

The Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
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Attention! Christmas Comes.

In a world crisis, such as we are now passing through, are many obstacles to a "Merry Christmas" but none to the real spirit of the Christmas season, viz., good will and cheerful giving. Never in past history has there been a Christmas which presented so much opportunity to help others as is the case right now. Truly, it is in December 1914 more blessed to give than to receive. It is impossible, under existing conditions, for merriment to reign in many homes, and yet it avails nothing to be cast down. Few are so stricken that there are no others in a worse plight. We have much for which to be thankful. While many of our sons and our Empire's sons have nobly gone forth to battle, never to return, our Empire is still comparatively free from the awful carnage; but, while not under the mouth of cannon, there is much suffering. Here is where the Christmas spirit should manifest itself—alleviate pain of all kinds, help. Canada has enjoyed, notwithstanding certain depression, a very good year, and her share of "Business as usual." This is no time for selfishness—this is a season of sacrifice and service. It is the latter which we hope we have attained in our annual Christmas effort here produced; if it serves to help our thousands of readers to a brighter and better Christmas and a more prosperous year in 1915, then we feel that our efforts have not been in vain. The contents of this number should appeal to readers of all classes. Many of the articles discuss various phases of agriculture as affected by the war. Farming and live stock subjects hold a predominant place as usual, but there is meat in the issue for all members of the home circle, from the man deeply interested in the big problem of the day to the reader who loves a story for the story's sake. The painter's brush in the trained hand and the big camera in many countries have contributed their best, and the whole goes to our readers on its merits. We only hope that every home into which it goes will have as joyous a reunion as that depicted on our most excellent front cover. The "Christmas Number" as usual goes to our subscribers with the compliments of the publishers. All new subscribers are included in this number. Extra copies desired as gifts to friends may be had at twenty-five cents per copy. All we ask is the continued confidence and co-operation of our large clientele. Aid us in making the issues of 1915 even more helpful than those of 1914.

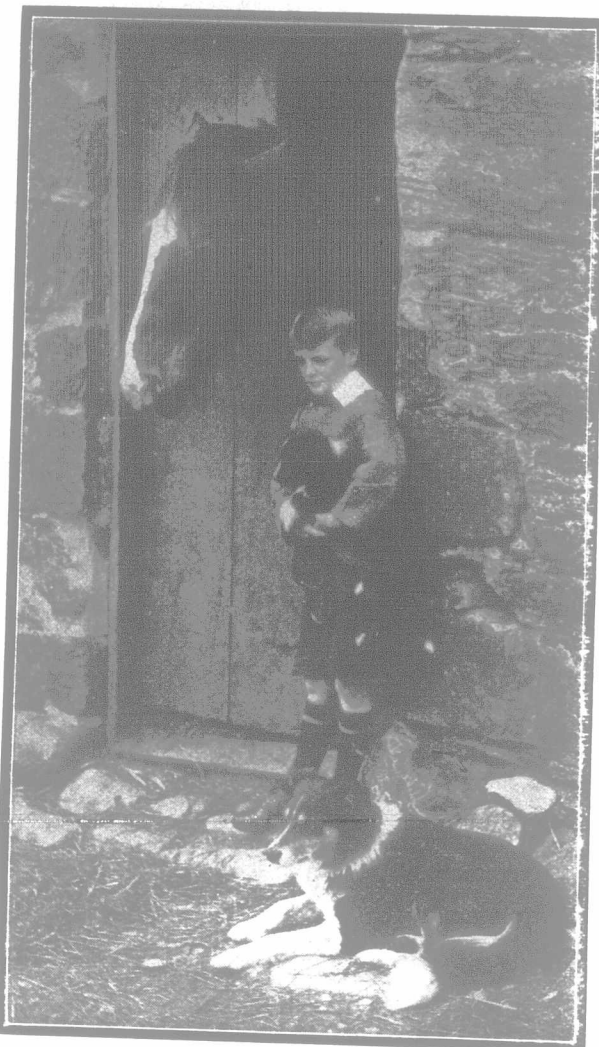
The Little Landers.

By S. B. Sinclair.

A story is told of a man in New Jersey, who owned so many farms that he was land poor, and who, attempting to work them all himself, lost money and ruined the farms. He concluded to sell one of them, which had brought him nothing for years, except weeds, thistles and tax bills, but he could find no purchaser. In desperation, he offered to give it away, but no one would take it as a gift.

One morning, with a smile on his face, he met a neighbor, and informed him that he had disposed of his farm. "How in the world did you get rid of it," asked the neighbor in surprise. "Well," he replied, "you see, it was like this, I was selling a cow and calf to a man who could not read, and I just slipped the farm into the receipt, unbeknownst to him."

On our way South, last winter, we fell in with a most interesting traveller, who seemed to know almost everything about all the natural objects in view from the train windows. He possessed the characteristic charm of the man who lives "near to Nature's heart," has gained control of himself and the forces about him, and is at peace with all the world. His information was so technical, accurate and extensive that we wondered who he might be. Finally we elicited from him the (to us) astonishing information that he made his living off a half acre of land in Minnesota, and suc-



Good Morning.

ceeded, not only in earning a livelihood, but in treating himself annually to a three-month holiday on the Gulf of Mexico. This experience in such marked contrast with that of the New Jersey magnate stimulated our curiosity to know how such results were attained. He described his methods in detail. His soil, climate and other conditions were very similar to those found in South Western Ontario. Every foot of land was utilized, most of it bearing at least two crops. Early maturing crops were planted between rows of Fall ripeners. The things grown were such as require small areas of land, but demand great care, and yield large returns, for example, Strawberries and Mushrooms. Every foot of soil received as much attention as is often given an entire field. Markets were studied with a view to supplying products out of season at high prices. Special tastes were catered to. Application was made of the latest expert knowledge regarding climatic conditions, tillage, fertilizers, etc. In brief, each detail was studied in the light of social good, and scientific discovery. Abraham Lincoln said, "The most valuable of substitutes from the smallest area of soil." This is being realized throughout the United States as never before. In some cases it is being worked out to isolated individuals, such as our Minnesota friend, in other cases it takes community form, as in California where the co-operative farming movement has a broad extension. One-fourth of

the farms in the state contain less than twenty acres, and one-half the farms less than fifty acres. Prof. Hunt, Dean of Agriculture of the State University of Berkeley, California, has written an illuminating bulletin of sixty pages on "Things a settler should know." One of his general conclusions is that "Ten acres appears to be the smallest area on which a California crop will return a gross income of four thousand dollars a year under average conditions." There are those who hold that by co-operation this area can be reduced.

The most highly organized, co-operative, community movement is that of the "Little Landers," started in Southern California a few years ago, and attended with such marked success and with an expansion so rapid that its advocates claim it is going to sweep the world.

The movement is based on the supposition that farming is the only job that is big enough to go round, and that the only hope of the ultimate independence of the masses lies in the cultivation of so much land as one individual or family can use to the highest advantage without hiring help. In practice it is held that, in California, this amount is usually not more than an acre, and that frequently it is less.

Perhaps the purpose of the organization can best be expressed by a quotation from one of their bulletins:—

"Instead of wasteful cultivation of big areas, we are to have scientific and intensive cultivation of small plots of ground; instead of going into the wilderness and shutting ourselves off from all the advantages which civilization has massed in centers of population, we are going to live quite close to the big town; instead of living far from neighbors we are going to live in the midst of neighbors and make the most of them in every way; instead of looking up the cheapest land, we are going to take the very choicest land in the choicest place we can find, and make a little of it accomplish as much in the way of real comfort and satisfaction as we could possibly expect from a big farm under different conditions.

"Instead of paying the longest price for what we buy, and accepting the shortest price for what we sell, we are going to combine our capital and brains in the purchase of supplies at wholesale rates, and in the sale of products direct to the consumer."

Several hundred acres of the best land in a choice location are selected some ten or twenty miles from a city. This land is purchased and an option secured on several hundred acres adjoining. The land is surveyed into quarter-acre, half-acre and acre lots, grouped around a civic centre, with club house and auditorium, school, store, etc. All unearned increment from increased value of land is dedicated to the improvement fund for streets, water extension, public buildings and parks, and for the provision of marketing facilities. Each buyer is required to subscribe for a share of stock in the co-operative store, paying ten dollars down, the value of the share being one hundred dollars. Each individual owns his lot absolutely, stands on his own feet and progresses according to his skill, energy and thrift. He is expected to co-operate in all matters beyond the sphere of the individual. There is a Little Lander market station in the city, and a common delivery wagon going back and forth daily.

Specialists in various forms of activity are furnished from the community itself, for example, if a new-comer wishes to begin the cultivation of strawberries for the first time, the secretary gives him the name of a Little Lander to whom he can go for specialized information at a minimum price.

A visit to one of these centres reveals a village of what is really a number of large gardens, each lot having at least one hundred feet frontage. In this village of several hundred people there are no landlords or tenants, employers or hired hands. No man pays rent, and each man is his own best customer. Some of the residents possess private incomes from outside sources, but no one is expected to follow any occupation outside the community. They are on the soil to stay, and claim that they find they can make a comfortable and independent living, and that they have learned that contentment is better than riches and much easier to get. One Little Lander stated that he made more than two thousand dollars last year from an acre, and another that he made seventeen hundred dollars from half an acre. Another said, he came near starving on four hundred acres, but is now making a comfortable living for himself and family from one acre.

Statistics show that more than ninety per cent. of the men of the United States get less than eight hundred dollars per year. The Little Landers claim that the average Little Lander, crediting himself with the rent that he does not have to pay and the food which he produces for his own home table, and adding to this the cash received for surplus products makes more than eight hundred dollars per year, and that he does this with an original investment of less than a thousand dollars.

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