Percheron blood and pay less attention to trotting, Canada will become one of the foremost horse-breeding countries in the world.

Coming from one who has made a close study of horse breeding methods in Canada, Mr. Spark's comment on the situation here is worthy of consideration. There is, as yet, very little Percheron blood in Ontario, though from present indications there is likely to be more of it during the next year or two. In Quebec, the Percheron takes a prominent place as a draft horse, and during the past few years a great deal of this blood has been introduced

into the North-West at no small cost either, to those who have been supplied with it. As to its effect upon the horse-breeding interests of the country many will fall in with Mr. Spark's contention that it is anything but salutary.

But be this as it may, in horse breeding as in other branches of animal husbandry, it is a mistake to introduce too many breeds, and to mix these up indiscriminately. Select the breed or breeds best adapted to the needs of the country, and which will give the best results in the finished product and stick to these. In Canada, and we speak more particularly for Ontario, we have two breeds of draft horses admirably suited to the climatic and other conditions of the country, and which will, if properly managed, produce animals that will work well, sell well, and return a good profit to the farmer. These are the Clyde and Shire breeds, with Canadian record books established, which many new breeds being introduced have not. With the best imported and home bred blood of these two to choose from, is there any good reason for the introduction of other draft horse breeds, good or bad? This is a question that the farmer must answer for himself.

A feature of horse breeding that has not been sufficiently developed in this country is that of devoting certain districts or localities to the breeding of one type of horse. With a few exceptions, such as Ontario and Huron counties and one or two other districts, no attempt whatever has been made to take up one line of breeding in any one locality. One farmer will raise heavy horses, his neighbor light horses, and the man across the way trotters, with the result that so far as horse breeding is concerned the locality has no special distinction one way or the other, is not sought out by buyers and is left severely alone when a number of good animals of one type are wanted. If, on the other hand, the farmer and his neighbors engaged in the same line of breeding, whether in heavy or light horses, they would soon find a market for their product at their own doors. The dealer, whether buying for himself or for others, soon becomes familiar with the localities or districts where horses of a certain type can be had in large numbers, and goes there when he wants them. It saves expense, costs less to ship, and in every way is more conducive to profitable business both for the seller and buyer. Of course district breeding along one line, whether in light or heavy horses, pre-supposes that only one breed will be introduced into the locality. It is this plan that has made Scotland famed for Clydes and the south of England for Shires.