

## 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 and 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 in Canada.
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Canada's live-stock industry, the industry of which until just recently everyone spoke in glowing terms, believing it to be paramount. True, we have made progress, but not the strides we should have made. While the number of dairy cows has increased substantially, the average milk flow shows no material advance in the past ten years.

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The real cause for concern, however, is the shortage of beef cattle. The dairy cow has gained ground at the expense of the beef animal. Producers will raise that which pays best, and milk of late has brought better returns than beef. The trouble has been that breeders of our beef breeds have not paid due attention to the milking propensities of their stock. They have looked with a partial eye to the production of the extreme beef type. Breeders of pure-breds have endeavored to produce sires for the Western range, having no concern about milking qualities. The result is our beef cattle are poor milkers, and economic tendencies of the past few years have made them less profitable than the dairy cow.

There is another cause. Many Canadians have become "wheat crazy." The annual harvesters' excursions serve to instil this into many minds. Men are transported West, get "the fever," and remove there to follow exclusive grain-farming. All this works against the live-stock industry, and should be discouraged. Sooner or later there must be a return to the stock, or "good years" will vanish, and prosperity receive a staggering blow.

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What is the remedy? There seems to be none better than mixed farming. The average farmer is better adapted to this form of work than to the special lines. Specializing requires a special

man as manager. The hope of the beef-cattle industry lies in the production of more big, thick, deep, strong cows, capable of giving good returns at the pail, and at the same time raising calves which, when ready for the block, make desirable carcasses. This class of cow is extremely scarce in the country to-day, and until she becomes more common, it is doubtful whether the beef industry, as a paying proposition, can be made to yield returns which compare favorably with dairying. Breeders have the matter in their own hands. The change cannot be accomplished in a year; it will require several years. A beginning must be made, and made immediately, if any good is to result in the near future. The old idea of beef and beef alone must be banished from the breeding work. Breeders should select sires from milking strains, and keep a record of their cow's work at the pail. The old adage, so often applied to dairy cattle is intensely applicable here, "Breed, feed, weed." The dual-purpose cow must come, if beef production is to regain its popularity in Eastern Canada as a paying industry, compared with dairying; otherwise, the price of beefsteak must soar higher and higher, with restricted consumption as a consequence. It is possible to combine the qualities of milk and beef. Try it. An aggressive, systematic, educative live-stock campaign is necessary. Look into the conditions in your own locality, and commence to improve now by careful selection. Increase the live-stock output of your farm, and thus increase your annual income, and make all the years "good years" for yourself, as well as for Canada.

### Thirst for Knowledge.

The best things in the world are wasted upon those who have no appreciation for them. Art means nothing to a person without a taste for art. The rarest table delicacy would only repulse an invalid with no appetite for food. So with knowledge. The choicest gems of agricultural literature appeal in vain to one who has never learned to prize them. Before agricultural science can interest one deeply and spur him on to achievement, he must by some means acquire a genuine thirst for knowledge—must hunger for it as a laboring man for meat. Let a man earnestly desire knowledge, and he will read agricultural literature with avidity, as a refreshing, satisfying mental diet. Without desire, his understanding meagre, and his perusal readily arrested by a few unusual terms which a dictionary would freely explain. How can this relish or eagerness be developed? With some it is hereditary, or is fostered by the early home influence. With those less fortunately born it may often be aroused by simply dipping in. Waded into your papers and books, reading up first on the lines which most appeal. As you read, practicing, also, meanwhile, the great book of agricultural science will unfold, each page more fascinating than the last. The subject is immense, and will never be exhausted. It is a life study, and a life study well worth while. Get interested. It will pay in profit and pleasure both.

### On A Shaky Pedestal.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Contrary to what you infer from my letter, published in last week's "Farmer's Advocate," I have read with much interest your articles, from time to time, on educational matters. Now, I did not mean ordinary mortals like you and I, Mr. Editor, when I said, "We are patting ourselves on the back and assuring ourselves that we have the best schools in the world." I know that you have long known that it is not true, but I meant our people as a whole, and our legislators and educators, in particular.

Now, at the Ontario Corn-growers' Association's annual convention, held at Tilbury this year, this matter of rural education was given considerable attention, and one of our most foremost educators defended the educational system of Ontario, and said it was the best in the world, "Minnesota or Georgia not excepted." Our case is very hopeless, it seems to me, if "we" have placed ourselves on a pedestal and can't come down.

It may be that you and I are not competent to pass an opinion on educational matters, but I ask anyone to look at the results of our systems. See the farmers' boys flocking to the cities to

work in factories and be street-car conductors, and the whole world crying for more food and complaining of the high cost of living. Or see those who do stay on the farm following in the same old rut, making the same old mistakes, their fathers did.

The Canadian Seed-growers' Association, held in Ottawa lately, was addressed by Rufus W. Stimson, of Boston, Mass., on the subject of "Vocational Agricultural Education for Boys and Girls," and some very comprehensive plans, such as are being followed in Massachusetts, explained. "We" were not very favorably impressed, however, and "we" said that, while those plans might be good in the States, our system of rural education was good for us in Ontario. On a pedestal, you see.

I was pleased with Dr. Jas. Robertson's comment on the subject, however, when he said that the gentleman from Boston had been able to give our people some good pointers for 1912, and it was up to us to "show them" in 1913. Will we do it? J. O. DUKE.

Essex Co., Ont.

### School Systems Too Academic.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the February 8th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" I noticed an editorial on the rural-school teacher, upon which discussion was invited. Like many other subjects connected with agriculture, it apparently receives but little deep thought from the Government. Some half-hearted attempts are made to remedy existing evils, but they are soon abandoned as impracticable.

Disregarding the home influences, the training of the rural-school teacher begins with the Government, the framers of our educational system. The fundamental question which these men should ask themselves is: What is the object of rural education? The answer, of course, is: The making of useful members of society, especially of rural society. Then, the next thought has reference to the means. Now, a view of the public and High School curricula at once suggests that our educators are, like the philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome, striving to raise mankind above their physical necessities, rather than administering to those vulgar wants. Many of the subjects taught are merely to enrich the mind, not to aid in the alleviation of human suffering, whilst those subjects which would cultivate the intellect, and at the same time enable rural men and women to lead more useful lives are thought worthy of only a secondary place in our schools. Reading, writing, arithmetic and nature study, with reference to agriculture, are the most important subjects of the public and High School Course. But our education experts say, "Arithmetic is too prosaic, too matter-of-fact, to receive much attention. We will take it off the junior teacher's examination." And the result is our rural-school teachers are sorry specimens of arithmeticians. As for nature study, they may talk eloquently on the anatomy of the butterfly, the frog and the snake, but what do they know of that part which affects the industry in which their pupil will afterwards engage?

The last step in the training of the rural-school teacher is the Normal. Here, again, there is so much that is of no practical value that the teacher-in-training must spend nine months in getting what he could easily acquire in five. If all the time spent in the study of useless theories, such as "Is the basis of habit physical or mental?" "Can there be a pure conception?" etc., were eliminated, a five months' Model course would be far superior to nine months spent at Normal.

Another point which is a puzzle to me is why are Model-trained teachers allowed to teach five years, without any previous experience, and then be compelled to stop as soon as they have become proficient in the art? The only result is to make teachers scarce. Certainly, nine months more spent in poring over these things, which are speedily forgotten, cannot be productive of great good. JAMES LOVE.

Huron Co., Ont.

With the best of care, it is hard to prevent a foot of silage adhering to the silo walls during the severe weather we have recently experienced. At the first sign of loosening from the walls, this should be pried off with the ensilage fork, and thrown down into the stable or feed-room to thaw. Loss of feeding value, and even danger to the health of the stock, may result from carelessness.

Gifford Pinchot, Washington, President of the American Conservation Association strongly favors the removal of forestry appointments from political control, sufficient public money to man the service, trained men and Federal control, if the nation is to save its resources from grasping monopolists.