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EDITORIAL.

How many farmers are going to renovate the old orchard this season? Hold up the hands.

Uninformed men know a great many things about which wiser men hold qualified opinions or reserve judgment entirely.

Too many men ask merely whether a certain-sized implement will do their work. It is a wrong way to look at the matter. The real question is whether it will do the work most economically, all things considered. Profit is a matter of margins.

Several acres of bindweed are one of the little diversions we shall have on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm. Unfortunately, the infested area is not part of what we should like to cultivate this year. When we do get at that bindweed, we intend to do a thorough job.

There seems to be a sort of fellowship about this run-down-farm business. One day's mail last week brought two interesting private letters from prominent agriculturists four hundred miles apart, both of whom are tackling such farms. Of course, the farm we have finally fallen back on is not so dirty as might be wished. One friend suggests that if there are not enough weeds to suit us, we might just let the farm run itself one summer. However, we are not ready for anything quite so foolish as that—not yet awhile.

It has been often observed that some of the loudest protesters of loyalty are among the least loyal when it comes to a practical personal issue. There are probably as large a percentage of smugglers among avowed protectionists as among free-traders, and we have all seen red-hot tariff advocates forget all about their principles when a chance presented itself to save half a dollar by purchasing a foreign-made implement, or to earn an extra fifty dollars a year in some foreign country. "The Farmer's Advocate" looks at this matter just the other way around. It believes in freer trade as a means of regulating prices and reducing economic waste. At the same time, it gives a voluntary preference to Canadian merchandise when values are equal, or nearly so. All the implements so far purchased for "The Farmer's Advocate" farm are made in Canada.

There are people who think that editing a paper is a snap. They come into the office and chat away about little or nothing. As the editor whirls around on his chair from the stack of manuscript on his desk, like as not they pass some remark about his office being a nice place to put in short hours on a winter day. Meanwhile, the would-be pencil-pusher, anxious to be at his accumulation of work, ransacks his mind for an opportunity of terminating the conversation courteously. Very few people have any adequate idea of the amount of mental energy required to edit a paper such as ours. Ten years of active journalism will take more out of a man than a decade of farming. The hours may be shorter, but the strain is greater. At the very best, with as few interruptions as possible, the tax is severe. So, while we like to meet our friends, we respectfully request that they make their visits brief, say what they have to say, ask what they have to ask, and take prompt leave. It is as to allow us a few minutes' time for work before the eighteenth or twentieth interruption of the day occurs.

Labor-savers' Competition.

With pleasure, the announcement is made that twenty-four essays or letters were received in the competition for labor-savers, announced in the issue of March 2nd. Not only was the competition entered into quite freely, but it is also a source of great satisfaction that the character of the contributions was almost uniformly high. It was a decided pleasure to read the letters over, for no one could help observing that he was in the company of those who have active brains and are using them. who are enthusiasts in their work. "The difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary man, or woman," as one of the two ladies who contributed says, is "that one sees 'things' and immediately adopts them, while the other doesn't." While the prizes have been awarded, and the winning articles will, of course, be published, yet so excellent are the others that we shall publish nearly all of them, also, paying for them at our usual rates.

Neither of the lady contributors was awarded a prize, which may be accounted for by the fact that the judge was a "mere man." In truth, a judge in any kind of competition lays himself open to attack from many quarters. The full measure of knotty points was present in this competition. For instance, the one contrivance or arrangement which stood away above all the rest as a labor-saver, viz., the water system in use on the farm of John Campbell, Woodville (who has been a prizewinner in so many stiff contests), was, after long consultation, ruled out altogether. It was held that the clause in the announcement of the competition, that "patented articles or devices on the market were not admissible," excluded Mr. Campbell's excellent contribution.

The first prize has been awarded to Gordon Banting, Middlesex Co., Ont., and the second and third prizes have been divided equally between George Smedley, Algoma, Ont., and Peter B. Fick, Norfolk Co., Ont.

Rabies Again.

In public as in private affairs, thoroughness pays. Owing to lukewarmness of public opinion, reflected in an indiscreet laxity of municipal enforcement, the joint Federal and Provincial dog-muzzling order became practically a dead letter last summer, and has been officially regarded as inoperative since December 7th, 1910. Shortly following the enactment of the order, a marked diminution in the number of outbreaks of rabies occurred, but a short-memoried public insisted on premature relaxation of vigilance. As a consequence, we again hear disturbing reports.

During the month of December, 1910, and the three months which have expired in 1911, four small outbreaks of rabies have occurred, nine premises, in all, having been quarantined because of the existence or suspected existence of rabies thereon. Of these, one outbreak, which involved the quarantining of four premises, was dealt with in the County of Welland during the month of December; one premises was quarantined in the County of Grey in the month of January; one premises in the County of Dufferin in the month of February; and it was found necessary to deal with another outbreak involving the quarantining of three premises in the County of Welland within the last month. Had the muzzling order previously in force been properly observed by owners of dogs, it would have been possible to remove these restrictions before December, and these small, scattered outbreaks would, in all probability, not have occurred. It is, under the circum-

stances, impossible to state with any certainty whether or not it will be found necessary to renew the order, though we understand that in any event this will not be done without the matter being given very full consideration.

What a pity we did not make a thorough job of exterminating rabies while we were at it!

For the Good of the Country.

We refer our readers to a rejoinder by Lawrence Scratch to his critics on the question of reciprocity. He belabors them well, and incidentally gives the editor of "The Farmer's Advocate" a few whacks. We confess to being innocent enough to suppose that, for a farmer to follow his inclinations and buy as cheaply as possible was to his advantage, and, through his increased prosperity, an advantage to the country at large. But not so, according to our correspondent. He plainly states that for a Western farmer to pay \$40 more for a horse from the Eastern Provinces than for one brought in from the Western States, was for his own good and everybody else's. But if \$40 extra is a good thing, why not \$140, or even ten times that? It could be managed. The C. P. R. have never shown any disinclination to take all that could be got for carrying freight, and might like another \$100 on every horse. Our Eastern manufacturers, whose industries are by this extra toll to be "stimulated to greater output," have also always shown themselves quite ready to accept a little more, in order to exert a "beneficial influence upon the whole commercial net work of this country," and might be induced to join in the game.

Our correspondent's argument, "in the long run," is, that the more expensively trade is carried on, the better for the country. We would venture to suggest what might be an improvement even over Mr. Scratch's high-tariff proposals. Have the railways carry freight three times over their lines before unloading, charging, of course, full rates for the extra work. Their earnings would be wonderfully increased. There would be some more dead horses to pay for, but it would be all for the good of the country. In the eloquent words of our correspondent, "Then the roar of our multitudinous industries, and the whirl of our commercial activities will forever drown the sinister eagle-scream of annexation."

Electric Spark for Farm Work.

Will electric energy, brought to the doors of Ontario farm homes through the instrumentality of the Hydro-Electric Commission, prove more economical than gasoline? Hon. Adam Beck, "Minister of Power," appears to think it may be profitably employed for many purposes, including irrigation of land, operation of cream separators, churns, pumps, milking machines, machines for cleaning horses and cattle, threshing outfits, saws, grindstones, plowing and the like, and for heating, lighting, cooking and ironing. This sounds like solving the labor problem inside the house, as well as out. It is estimated that three horse-power is the average amount required for farm purposes, and it is proposed that when heavy work, such as threshing, is to be done, farmers should co-operate in groups of ten or twelve, the others conserving while one man's work is being done. The prospect is alluring if the plan is feasible and the power economical. The Commission is doing wisely in sending a couple of its engineers to Europe to study the question, the party to be joined by Hon. Mr. Beck some time during the summer. With them is to be sent a man from the Provincial Department of Agricul-