

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

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, dairymen,
gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
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2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland
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matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve THE
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Train the Home-makers.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The problem of keeping the boy on the farm is, to my mind, one of the most important questions of the present day, touching, as it does, upon the future welfare of our great country. Agriculture is beyond all doubt the main pivot upon which the prosperity and enterprise of our vast and great country turns. Even the partial failure of one single crop causes a wide and hard-felt depression in all other business lines, such as we are experiencing just at the present time; consequently, it is of the utmost importance that our bright young men are retained on the farm, to devote their brain and energy to the successful development of this important industry. Successful farming now depends more on a combination of brain and muscle than on muscle alone, and it has to be carried on on a principle entirely different from what it used to be when we older men first started in the primitive woods, and it opens up a wide field for our bright young men to exercise their faculties for the advancement of successful farming, the noblest of all callings, and reward is sure to follow, not alone in dollars and cents, but also in an independent, healthy and happy life, brightened by the close proximity and recourse to beautiful mother nature, free from the many delusions and vices which daily surround the city man. It is true that many of the brightest and most successful men in nearly all branches in the cities have originated in humble country homes, and this will always remain so, for there is no place like the country and country life, with its healthful exercise, its wholesome food and invigorating pure air, to develop brain, muscle, and a broad mind, which are required to successfully fill the highest positions in life. It is not these men whose leaving the farm we object to or deplore, but the equally bright men who flock to the cities, to work in factories and other dependent positions, where, in time, with the monotony and constant daily connection with a certain machine, they, so to say, become a piece of this cold machine. Many ideas have been advocated to stop this disadvantageous flocking to the city, such as giving our boys an agricultural-college training, which, indeed, is very helpful to a level-headed young man; also, giving the son an interest in the farm, by giving him a brood mare, or a cow or pig, to make out of them what he can. This, I

think a very mistaken idea. What other business concern would think of allowing each member of a firm to run a little show of his own in the same line of business that they are following? They know that it would simply mean failure to the whole concern, and farming is a business as all other enterprises are. I would think it much better to make your son a silent partner, by consulting with him in all the dealings and working of the farm. Let him feel that you take an interest in him, and that you want him to take an interest in the business. Occasionally send him to market; let him do some selling and purchasing; do not make him feel that you know it all alone. Take his ideas occasionally, and work them out together, and in nine out of ten cases the boy will take interest in the work. But to my mind the real keynote has never been struck. To my mind it is to our mothers that we have to look to accomplish this important task successfully. To my mind our mothers are our nation builders. To a great extent it is the mother's loving and guiding influence that moulds the future character and usefulness of the son, but to accomplish this successfully she must be inspired with love for agriculture, country life and nature, and must possess the faculty of making a home happy and cheerful, for nothing tempts a boy more to stay at home than a cheerful and happy environment. To accomplish this we must educate our daughters along these lines. To my mind it is in the education and bringing up of our daughters where we make the most serious mistakes of our life, for neither the average university graduate, with all her education and accomplishments, nor the schoolmarm or office girl, will become the type of a woman desirable for a happy country home. Woman, the greatest of all blessings from our Creator, was designed to be a helpmeet to man—that is, to be a happy home-maker. To give our boys a proper education is necessary, but I would further say, let us give our daughters a proper education; let us fit them and inspire them with love for their true calling, to be helpmeets and happy home-makers, and we will have gone a long way to solve the intricate problem of how to keep our boys on the farm.

Oxford Co., Ont.

H. BOLLERT.

USEFUL AND CONSTANT REMEMBRANCE.

The ideal Christmas present possesses two virtues. It is useful, and of a nature that makes it a constant remembrance, bringing the giver repeatedly to the recipient's mind. It is not too late to make your friend a Christmas or New Year's present of a year's subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." It can be done by any present subscriber for 75 cents, in this way: Send us \$2.25, being \$1.50 for the new subscription and 75 cents for your own renewal, the other 75 cents being allowed by us as a premium on the new name. Send two new names with \$3.00 (\$1.50 for each), and your own renewal will be free.

Renew Now.

The easiest time to pay for a paper is in advance. A duty unperformed bothers one every time he thinks of it. A debt paid is off the mind. There is a great satisfaction in keeping obligations attended to as they fall due. It means much to the publisher, also, to have all his subscribers pay up promptly. A dollar and a half to each of them is a dollar and a half, whether in December or March, but fifty thousand dollars is worth \$625 more to us now than three months hence, to say nothing of the labor of keeping track of unpaid accounts, or the inconvenience of financing a large publishing business without plenty of cash in hand. It costs hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to publish "The Farmer's Advocate," all of which expenses

have to be met by us in advance. In order that the standard of the paper may be maintained, and the quantity and quality of its reading matter and illustrations steadily increased, prompt payment of subscriptions and active effort on the part of its friends to obtain new subscribers are necessary.

A large number of farmers at this season are considering what journals they will take during 1909. A word for "The Farmer's Advocate" will secure many, and enable a large proportion of our present subscribers to help us, as well as themselves, by sending two new names and \$3.00, thus obtaining their own renewals free.

Are Farmers' Institutes Waning?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As the season for Farmers' Institute meetings is here again, can we, as we attend these meetings, after noting the sentiment and interest prevailing on the part of those present, refrain from asking ourselves the question, "Has not the Farmers' Institute, at least, outlived its days of greatest usefulness to the farmers of Ontario?" Many are the outward indications of decreasing interest and enthusiasm on the part of farmers. The co-operation between the members and officers, so necessary to make these meetings the greatest success, is lacking; the idea is not backed by the earnest support of those who should be most interested; but why should this relationship exist? Farmers are, it would seem, curious to hear something new and startling from any stranger coming into their midst to tell them about their occupation. In this the Institute delegates seem to disappoint their hearers; not that what they have to tell should not be of interest to farmers, but seemingly we have listened to the same talks on the same subjects so often that they have lost their charm.

Time was when Institute meetings created much greater enthusiasm. To any member who has regularly attended the annual meetings for the last ten years, this fact is very evident. Then they were looked upon as an annual event in which much interest centered, and were attended by all members of the family, making large audiences that must have been an inspiration to the officers and delegates in charge. How different now. Then, the delegates were disappointing if they could not give an oration more suitable as an after-dinner speech than an address at a Farmers' Institute meeting, and, in conjunction, intersperse this oration with a number of good stories. Good musical selections from local talent made up a varied evening's programme of highly-entertaining and interesting nature. If these delegates told us anything along agricultural lines, it was some remarkable achievement they had heard about; some wealthy aristocrat who farmed by way of a diversion; some phenomenal records his stock were making in butter-fat tests or in show-rings, and a description of his elaborate farm equipment; and the audience concluded that it was a pretty good story.

Then followed the practical delegates—so-called only in a few instances, and in other instances genuine. These were the men who made Institutes helpful to farmers. They were well received, as they told us some things a little nearer applicable to average farm conditions than their predecessors. They introduced discussions, and the meetings were very practical and inspiring. But the story has now been long told; we have listened to addresses on the subjects, "Feeding the Dairy Cow," "Bacon Production for Profit," "Corn Crop and the Silo," etc., so often that we want something newer. Our inquiring minds and curiosity demand it, although there may still be much for us to learn in these same subjects. Not only do we have a repetition of subjects presented to us, but occasionally the same delegate visits us again; and when this is the case, there seems to be less interest than ever, not that his previous labors were unappreciated, but each year we want at least a new man. While these men may have made a very practical success of their time and talent in the following of their occupation, in every community there are men who feel that they have made as good, and their neighbors regard them in the same light, and conclude that they can gain valuable lessons from their successful neighbors' methods, in which they have much greater faith than in those of a stranger. And then, the discussions. How often is their worth not lost by some local man, "loading" himself, so to speak, for the occasion, first ascertaining the delegates' subjects, and then preparing to give the speakers as much trouble as he can? To a large proportion of the audience this is amusing, and so the local man monopolizes the time allotted the delegate for his subject, and little is gained from the time spent at the Institute.

Another weakness of the present system is the diversity of conditions under which often the delegate and his audience labor. A delegate from Western Ontario is sent to address Institute ridings in Eastern Ontario, and vice versa. Now, farming practices vary in even adjoining counties,