

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and  
Succeed."

Established  
1866.

VOL. XLII.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.  
LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 10, 1907.

No. 746

## EDITORIAL.

### The Awakened East.

We do not mean the Orient. The allusion of the heading is to Canada—eastern Canada, from the Atlantic Provinces to the western bounds of Ontario. Were we asked to say briefly, looking over the chronicles, written, or otherwise, of the old year, what was its distinguishing characteristic in relation to this portion of our great Dominion, we should declare it to be that strong manifestation of the fact that it had come to realize itself and the national potency yet lying half dormant in its magnificent resources of land, forests, mines and water. Ontario and these other Provinces have come to a new consciousness, and already feel the stirrings of a new awakening life. For a generation they have been plodding along, looking betimes to the West or to the United States, all but unconscious that the Land of Promise was right here about us, and all it needed was the touchstone of faith and intelligent effort. In the final analysis, all our people needed was the vision. Just how the manifestation has come about, we need not pause to philosophize. The magnitude and importance of our agricultural and industrial enterprises have been steadily developing, most notably during the past quarter century. In our Christmas issue Mr. Blue told the story of Canada's expansion as graphically as it might be done in words and figures. But still it is hard to become really seized of all that is meant by soil-power, forest-power, water-power and mine-power in the hands of a strong, intelligent, self-reliant people, and what they signify to the people for whom they should be conserved and developed. More than ever before, the people began to discern its meaning and purport in 1906, and in 1907 the vision will become still more vivid. Investigations and Royal Commissions were in the public eye before the footlights, disclosing that we have a sound national conscience, but the other thing, though more subtle, was equally profound and more far-reaching in its psychological effect, and resembling more than anything else the birth of national self-consciousness.

### The Ontario Winter Fair for 1907 and After.

Reverting to the remarks made in our report of the late Fat-stock Show at Guelph, regarding needed improvements, we desire to emphasize the necessity and importance of providing a more attractive prize-list for the class of stock this show is principally designed to encourage, namely, steers, wethers and barrows of the type and quality called for by the markets. It may be necessary yet to offer prizes for young females in most of the classes in order to attract a sufficient number to make a respectable show, but the amount of the prizes for those classes need not be large, as most of the animals likely to be shown will probably be only in good breeding condition, or such as have been fitted for the fall fairs, and have, at little additional expense, been carried on for the Winter Fair. But the old-cow class should certainly be cut out, as it has heretofore been composed chiefly of breeding animals or patchy old matrons that have quit breeding and are only fourth-class butchers' stock, and should find no place in such a show. Let there be liberal prizes provided for steers in the several sections, and let the number be increased by providing senior and junior subsections, so that younger animals may not be handicapped by having to compete with others nearly twice as old, which has not infrequently been the case when the list

calls, for instance, for steers over one and under two years, by which requirement an animal thirteen months old may have to compete with another twenty-three months old, with little chance of winning unless it be a prodigy of phenomenal merit. By thus increasing the number of sections, and also the number of cash prizes to five or six in each section for male animals, and giving early notice through the press of the proposed bill of fare for the next show, the probability is that an ample number of entries of the most desirable class will be forthcoming in a year or two and the object of the show more satisfactorily realized. The same principle might be necessary, and is certainly desirable, in the sheep and swine divisions of the show. And since it is probable that a dairy show at some other season will be before long provided for, the room now occupied for that purpose will be available for more stock of the butchers' class, and it will be wise to take such steps as will tend to increase the number of entries of the better class. In order to make such a change most effective and successful, an early meeting of the directorate should be arranged for, and the prize-list published as soon as possible, so that intending exhibitors may know in good time what it is to be, and may commence early to prepare for the next show.

### What About the Manure Pile?

Last winter there was a useful discussion in "The Farmer's Advocate" on the care and application of winter manure, but spring work terminated the controversy prematurely. Enough was written to indicate a quite general favor of the plan of hauling the fresh manure direct to the fields and spreading on corn or root land, thus economizing labor and fertilizing virtue. On the other hand are some who are persuaded that the large quantity of colored rainwater or melted snow seen washing from winter-manured fields must contain a good deal of the most soluble plant food, particularly the urine. These incline to the opinion that it is better to keep the manure in a shed, tramped and worked over by hogs, or, if it is taken to the field in winter at all, they would have it dumped in small piles, convenient for spreading in the spring. Others, again, haul to the field and stack in large piles, to be distributed early in the spring with a manure spreader.

It is doubtful whether any system of handling manure can be invented which will not involve a considerable percentage of waste. That material loss of the most soluble constituents results from winter-broadcasting, few will deny, but it is questionable whether, on level land and in an ordinary season, the waste is any greater than would ensue from fermenting and leaching in even a well-protected barnyard. Certainly, the manure on the fields would not suffer nearly so much as if left in the average barnyard several months, and then applied to summer-fallow, where no good could be realized from it for a year or so. Winter application saves second handling, disposing of the manure in a slack season. It facilitates seeding, and puts the manure in condition for early utilization by plants, especially when put on sod to be spring-plowed for corn. Last, but most convincing evidence, is the fact that many farmers who have put cement floors in their stables and adopted the system of winter-manuring have greatly increased the productiveness of their farms in a very few years.

However, for hilly or for very light land, in districts where the precipitation is heavy, and especially where there is much freezing and thawing in spring, the manure spreader may solve the problem of a more economical use of the stable

by-product. The advantages of the spreader are many. It enables us to make a thin but even distribution over a very large area of land each year. For top-dressing meadows, or, perchance, fall wheat or spring grain, it is especially valuable, economizing both time and manure. Three horses and two men, one to drive and the other to help load, choring between times, can make a big hole in a barnyard each day. The one disadvantage of the spreader is that it cannot be used in deep snow.

Much good will flow from a renewed discussion of this whole subject, and "The Farmer's Advocate" will welcome short letters from subscribers detailing their experience with winter application of manure, and also with the use of manure distributors.

### A Government Packing Plant?

In the lecture room of the Ontario Winter Fair, last month, Prof. J. H. Gridale, of Ottawa, was down for an address on the much-debated bacon-hog question, his subject being, "Mutual Interests of Hog-raisers and Pork-packers." He started out with the premise that the interests of hog-raisers and packers were identical, as regards class of hogs raised and uniformity of production throughout the year. What makes for the development of our bacon trade, is for the ultimate advantage of both. The main trouble is that each party thinks the other is trying to get the better of him. The speaker indulged in a bit of railery at the packers' expense after crediting them with a sincere effort to export good hog products. He had been unable to find any good bacon on the Ottawa market, from which it might be inferred that they were sending all the good bacon away.

Taking up the specific bones of contention in the heated argument in the lecture-room the year before, he asked what had been gained? Discussing the seasonal fluctuations of prices, he could not see that the packers were to blame for this. The remedy for the grievance lay with the producers, who should make a point of maintaining a more regular supply of hogs, and not dumping a lot in the fall when the packers had more than they could handle to advantage. For one-half to a cent a pound more, as good bacon can be produced in winter as in summer, and more profit realized, as a general thing.

Another point that had been urged with force was that inferior hogs should be discriminated against in buying. Here the producers of bacon hogs had and still have a case. Without claiming that the bacon hog makes more expensive gains than the thick-fat, nevertheless it is somewhat more difficult to produce always a uniformly good lot of bacon hogs than to turn them off as they come. There is seldom a litter in which all are within ideal weights at the same time. It is to our interest, as a general class of producers, to cease marketing thin or overfat hogs; but it is to the packers' interest also, and they should devise some system of buying whereby the man who markets off-type or below-weight or over-weight hogs should be cut a fraction in price, or else put a premium on those that are right. But the packers are always ready with some plausible excuse for not discriminating. Either competition is so keen at the moment that they cannot afford to start it, or they are at the mercy of the local hog-buyer, or something else.

Now, one of the most potent influences tending to the improvement of the business should be paying according to quality, and he ventured a suggestion that perhaps might be adopted—some institution, such as an official referee, to inspect and classify the hogs that come into the packing plants, and send back a report to the