

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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and sympathize with the disinclination of the Old Country people to witness our systematic abstraction of the very elements they desire to retain, namely, agriculturists, domestics, and competent forehanded laborers and artisans. If Canada is to take her pick of the world, other countries must keep the leavings, and the amelioration of Old World problems is not promoted by the loss of their desirable basic elements. That is one side of the case.

The other is that Canada is a young country, with vast agricultural resources which must be developed as the foundation of her national prosperity. To bring our great areas under cultivation, we require people who are willing and qualified to work upon the land. Of this class we have not nearly enough. Many of the sons of our own soil we have, by our unbalanced educational trend, and by artificial economic conditions, wooed away from agriculture. So, also, have we, by a general public-school system, fitted our daughters for other work than housekeeping, and a vicious social discrimination causes them to shun this honorable line of employment. Agricultural settlers, farm laborers and domestic servants are therefore the classes we need or think we need. There is plenty of work for them. They are in no danger of suffering severe privation or becoming a public charge. They are the only classes which we can at present absorb in any large number. The trades professions and avenues of business life are already fairly well manned, and are likely always to be so, because the grigorous tendency of our race, coupled with the educational and other influences alluded to, keep recruiting these occupations constantly from our farms. A considerable demand for tradesmen exists at present, but any sudden influx of these classes, unless coming to assured employment, would overcrowd our cities, depress the standard of living we desire to maintain in Canada, and entail much unemployment and want. Toronto's Slacktown situation of two or three years ago, where thousands of unlucky immigrants spent a miserable winter of unemployment, need not be repeated, if we can help it.

But, paramount to all these considerations, is the necessity of building up a strong, wholesome Canadian nationality. We must be careful not to lay into the foundation wall of this democratic structure, elements of vice and weakness, and squalid helplessness. We must strive to maintain a high average standard of citizenship, especially since, in this country, every man casts a vote, and as the average character of the voters, so the ultimate character of the Government.

Our capacity to assimilate crude, untrained citizens is not unlimited. It is sure to be taxed, is even now taxed, despite strict immigration regulations. These may and do sometimes fail of their purpose. A monetary standard is not an infallible immigrant screen, but it is one of the most feasible to apply. We must not be narrow or Pharisaical. We must recognize our responsibility as citizens of the world. But this country, having attracted the eye of the world as a field of opportunity, dare not throw open its gates to the flotsam and jetsam of humanity, not even of the British Isles. If the British Government, or any other Government, objects to our systematic canvass and subsidization of desirable immigrants, we cannot reasonably complain, but to throw down the bars to the unemployed masses and slum population of Europe and England is unthinkable. The regulations must remain, and will probably have to be made more stringent as time goes on. Meantime, Britain has this consolation: Whatever contributes to our upbuilding goes to the nurture of a strong ally in the cause of human progress, human betterment, and world peace.

Some Arguments for Early Cutting

Those who are inclined to look with good-natured indulgence upon advice to commence clover-haymaking early are invited to consider the practice of wide-awake feeders who know the value of early-cut hay. Kettie Bros., the well-known cattle-breeders of Oxford County, are scarcely the kind of men to be deceived by the recommendations of faddists. In 1908 they commenced making clover hay on June 9th; last year, on June 21st. They know by experience that is the kind of hay to make milk. It is also the kind to produce growth or fat. The arguments for early cutting have been so often set forth through these columns that repetition is difficult to avoid. Briefly, however, here they are:

Early cutting forestalls the ripening of billions of weed seeds that would otherwise be matured to scatter through manure, by wind, water, and in all sorts of ways.

Early commencement forwards the work. It gives one a head start, so to speak, and reduces the chances of being left in the lurch should a spell of bad weather occur at the usual haying season.

Early cutting improves the average quality of the hay, increasing the proportion of leaves saved, capturing the feed at the stage when it will make the most digestible and nutritious fodder. The ideal state for clover is when it has just passed its period of full bloom, but unless one commences before full bloom, the bulk of his crop will likely be cut much too late for best results. Alfalfa should be cut when one-tenth in bloom, about which time the buds for the next crop will usually be started nicely from the crown. Do not cut before they are, or the next crop will be the worse for it. Pure timothy should be made by preference just after the second bloom has fallen. In case of mixed hay, one must accommodate himself to the grass or clover which predominates, erring ever, if at all, on the early, rather than the late side. Coburn states that a ton of alfalfa leaves are worth 2,800 pounds of bran. Feed like that is worth looking after.

We wish some experiment stations would make careful comparison of the aftermath following late versus early cutting of red clover. We believe it would show that whatever weight was lost in the first cutting would be nearly or quite, sometimes more than, made up by the greater vigor of growth following the early cutting. Where seed is saved from the second cutting, the difference in value might often amount to more than the total value of the hay cured from the first. The Seed Commissioner at Ottawa urges the cutting of such fields as soon as possible after June 20th.

The high price of feed should induce every farmer to spare no pains in curing his clover and alfalfa hay. Even at present wages, \$2.00 will more than pay for the cutting, curing and storage of a ton of hay, even when put up into coils. As between a prime quality of early-cut, well-cured, fragrant, appetizing, nutritious hay, with the leaves on it, and the sunburned, leafless "raspberry canes," sometimes fed in the name of clover hay, there is at least four dollars a ton difference in cash value. Which shall it be?

A Praiseworthy Effort.

Our readers, at various intervals, have had opportunity to become familiar with the ready-for-living farms of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and of the general scheme under which the plan is operated.

The National Farm Homes Association, organized in Missouri, with a capital of \$1,000,000, purposes to buy Missouri land in large tracts in the unsettled parts, and to colonize these areas in community units, consisting of a central quarter-section surrounded by thirty-two forty-acre farms. The scheme provides for a trained agriculturist in charge of the central farm, whose duties shall, among other things, consist of freely guiding and aiding the surrounding farmers. Co-operation in breeding, producing, laboring and marketing, enters largely into the plans.

This Missouri effort is the crystallization of the cry "back to the farm" that is being so persistently given forth. Leading men who have great faith in intensified agriculture as the lasting foundation of permanent State or National greatness, such as Governor Hadley and John H. Curran, head of the State Immigration Commission, are executing the conception and bringing together the needy poor, and Missouri's cheap lands through the liberality of those who have money.

This effort of Missouri's prominent men will be watched with interest. There is much to be commended in it. Surely there are many families who suffer the pangs of poverty to whom such an opportunity should open the gates to a renewed life. The problems of economic production and economic marketing of surpluses may receive new light, under skillful guidance of these communities. The degree to which these factors contribute to success in these colonies, and the extent to which they may be made operative generally, indicate their value as demonstrative solutions to National problems.

Co-operation in Britain.

Co-operative agricultural societies have made good progress of late years in the United Kingdom. The Board of Agriculture gives figures for 600 such societies, specially formed for agricultural production and distribution. These societies have an aggregate membership of 79,465. Their share capital is £201,367; loan capital, £199,817; reserve funds, £145,119; and the sales for last year were £3,222,043. The increase in the total sales for a period of ten years was £2,705,976.

Ireland showed most rapid progress a few years ago, but now Great Britain is progressing very quickly on co-operative lines.

N. E. A. of United States.

The official programme of the National Education Association of the United States, which meets in its forty-eighth annual convention in Boston, July 2nd to 8th, has just come to hand. The most distinguished educators of the country appear in the programme. All branches of education are dwelt upon. Special notice is due the section for agricultural and rural education. The various problems which arise in bringing agricultural education into the public and High schools, and into rural communities, form the major part of the programme. D. J. Crosby, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Prof. G. E. Warren, Cornell University; Dean H. G. Williams, Ohio University, Athens, O.; President Butterfield, Andover, Mass., appear on the programme. Many of the States are endeavoring to reach agriculturists with the propaganda of agricultural education. Some have established Agricultural High Schools, other have introduced these studies into the public schools. The question of such efforts is undoubtedly the chief programme of such an association of agricultural educators.