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EDITORIAL.

The Farmer Feeds Us All.

In considering the elements and evidences of national greatness we are too apt to ignore or overlook our agricultural interests, while as a matter of fact in a country like ours these are paramount and naturally overshadow all others. Arts, manufactures and commerce may seem to be, and really are, of great importance. If the banks discount freely, and our emporiums are crowded with merchantmen and merchandise, if the hum of industry is heard in our workshops and factories, and the canvas of our shipping whitens the seas, we are disposed to accept these as the greatest evidences of national prosperity. We are liable to forget that there is a still greater interest on which all these things depend. Let the labor of the husbandman cease, let the heavens fail to favor us with fructifying showers, let the seed sown in faith and hope fail to germinate and produce first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear, let blight and mildew blast the hopes and the toil of the farmer go unrewarded for a single season, and what becomes of our boasted prosperity? Can the rich man grind his gold or leaven his bank stock into bread? With all his hoarded wealth and his glittering gold around him, he would starve to death side by side with the beggar in the midst of his squalor. The wheels of our factories and of our railways, the sails of our commerce, the laboratories and implements of the scientist, the pen, pencil and chisel of genius, the trappings of wealth and the banquetings of pleasure, all have their existence and influence only as a result of the labor of the farmer, only because the fields yield their increase in response to the patient toil of the tiller of the soil. We might manage to live independently of the merchant and the manufacturer, the trader, the speculator, and the politician; but it is certain we could not live without the farmer, the cultivator of the soil, the sower of the seed, and the reaper of the harvest. Suspend for a single year the world's practical agriculture, and the shivering shadow of famine and death would cloud every path, darken every home, and chill every heart. Life, with all its energies, aims and ambitions, its love, hope and joy, is sustained by the golden sheaves that reward the farmer's toil. How manifestly, then, does our boasted civilization, with all its social, financial and political interests, depend upon the farmer and the field, the seed, the sower, and the soil; and how grateful should all classes feel that the year has been crowned with a fruitful harvest, bringing hope and cheer to all.

The Farm the Best Gold Mine.

(From our Manitoba and Western Edition.)

Gold! Gold! And still the epidemic spreads. Last year it was the Kootenay or Rat Portage; this year the Klondyke. The spirit of speculation is abroad in the land. The farmer with his carload of wheat becomes a wheat speculator, and if favored by fortune joins the rest of humanity and invests in shares in some mining scheme. And yet, as a matter of fact, a good farm of 160 acres in a good locality is a far more profitable and lasting gold mine than the richest mineral claim in the Klondyke. In the farm comparatively little capital is required; there is no hardship or privation, no imminent risk of life and limb; and yet the reward for ordinary perseverance and intelligence is almost certain. It is, in fact, the few who fail, whereas in mining the very reverse is true; while in mining much capital is required, life is risked, privation and suffering even must be reckoned with. Of course, to the few fortunate ones the wealth comes much more rapidly than it can come to the farmer, but the latter can live and live comfortably every day of the year while his

wealth is slowly, perhaps, but surely accumulating about him. And, after all, the wealth produced by mining is as nothing compared with that produced on the farm. Take, for instance, Manitoba's 21,000,000 of wheat this year at to-day's prices, and allowing for low grades, etc., it represents about \$15,000,000 of wealth produced by the farmers of Manitoba in one season. Compare this with the wealth of the Kootenay, where in 1896 the total yield of gold, silver, copper and lead is officially given at \$4,000,000, and the highest yield of precious metals in any one year in the best days of the Cariboo district was only about \$4,000,000; while British Columbia's total output of gold from its discovery to the present is given as less than \$60,000,000.

It is frequently said that he who feeds the miner is the one who profits most, and this is surely the food producer's opportunity. The mining development in British Columbia and Northwestern Ontario, the railroad construction through the Crow's Nest Pass, and now the wild rush for the Klondyke, is creating a home market for all kinds of farm produce. Alberta, and more particularly the Edmonton and Red Deer country, feels the benefit of this market for butter, eggs, potatoes, oats, hay, etc., etc. Of course, the whole of the Prairie Provinces also feel the impetus. Besides the Western demand for beef cattle the export prices are good and the cattlemen are happy. The railroad construction will require a lot of horses, and the Alaskan expeditions will use up a lot of cheap and inferior saddle ponies (using them for meat for the transport dogs when the grass limit of the Arctic circle is reached). All this must benefit the horse-breeding interests by cleaning up an immense amount of inferior stuff that always accumulates when prices are low. The outlook for the wheat farmer, the mixed farmer, the dairy farmer, and the rancher is indeed most hopeful.

Observations at the Toronto Industrial.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition has arrived at a place where it is recognized as the best annual live stock and industrial event of the world. We found, this year, every department filled, not simply with representatives of what the prize list called for, but in almost every case exhibits of the highest order. It was a general remark of annual visitors that there has never before been forward so few inferior exhibits; in fact, it might be said there were none of poor quality. Placing beside this a comparison of this and former years' entries, we have a happy condition of circumstances for the board of management to congratulate themselves upon for some time to come. The entries of horses, cattle, sheep and swine since 1891 till the present time are as follows:

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Horses.....	980	1,029	956	875	869	890	865
Cattle.....	558	629	648	608	737	731	827
Sheep.....	415	285	415	442	447	489	441
Swine.....	339	267	377	395	435	419	444
Total.....	2,292	2,240	2,391	2,320	2,488	2,519	2,577

While in some of the classes of stock there has been a falling off in numbers, the value of the exhibits has, without doubt, increased in the decreased classes. Exhibitors who formerly brought out inferior or ill-fitted stock have learned that such is a losing game, and have at last learned to leave them at home. The animals were especially well fitted, which indicates more confidence in the stock business. There was also a greater absence of old show animals than usual, the result of many sales, and, consequently, a brightening of the times. The exchange feature was particularly conspicuous during the show, as never in its history have so many animals changed hands by private sale. This was especially true in cattle, sheep and swine, while horses shared quite liberally in the exchange. This all indicates what we have been looking for—a decided improvement in business; in fact, it is

becoming the general impression that we are on the verge of the "good time that's coming."

In the Agricultural Machinery Hall an observing man could profitably spend a day or more. There are each year many new features which if worthy become generally adopted in following years. For instance, if we remember correctly, it was last year the blower attachment for elevating corn into the silo was first exhibited, while this year there were several exhibited of slightly different pattern. The silo-filling question is receiving consideration in various ways. There were cutting boxes with concave, convex and straight knives attached to the ordinary large fly wheels, also the cylinder knives, which answer a good purpose in cutting feed very short. There were feed cutters fitted with ball and roller bearings throughout, which were much more easily turned than those having the old style of bearings. Several machines were equipped with carrier feed-boards, which should make feeding a very simple matter. Ball bearings on corn harvesters, binders and other machinery were much in evidence. We cannot think of referring to all the new features of the machinery, but will just mention one or two others. The gas or gasoline engine attracted considerable attention. It is undoubtedly an economical and safe farm power. For each horse power generated, it is claimed to run ten hours with one gallon of gasoline, or an equivalent in gas, and requires little or no attention while in operation. The self-feeding threshing machine with blower stacker was novel to many, and the 16-foot grain drill for four horses made the old ten-hoe machine appear a slow affair.

A new power which was demonstrated by a model in the Machinery Hall promises to be of service where a waterfall can be secured. It is termed "a revolution in air compression for power users." This model was fitted with a glass front, showing the entire principle. The water was shown to fall several feet through a tube or shaft, carrying with it a large amount of air which one always observes in falling water as foam. At the bottom of the shaft the air and water separate, the air rising into an enclosed tank which serves to store sufficient to produce pressure. The required pressure is proportional to the depth of water in the shaft. The compressed air main is run from the tank from which the power is transmitted to a cylinder, as steam in an engine. The power can be conveyed through pipes for long distances, as it will not lose force, as does steam by cooling. Another new thing exhibited was the acetylene gas light, which now promises to be the cheapest and most satisfactory illuminator known. The materials used to produce it are water and carborundum, the latter having so strong an affinity for oxygen that when they are brought into contact the hydrogen of the water is left free, and it is that which burns. Carborundum is now being quite cheaply produced, so that illumination by acetylene gas will likely soon become quite general. Besides these new features there was much to be learned by a careful examination of all lines of machinery and implements. Hay and grain carriers, cultivators, windmills, tread powers; in fact, every line of manufacture seems each year to have improved and simplified features. It is to be regretted that more farmers cannot leave home long enough during Toronto Fair to examine and secure from among the best the new machinery and implements they actually require to conduct their business with greatest profit and comfort. The weather during the Exhibition was all that could be desired, and the attendance was fully up to that of any previous year.

Now is the Time.

We hope our present subscribers will make an extra effort this fall to send us some new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. In securing new names we will allow our old subscribers to give the balance of 1897 and all of 1898 for \$1.00, cash to accompany the subscription. For every new name sent in we will allow the party who sends it a valuable premium or extend his own subscription six months. Kindly send us the names and addresses of a number of the best farmers you know, and we shall be pleased to send them a sample copy.