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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

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No. 444.

The Farmer's Jubilee.
This year of grace a Lady old,
With sweet and stately mien,
Mov'd 'mongst her people manifold,
Who cried—"The Queen! The Queen!
May Heaven bless her!"—till it roll'd—
The anthem of the free—
And kindred all
Took up the call
To crown her Jubilee.



Then we of Canada, with pride,
Drew closer 'round the throne,
To meet the kin from far and wide,
Where'er the flag is flown;
And, ranging near Britannia's side,
How narrow seem'd the sea!—
All thine was mine,
All mine was thine,
And ours the Jubilee!

Now let me sing a simple strain
Of one in lowly guise,
Who wrought to make this broad domain
Smile under changing skies,
Throughout Victoria's glorious reign,
Till now the fruits we see—
A nation great—
To celebrate
The Farmer's Jubilee.

A backward look through sixty years—
Behold a shanty lone—
A heaver-meadow with the spears
Of brown sedge overgrown—
A forest whence the woodman hears
The wolves howl hungrily—
There only dreams
Could give him gleams
Of far-off Jubilee.



Now from his mansion, o'er the hill,
He hears the sheep's low bleat,
Or down the valley, near the mill,
He sees the green, green wheat;
The Christmas chimes peal out "good-will"
To all on earth that be,
The Christ above
Makes bright with love
The Farmer's Jubilee.

No glitt'ring squadrons clatter by,
For him no cannon roar,
Yet there is that beneath the sky
Has power to please him more:—
The Iron Horse that strives to fly
To lade the ships for sea,
His Klondyke farm,
His own right arm,
Make up his Jubilee.

Plover Mills, Ont. ROBERT ELLIOTT.

The Outlook for the Canadian Farmer.
BY JAS. W. ROBERTSON, AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY COMMISSIONER.

I thank you for the invitation to write a New Year's letter for the Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I have no fitness for prophesying "on the outlook," no inclination to offer fault-finding advice, and no time to write a public letter without a purpose.

I send you and all your readers my very best good wishes for a Good New Year. The promise of good times is on everybody's lips. That itself is part of them. Hopefulness is particularly helpful in bettering one's circumstances. It does not lead to extravagance of expectation or preparation, when joined to the prudence which has been learned in the school of hard times, debts and disappointments. I fear many farmers have too much acquaintance with these stern teachers. It may have been because they looked for health, happiness, and profits in wrong directions. These three should be the sure rewards of all intelligent, productive labor. I repeat my New Year wish, varying its form of expression, and pray that in 1898 these blessings may be more abundant in the farm homes of Canada.

How are they likely to become ours during the year?

Crops.—The changes are rung on this as "an age of specialists in farming and other callings" so often that specializing is in danger of becoming the fad that leads to loss and failure. A larger number of crops (not varieties of grain) is what is wanted on nearly every farm. Fewer acres under cultivation, larger yields per acre, and some of all suitable crops for sale or for feeding, is the kind of farm management that can be depended on to yield revenue that will be larger than the necessary expenditure. There is safety in numbers in that sense. Man is not omnipotent, and cannot control many of the conditions which make good or poor crops. Something fails nearly every year: There has never been a year when everything failed.

The quantity and quality of the crops settle the capacity of the farm for carrying live stock. A fairly large acreage for succulent feed should be prepared. That may be in the form of Indian corn ensilage or Indian corn fodder, turnips, mangels or carrots. Sunflowers have given in the last three years an average of over seven tons of heads per acre. Where horse beans do not thrive, trials might be made with early varieties of Soja beans.

Live Stock.—The outlook is brightening, and still is none too bright. It will pay most farmers to keep a smaller number of animals unless they are all good. Six good cows will yield more profit than a dozen ordinary milkers, and the saving in labor would be very considerable. It will pay to keep only a comparatively small number of good animals of all kinds until others as good or better can be added by rearing or by purchase. Plenty of light in the stables is a great promoter of health and vigor. Pure air, warmth and cleanliness promote comfort, and comfort is the sum of all the treatment which puts an animal in the way of yielding the largest possible profit.

This is not the place in which to discuss at any length methods for keeping live stock. It occurs to me to say that in the new year and all coming years, profits will be derived more from improvement of individual animals than from increase of numbers. The general purpose cow has been the butt of a great many writers' wit, wisdom, and ignorance. When a farmer finds her, she is one of his best servants and profit-makers.

If the ordinary farmer on a one-hundred-acre farm will aim at selling annually \$200 worth of milk and its products, five fattened steers, \$50 worth of turkeys, chickens, and geese, \$25 worth of eggs, and an average of three fattened pigs every month, weighing from 100 to 200 pounds each, he will find

himself getting from these combined sources a revenue of about \$750 a year, without counting in an occasional good horse, lambs, sheep, and wool. The sale of grain, some hay, apples and small fruits should more than meet working expenses. Such farming would give a variety to the occupations and interests leading to business contentment. Consequent happiness might come with the profits.

The unrest and worry of life in these later years arise largely from the uncertainties of revenue. What the workman, the business man, and the professional man crave for is security of opportunity to earn a living and a competence. In farming this may be met, so far as it may be under present conditions, by growing a reasonably large number of kinds of crops as sources of revenue; by providing a large number of different products for sale, such as milk, beef, pork, butter, poultry, eggs, fruits, animals; and by securing as many well-established market connections as possible. A systematic effort along these lines, rather than fitfully hoping for large things from any one special crop or class of stock, will enable Canadian farmers to get more out of life and more out of farming than it has hitherto yielded.

Markets.—To some extent markets are controlled by speculators in products; but the demand for consumption and the actual and prospective stock of the great staple products are such as to encourage the hope that higher prices for wheat and other cereals will rule than have been paid during the last five years.

Great Britain is undoubtedly the chief market for the surplus of farm products. Perhaps not much more than twelve per cent. of the value of all farm products in Canada are exported annually. Cheese is a notable exception; the prices which the goods exported fetch to a very large extent regulate the prices which can be obtained for what is consumed in the country. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the largest possible prices should be obtained for what goes to the markets outside of Canada. The British merchants stick to a thing which they have learned to like. They will pay higher prices for a brand of cheese which has given them satisfaction for several years than they will for an untried brand, even if the latter should be better. In the fruit markets the buyers will wait and bid strongly for the brand of a packer and shipper whose pack has pleased them and their customers well in the past. Such a permanent and preferential trading connection is what should be sought for by every producer and exporter. The British market affords a relatively high price for the very best of everything in the pink of fine condition; but it gives ruinously low prices for second-rate quality.

With cold storage service provided on railways, at warehouses, and on steamships, the transportation difficulties have been to some extent removed. Distance from market no longer necessarily means deterioration of the product. The main use of cold storage is to preserve perishable products, such as butter, tender fruits, meats, poultry, eggs, and to a less extent cheese and apples, on their way to the ultimate consumer. The less time they are on the way the better. Cold storage has in itself no power to improve the quality of farm products. It can only preserve them from deterioration. It will be unfortunate if it is used very largely for the holding of products off the market in their proper season. While it has a limited usefulness in lengthening out the period during which products can be marketed, and giving the seller a wider chance to choose his time of selling, its main service is in permitting products to get to their markets in the very best condition, and, as a rule, that should be as soon after they are ready to be eaten as practicable.

I find that I have let my letter of New Year greeting almost grow into an article on the agriculture of Canada. Instead, I should have said more about the weather, on which subject no one ever expects to communicate anything to another which he did not know quite as well before. Perhaps that conclusion may be come to on what I have written in this letter. Its purpose is not to offer instruction, but in a practical way to wish the farmers of Canada a Prosperous New Year!
Ottawa, 9th Dec., 1897.

Would Not Miss It for \$5 a Year.

WM. BOLAN, Ontario Co., Ont., when renewing his subscription, Nov., 1897, says: "I am well pleased with the ADVOCATE, and would not be without it for five dollars a year."