

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and  
Succeed."

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## EDITORIAL.

The most illustrious victory is not winning an arbitration, but losing graciously.

Let us cultivate a warmer appreciation of the beauty of the rural landscapes of Canada, tree-clad and fertile—like the old Scottish shepherd who daily took off his hat to the beauty of the morning and the glory of Mother Earth.

In Jack London's book, "The Call of the Wild," the primal instinct of the dog for his old wilderness haunts, is the dominating theme. But to-day, multitudes, pinched in the thrall of the city grime and noise and trivialities, hear in the Call of the Land a message of hope and deliverance. Who will put it in a great book?

If the giddy crowds of young men and women who nightly throng the city streets and resorts of questionable entertainment would but seriously devote one-half the time to their industrial and intellectual culture, the character of town life would immeasurably improve, and in less than five years would be humming with unprecedented and substantial activity.

Two outstanding needs of the National Exhibition, Toronto, are: First, an ample judging pavilion, where the public can witness the most instructive feature of the show from a live-stock standpoint; and, second, a safer and more sanitary outfit of buildings in which to house the live stock of priceless value. The present huddled collection of frame cattle-sheds is in instant jeopardy of fire. The Exhibition cannot afford to take such risks.

Whilst it is true that the agricultural community as a class is largely a product of environment, it is fortunately also true that a spirited individual can to a very great extent rise above the conditions and influences which tend to root him to the methods of his forbears and order his own success on better and broader lines by means of purposeful will-power and effort. We can never get away from the personal factor of the equation, which is by long odds the most important of all.

Hunters want the muzzling order rescinded or amended, that they may take their hounds north to stalk deer. The impulse is natural, but as rabies has not yet been completely stamped out, we believe a calm, enlightened view will strongly support the Government in maintaining the regulations, at least until the hunting season is over, and as much longer as may be necessary. The safety of our canine friends, and other domestic animals, not to mention human beings, demands thorough measures in stamping out the dreaded infection.

An earnest, persistent and systematic quest for specific data on points that arise in our work would prove of immense value to any of us in commercial farm practice. The wisest man is not he who knows most, in his own opinion, but rather least, and, consequently, draws most readily on the knowledge of others. This does not necessarily mean asking endless questions, but paying studious heed to facts, experiments and experience on record in lectures, papers, bulletins and books. Read these, and whenever possible study problems out for yourself.

Agricultural journalism is at once a grand course of education, and a matchless means of convincing one how little the wisest of us know. It may surprise many readers to learn that we seldom pen an article on any practical subject—even one in which we have had large experience, and might presume ourselves fully informed—without first consulting various authorities and the recorded experience of other practical men, lest some point should have escaped our memory or eluded our observation. Not personal omniscience but vast painstaking is the secret of editorial reliability.

Undoubtedly President G. C. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, is correct in saying the average farmer needs more of that element which induces a man to spend ten dollars in order to make twenty. One reason for the reluctance is that in the past when the ten was spent instead of bringing another ten back it not infrequently disappeared itself. That was in a day when thrift counted for relatively more than it does to-day, and enterprise for less, and when, moreover, advanced practice was advocated less discreetly than it is to-day. Times have changed. As we have previously observed, the best way to make dollars nowadays is judiciously to invest a few.

Up to a certain point, says Roosevelt, truly, the city movement is thoroughly healthy, for no nation can develop a real civilization without cities. "Yet, it is a strange and lamentable fact that always, hitherto, after this point has been reached, the city has tended to develop at the expense of the country, by draining the country of what is best in it, and making an insignificant return for that best." Stranger still than this is the great American statesman's seeming oblivion to the effect of fiscal systems in hampering economic rural development. Free trade would not solve all or many problems of American country life, but it would help, and, best of all, would impose no injustice on anyone else.

To loose the shackles of a commerce that should flow with mutually beneficial results in tremendous volume, back and forth, is the object of President Taft's first formal step, taken last week, toward the negotiation of a Reciprocity Treaty between Canada and the United States. Mr. Taft is hopeful, says the report, that an opening wedge for general reciprocity between the two countries may be driven by an agreement at first in agricultural products. With this proposition, Canadian farmers will be heartily in accord. They would also welcome a reciprocal reduction to an equal figure in each case in the tariffs on manufactured goods. The one point which we cannot afford to concede is the unhampered export of those raw materials, such as lumber and minerals, on which we have an approximate monopoly. Some reasonable concessions might even here be granted, however, in return for sweeping reductions in American duties on agricultural products and manufactured goods. In coal, it would be of immense advantage to throw down the duties on both sides of the line. One condition which our Government should not fail to secure is the assured continuance of a Reciprocity Treaty for a considerable period of time, likewise a stipulation that several years' notice should be given by either party wishing to discontinue it.

## Faith Versus Works.

This year Western Canada is reaping a wheat crop, estimates of which run from 85 million to 120 million bushels. Normally, it should have had 150 to 160 million bushels, or better. Because the clouds did not precipitate in season it is out forty or fifty million dollars on the wheat crop, and nobody has yet satisfactorily estimated how much in oats, barley, flax, hay and other farm products. Which moves "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal" to remark: "This country would have garnered quite a large part of the fifty or sixty millions she is short in wheat if there had been less faith and more work. Faith is all right in its place, but the soil packer has it beaten to a standstill when it comes to growing wheat in a dry year on the prairie."

## How Little We Know!

United States ex-President Roosevelt, notwithstanding occasional slanting references to his garrulity, has a habit of getting close to the pith of things, and delivering himself of rugged masses of common sense. Speaking recently upon conservation and rural life, he submitted that one reason why the great industrial leaders have gone ahead is that they are willing and eager to profit by expert and technical knowledge—the knowledge that can come only as a result of the highest education.

"The big business man, the big railway man, does not ask college-trained experts to tell him how to run his business; but he does ask numbers of them each to give him expert advice and aid on some one point indispensable to his business. He finds this man usually in some graduate of a technical school or college in which he has been trained for his life work."

"In just the same way the farmer should benefit by the advice of the technical men who have been trained in phases of the very work the farmer does. I am not now speaking of the man who has had an ordinary general training, whether in school or college. While there should undoubtedly be such a training as a foundation (the extent differing according to the kind of work each boy intends to do as a man), it is, nevertheless, true that our educational system should more and more be turned in the direction of educating men toward, and not away from, the farm and the shop. During the last half century we have begun to develop a system of agricultural education at once practical and scientific, and we must go on developing it. But, after developing it, it must be used."

There is a saving idea—utilize the advice and information of experts. To this end the first requisite is to realize the need of help and knowledge—to realize, bluntly, that we do not know much. There is the rub! It is so hard to convince us that there is anything worth while beyond the limits of our own ken. A farmer who has grown only clover, grass and small grains is incredulous when told that alfalfa and corn are more productive and more profitable crops. The dairyman who has always picked cows by guess can hardly be persuaded that milk scales and Babcock test are much better. So we might box the compass. Bondsmen to half-knowledge and guesswork, we do not realize how small and imperfect our information really is. Of hundred-per-cent. knowledge, confident, specific, wide-ranging, there is very little even among our agricultural leaders. So the editor only says to his readers what he says often to himself, when he prays, "Teach us how little we know and incline our hearts to wisdom." Seek humbly to appropriate as much as possible of the vast stores of agricultural knowledge being poured out over the land. Seek instruction beyond the confines of your own neighborhood. Travel occasionally, that