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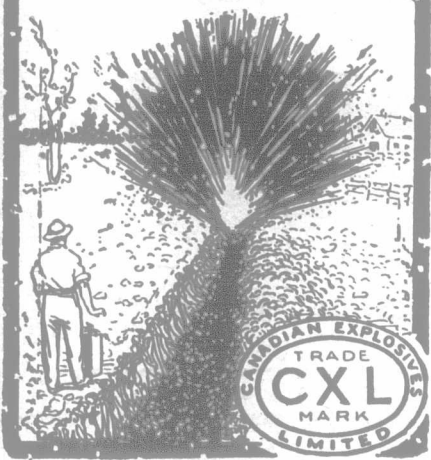
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Twelve to fifteen females, cows, heifers, calves; extra well bred, choice individuals. Priced reasonable to anyone taking the lot; also two bull calves, grandsons of "King Pontiac Artis Canada." Inspection invited.

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Over Development.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The article in your issue of Oct. 4, "Be moderate in all things," by Allan McDiarmid, seems to me one of unusual interest. If the positions taken are in accord with facts it appears that all our pre-conceptions, and the teachings of several decades must be revised. Much is suggested in the article which may not appear at first sight. Perhaps most of us have noted the points cited by Mr. McDiarmid, but have given little thought to the subject. In our busy every-day life on the farm we are apt to take a great deal for granted and to do very little thinking or investigating. Often we are but slightly cognizant of facts, to say nothing of causes, principles or consequences.

We have been taught by platform and college lecture, by the press, and we feel that experience also teaches the doctrine of indefinite progressive selection and development in the plant and animal worlds. Is not the same doctrine or hypothesis taught from the pulpit and in theological schools?—Nay, even a larger phase of the doctrine—the intellectual and moral development of man through indefinite degrees and cycles. Are our hopes to be disappointed, our aspirations thwarted, and we ourselves to become degenerate and blighted like the potato cited in the article? The writer also cites instances of degeneracy in animal life and states that "It is the same with the human race."

"It seems certain that the logical end of cultivation is the disappearance of the race, and the higher the culture the sooner will be the end. If the civilized nations of the world do not get back to more natural ways of living it won't be long until the less cultured races will be taking their place. They will all go the way of the potato, and for the same reason." The question may be asked, though the logical end may be as stated, is it therefore the natural end? To put the question in other words, may not the trouble be abnormal or unnatural development rather than over-development? The writer refers to his positions as "scientific facts."

We should agree, however, that scientific facts are not always or necessarily natural facts. Human science may be false or not true to nature. But surely nature had not decreed that potatoes should always be "plum-sized", that the hog should always be razor-backed, that the ox should forever retain long horns and a shaggy coat, that the horse should not by careful, continued selection and breeding become the beautiful and noble animal he is to-day, that man should remain, or degenerate into, a pigmy or a savage! If such were the design of nature, obviously colleges, teaching and professorships should cease or should never have existed. The "naked fisherman" should still "wash his nets in the river of the ten thousand masts," the human race should yet be cave-dwellers in physical deprivation, in mental and moral darkness, without ambition, aspiration knowledge or hope. I recoil from the alternative; I deprecate the prospect. I am willing to take the risk of over-development of the race. There surely cannot be such a thing as over-development along right lines or according to the spirit and plan of the universe, and the teaching of the Noblest of Earth's Sons.

On the hypothesis, then, that over-development in normal or natural lines is even a possibility, the following appear to be the logical and necessary inferences: Bakewell, the noted originator of Short-horn cattle, instead of devoting his genius and energy to the task of evolving this important type by means of systematic selection and breeding of the best specimens of the native long-horned cattle, should have quietly smoked his pipe, leaving the Long-horns to perpetuate their race, to flourish and endure in their native wilds. Charles Colling, Booth Brothers, Bates, and others should have followed his example. So should Hugh Watson, the first great breeder of Aberdeen-Angus, and the Tomkins family, originators of the Hereford cattle, and so on through the list. The early improvers of the horse should have "repressed their noble rage and froze the genial current of the soul". Such men as Sir John Sinclair, Lawrence Drew, John Paterson and the many of less note should have found other employment than starting the native horse on his

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