

FARMING AND LIVE STOCK PAGE

VALUE OF ENTHUSIASM.

It is easy to write up farm enthusiasm, but is there really any money produced by being enthusiastic? That is the question that confronts the average farmer as he struggles with crop returns and bank accounts.

The farm returns from the Southern States this year show a production of two and a half billion dollars. This is more than the total output of the United States in 1880, and nearly the same as the production of the whole of the States in 1890, only 18 years ago.

In other words, the production has grown from \$287 per capita in 1880 to \$615 per capita last year. Everyone who has kept an eye upon events has noticed the steady increase in the valuation of farming lands in the south, and it is plain that this is justified by the constantly increasing production and consequent increase in profits. A few years ago cotton was almost the sole crop of the southern farmer. Now they are diversifying, and fruit growing, cattle raising, and vegetable raising and poultry raising for the city markets is returning extra profits. Fine cattle, sheep, milk, butter, fowl, eggs, fruit, hops, wheat, corn, alfalfa, sugar cane, etc., intelligently produced, are yielding big returns.

And why? The evangel of higher agriculture has been preached in the south. Talented men have given of their services and they have caught the ear of listening farmers. Improved methods of culture, enthusiastic fighting of pests, and a more business regard for telephones, rural mail delivery, good roads, electric car lines, are the hymns that have been sung. The refrain is echoed in the figures quoted above.

Against this, let us look for a moment at C. C. James' estimate of Ontario agriculture. Only 10 per cent. gross returns on our farm capitalization tells the tale of modern methods in Ontario. Of course, figures are used to prove almost anything, someone remarks, but nevertheless, a gross return means a very slim net return to the average farmer. In fact, it means that nearly many farmers are going behind and losing their capital.

The situation is almost startling in many respects. With all our agricultural education, we are not producing from our land that exuberance that the richness of Ontario soils would warrant.

We have here the answer to the whole question, why do the Ontario boys leave the farm? There is no money to keep them there. What Ontario wants is an evangelistic service in agriculture, a shaking of the dry bones of pseudo-reform and a something real to be done to start up and maintain a rural enthusiasm that will double our production of grain, roots, alfalfa, hogs, poultry, cattle, vegetables, fruits and other products.

Those who have been working upon this problem in Ireland have adopted a rough formula to indicate the three-fold character of the constructive work which was needed for a complete recovery, viz., better farming, better business, better living.

These three sum up the situation well. The research work of our scientific institutions is doing much for agriculture, but perhaps some improvement can be had in the means of translating the research work of the field and laboratory into a work-a-day experience of the farmer.

Ontario farmers as a rule know how to live better, but lack the energy necessary to produce dollars to attain their ends. Better methods with a firm enthusiasm to win by those methods, at the same time properly adjusting their living expenses to their present means, constitute the individual's share of the uplift. The government has a serious duty after this. The maximum of production stands a poor chance for profit to the farmer with a poor market. The government should lift its eyes to the hills.

The Farmstead

Foot and mouth disease in Pennsylvania.

Much snow was plowed under.

Nicholas Brown's sale at Whitby takes place on Dec. 15.

Large numbers of cattle are going in to feed in the country.

The Ben Davis apple has a good skin, anyway—that's some good.

The farmers want cheap electricity for power purposes, and also do the manufacturers.

E. E. Pugh's sale at Claremont came off successfully on Tuesday last. The cattle were undersold in many cases and had not been fed for special sale, but in all about 70 head were sold at fair prices. Sheep sold quite low.

Recently Harvey Mitchell, formerly superintendent of the Sussex, N.B. Dairy School, has been appointed to take charge of the work for the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Lindsay people will regret to learn that F. H. Reed, B.S.A., who has done such good work in the agriculture of the Regina branch of the Dominion Seed Department.

Victoria County Poultry Association held a most interesting meeting on Monday evening. B. L. McLean, president of the association, presided. It was decided to get Prof. Graham of the O. A. C. to lecture at the annual show in Lindsay in January.

The Picton Women's Institute will hold an open meeting Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m., in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church. Miss Bella Miller, who is one of our most experienced workers in Ontario and New York State, will give an address entitled "As Others See Us." Miss Miller has had charge of a traveling dairy school in Nova Scotia for several seasons, and is also able to give instruction in all lines for general work in which the homemaker is interested. Miss Miller's special training in home-nursing and emergencies places her in a position to give valuable instruction along the line.

A free course in stock and seed judging will be given in Sunderland on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5, under the direction of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Farmers' Institute of North Ontario. This is an opportunity that many

Cattle Receipts Treble Toronto Stockyards During Ten Years

Ten Short Years Show a Big Increase in Live Stock Operations on Ontario Farms—Drift Cityward of Young Men and the Labor Question Largely Responsible.

The big runs at the city and Union Stock Yards this week of live stock strikes a reminiscent mood in the onlooker. How do our present marketings compare with a similar week one year ago? With five or with ten years ago? Are there any striking changes in conditions and results? Man's memory is apt to be treacherous, and unless we can refer to figures, opinions count for very little.

This week has seen a very heavy run of stock grades at both markets and the wonder grows where all the bovine merchandise is going to land. And such mongrels! The majority of the cattle are of a nondescript character, totally void of all breeding according to Hoyle. Dairy blood is evidenced in the celebrated "Wedge" shape ad infinitum, and the ring strikes and mottled hides.

Shorthorns, Angus, Galloway and Hereford pure breeds are the best types for this country and when a carload of choice feeders of any one strain arrives buyers are tumbling over one another to purchase at good figures. Good grades are also wanted, and many a 900 pound steer with approximate qualifications goes into the feed lot, at figures often too high for the feeder's just remuneration.

Unlike the great states' markets, Canada has not the range country to draw upon for her feeding pens. Of the totals yesterday some 12 came from our Canadian west, and these were taken up easily.

Dealers, farmers and others constitute the bulk of the population that tramp the alleys at the cattle yards. Little groups here and there are standing or sitting discussing the outlook or making a transfer. The experienced visitor can read in the faces of the morning crowd, just how the trend of the market is holding. It is a miniature world where all the anxieties of humanity press forward for solution.

Losses and gains, disputes and congratulations alternate in curious succession. Here money is made one day to be lost the next. Often the drover from the country are seldom individualists with their tale of losses. Again their good-natured faces reflect the good deal they have put thru.

Shrewdest of all the old farmer who has been there before. He knows every turn of the game and buys only when he gets what he wants at his own price. He must be content to stay in the city until he does see.

FIELD CROPS OF 1908

WHAT ONTARIO YIELDED

Figures in Various Grain and Vegetable Crops—Live Stock Statistics.

The following gives the areas and yields of the principal field crops of Ontario for 1908. The areas have been compiled from individual returns of farmers and the yields by a special staff of correspondents in each township.

Fall wheat: 679,642 acres yielded 16,420,476 bushels, or 24.2 bushels per acre, as compared with 15,545,491 and 23.0 in 1907.

Spring wheat: 142,124 acres yielded 2,197,716 bushels, or 15.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 2,473,651 and 17.1 in 1907.

Barley: 734,029 acres yielded 20,388,569 bushels, or 28.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 21,718,332 and 28.3 in 1907.

Oats: 2,774,239 acres yielded 86,026,419 bushels, or 31.0 bushels per acre, as compared with 83,524,301 and 28.5 in 1907.

The average yield for 26 years, 1882-1907, was 35.8 bushels per acre.

Rye: 87,908 acres yielded 1,453,616 bushels, or 16.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 1,093,621 and 15.5 in 1907.

Buckwheat: 140,035 acres yielded 3,323,568 bushels, or 23.8 bushels per acre, as compared with 2,545,468 and 22.5 in 1907.

Peas: 396,642 acres yielded 7,401,336 bushels, or 18.7 bushels per acre, as compared with 7,365,036 and 21.6 in 1907.

Beans: 46,385 acres yielded 783,757 bushels, or 16.9 bushels per acre, as compared with 790,267 and 16.8 in 1907.

Potatoes: 166,974 acres yielded 18,517,642 bushels, or 111 bushels per acre, as compared with 20,057,675 and 113 in 1907.

farmers will want to take advantage of. Mr. C. C. James stated the other day that the value of Ontario's farm products could be doubled by the general adoption of improved methods. The first step is to learn more, then put to use the knowledge of the Dominion Seed Department.

The fine large stallion, Royal Benedict, was sold last Friday at the land sale to D. E. & W. L. Lanson of Greenbank, Canada, for \$2175, says The Butler, Indiana, Herald. He was considered one of the finest horses in these parts and a great bargain at that price. The Shetland ponies sold well, the lowest price being \$68 and the highest \$211. Not one of them, the sale amounting to over \$5000, all of which was paid in cash.

Alfalfa is in great use by pig growers in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and other states. Prof. Burnett of Nebraska found that alfalfa leaves had a little more value as a pig feed than wheat middlings. The Kansas Experiment Station has done much work in alfalfa. Experiments indicate that alfalfa is a splendid maintenance ration, especially for brood sows; that for growing pigs a limited amount of corn should be fed with it and that in general its use greatly cheapens the production of pork, besides making a superior type of bacon.

Pumpkins as a feed are of a bulky percentage of water, hence a pig could

care his ends. The man who hastens pays dear for it.

But with all their ups and downs, the stock dealer, with his cane and his collie dog, is a fine fellow. He has a big heart and believes in the inherent goodness of his fellowmen. His words are few, but his face is genial.

Lessons From the Totals.

A look at the market totals for this week, this week ten years ago, five years ago and last year will prove of interest:

Cattle 1898 1908 1907 1908

Hogs 2850 4411 5538 5225

Sheep 1600 4899 5183 5240

Calves 4350 6312 8172 6165

Totals 12,750 15,834 20,180 19,863

Cars 176 284 348 450

1908 figures are for four days only.

It will be seen that the cattle receipts at Toronto have more than

trebled in ten years. Sheep and lambs have about done same thing. But hogs have remained almost stationary.

There is a story in this. Ten years ago prices were down around the \$4 live-weight mark and yet numbers almost equal to the present day were coming on to our markets. Then was the time when such big firms as Davies, Gunn's and others were making money by shipping our hogs to the old land markets. Now the supply from Canadian sources is not much greater, and it is extremely doubtful if the farmers are making a great deal more to-day, taking the high prices of feed and the higher standard of living into account.

The great increase in the cattle receipts shows that Ontario is developing enormously in cattle production. These weeks may be taken as conclusive for this week and last year.

Prospects now begin to look like more beef for local consumption next spring, as many carloads are going daily to the feeding pens.

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NORTHERN SPIES IN TEN YEARS BEAR

Interesting Apple Discussion at Whitby Open Grange Meeting—Large Planting Likely Next Spring.

The Whitby Grange held an open meeting at the town fire hall on Wednesday evening, when the subject of the apple orchard was taken up. A large crowd of people had assembled and the discussion became most practical in character.

R. W. Grierson, president of the Oshawa Fruit Growers, Limited, gave his experience with both old and young orchards on his farm near Oshawa.

He was a strong advocate of cultivation of orchard lands for big results in saleable fruit. In young orchards, he had found that Spy trees bore in nine to twelve years and was a thorpe believer in this as a means of checking insects and fungus diseases.

Discussion.

J. D. Howdard: "What is the best apple to plant to make money?"

Answer: "By all means, with me," said Mr. Grierson, "it is the Baldwin. It had the misfortune to be a poor tree but this was improved by grafting upon Tolman Sweet stock."

J. L. Parsons: "When is the proper time to prune?"

Answer: "March and April are the most practical months, but many prefer June as the ideal time."

Arthur Jeffrey: "In hoe crops, would you plant close to the trees?"

Answer: "I would not sow too close, but find that a cultivated strip along the line of trees pays well. As the trees grow older, increase the distance of cultivation from the tree."

Herbert Webster: "Would you plant Kings?"

Answer: "I think not. They are shy bearers. The Spy is another money maker."

Robert Cronk: "Does applications of such barn-yard manure increase the fungus diseases?"

Answer: "It can be overcome and in such cases wood ashes would be good. Applications of manure every three years is a good plan."

H. Webster: "In planting an orchard, what varieties are the best?"

Elmer Lick: "The person planting had better find out what varieties do the best in his section and then plant to only a few kinds. Baldwins, Spies, Blenheims and Greenings are good old standbys."

Mr. Elmer Lock, the efficient manager of the association, confined his talk largely to the destruction of the oyster shell bark louse.

"Two thoro sprays with lime and Gullit's eye will finish them." Last year he used 10 cans of lye and 75 pounds of lime to 100 gallons of water before the leaves appeared, and found

it none too strong. Oil sprays he advised to be used only on bright sunny days. In answer to a question as to whether it was possible to overdo the tree planting, Mr. Lick was most positive that there was no danger. "We in this district stand in a unique position as an apple growing district of America. There may come a year when prices will be low, but that cannot last."

J. H. Hare, B. S. A., had specimens of branches affected with black rot fungus. He described how these developed and the cure for them. Burning the affected limbs and liberal spraying, with painting the trees where limbs were removed, would eliminate the danger largely.

W. L. Smith acted as chairman and aided in the discussion in which Messrs. Huggard, Smith, Osborne, Brown, Gormley, Annis and others took part. F. M. Chapman had a few words to say about his success in grafting, and reported bearing Spies, Greenings and Starkes on Tolman, Alexander and natural fruit stocks from three to five years. Several

musical selections added to the evening entertainment.

The people seem much interested in apple culture here, and a fairly without a large orchard now is regarded as no great snag. Large numbers of trees will likely be planted in this vicinity next year, also as the Oshawa Fruit Growers, as a co-operative society, are handling trees, the people will likely take advantage of it to plant to good commercial varieties.

FAIR DATES.

Nov. 28 to Dec. 10—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.

Nov. 30 to Dec. 8—Martime Winter Fair, Amherst, N.S.

Dec. 2 to 10—National Dairy Show, Chicago.

Dec. 7 to 11—Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph.

Jan. 18 to 22—Eastern Ontario Live Stock and Poultry Show, at Ottawa.

Every subordinate grange should see that it is well represented at the Dominion Grange in Toronto next week.

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