

enough. There were so many things that had to be bought, new implements, a bigger barn, a gasoline engine, a small thresher, and more horses—always more horses.

Year after year went by and it was always the same. He became eighteen, then nineteen, then twenty years old. He was now doing a man's work, but he never got a man's wages and he never got any nearer to college. Always there was something his father had in mind to do or to get, and after the doing or getting of which, he, Billy, would get his turn.

All of this made Billy's life a tragedy, and while tragedy strengthens the strong, it mostly but weakens the weak.

One day a "prospectus" from a far-off business college came his way. For a few dollars and in a few weeks they would fit him as an accountant, a private secretary, or telegrapher. Lucrative positions in the cities with big progressive concerns awaited all their graduates. The big business heads of the cities preferred country to city boys it said, and why drudge all one's life on a farm. And why indeed?

Casting his mind back as far as he liked he could remember no time when his father had played fair with him, no time when his father had done anything except further his own interests at his, Billy's expense. He had promised him, yes but his promises had been all. Always the prize was just a little ahead, a few weeks, six months or a year. To Billy's mind there often came the snatch of rhyme:

"A man of words and not of deeds  
Is like a garden full of weeds."

He hated to go away and leave mother; mother who had planned and prayed and hoped and saved for him, but sometime he would come back—Then, too, there was a glamour about the city; he imagined its lights and hurrying crowds, its endless opportunities its endless chances for enjoyment, always some place to go, always something new to see.

That fall he slipped away and went working with a threshing gang. Later with \$50 or \$60 in his pocket he

made his way to the city. Arriving there he found his way to the "college." The sympathetic "president" asked that he tell him "frankly" how much money he had, and on learning of his limited resources suggested that he learn telegraphy, as that course required the least expenditure of time and money.

To-night, perhaps, he sits in a lonely mid-night tower. Through twelve long hours of every night of every day in the year he works and watches, and for this he draws down some five or six hundred dollars a year. He is a misfit, a square peg trying to fill a round hole in the machinery of life.

Back on the farm an old man is working his heart out. Since "the boy" left him he has had no one that can or does do the work quite right, no one that takes an interest, no one that cares. Betimes he straightens his old, bent back and looks far off towards a great city.

"Yes," he mutters for the hundredth time, "you didn't do the right thing by me Billy boy, you didn't do the right thing, goin' off and leavin' me that a-way."

### Winter Evenings on the Farm.

A recent issue of the Farmer's Advocate had some very helpful letters in regard to debating clubs in the country. Many boys and girls think they cannot get an education unless at a high school or university. This is a great mistake. A public school education gives any boy or girl the ability to educate themselves, and that is all that a university course does. The usefulness of a debating club, whether held in private home, school, hall or church depends on the people belonging to the club and the subjects discussed. Try to consider subjects of public interest for instance.

Resolved that the Canadian House of Commons should at the next session pass a Conscription Bill.

Resolved that Canada should nationalize all railroad, telegraph and telephone lines.

Resolved that the Initiative and Referendum should be adopted in Provincial and Federal Parliament.

Resolved that single tax, as taught in "Progress and Poverty", is the best mode of taxation.

Resolved that the principles set forth in Bellamy's "Looking Backward" are the ideal ones to run a country on.

Resolved that a one-hundred-acre-farm is a better start to a young man than a salary of \$1200 a year.

Resolved that women should be given the franchise the same as men, also the right to sit in Provincial and Dominion Parliaments.

Any club, however, would only partially fulfil its mission if it did not instill a love of good literature in the hearts of its members. A few meetings should be devoted to the study of the poets. A group of young people in Halton County, a few years ago, spent two or three winters studying Tennyson. Without any formal organization they met in each others homes, and studied "In Memoriam", "Locksley Hall", "Maud", "The Lotus Eaters," "The Princess" and others. Several members can to-day repeat page after page of Tennyson and scattering out to different localities they have spread the love of the great poet to their new friends.

Take an evening with James Whitcomb Riley; get some member to read "That Old Sweetheart of Mine", "The Raggeddy, Raggeddy Man" and others. A stormy winter night study Whittier's "Snow-bound," or the famine scene from "Hiawatha". "Evangeline" and some of Longfellow's shorter poems make glorious study. I advise that you be sure and study the life and works of Bobby Burns, Byron, Shakespeare, Browning, Hemans, Moore, Omar Kayam, Goldsmith. Start and study the poets and young people are entering into another world. Then classical fiction, Dickens, Scott, Thackeray, Hawthorne.

Carlyle says the best university is a collection of good books. Start a university in every farm home. The very best books are very cheap. Buy some this winter, and thus invite the immortals of the ages to pass the winter evenings in your home.

Halton Co., Ont.

ROB ROY.

## Canada's Young Farmers and Future Leaders.

### Topics for Discussion for Young Farmers.

Each week we shall announce topics for discussion in this department. Three topics will appear each week during the winter season, with the dates upon which manuscript must be in our hands. Readers are invited to discuss one or more topics as they see fit. All articles published will be paid for in cash at a liberal rate. Make this department the best in the paper. This is the boys' and young man's opportunity. Here are the topics:

#### 1. By-products of Production.

Give your experience in feeding skim-milk, whey and buttermilk to young pigs and shoats. What is their comparative feeding value for pigs of different ages? Give weights of milk and grain fed and gains made. Have you ever used whey for raising calves? If so, how much did you feed per day? How did the calves do compared with skim-milk calves? What results have you had in feeding root tops in the field or when hauled to stable? Give results of feeding bean and clover straw, stating amounts fed and class of stock. What value have small, unmarketable potatoes when fed to hogs? Which gives best results, feeding them whole, pulped or cooked? Some years there are many cull apples for which there is no market. Can they be profitably fed to stock? Articles should reach this office by January 13.

#### 2. What are the Gross Returns From Your Farm?

State number of acres in farm, and give gross returns from the different branches of farming. What does it cost to run the business? Have you authentic information as to which departments are the most profitable? Have you thought of a plan whereby the returns can be increased the coming year? If you haven't kept books you, no doubt, have an account of the stock and other material sold. Make a resume of an average season's operations and put it into an article of not more than 800 words, and let us have it by January 20.

#### 3. How Would you Manage a Farm?

Mention size of farm, nature of soil, branches of farming, kinds of crops and classes of stock. To what extent would the community, roads and markets influence you when deciding on the line of farming to follow? Have articles here by Jan. 27.

### Stop Grumbling!

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The other day while riding with a farmer of considerable experience, I asked the question: "What is the matter with our community?" He replied, "All the young fellows flock to the city and then start to cry about the high cost of living."

Perhaps this is the cause of the high cost of living either directly or indirectly, but is this really what is wrong with the community? Many farmers go to town every rainy afternoon leaving plenty of work to keep the boy in employment all the time they are away. Probably the boys stay home and do nearly all the chores during the winter, then, when the buyer comes the father does the selling. To him the cheque is made

and the boys receive no more than an ordinary laborer's wages.

When Sunday evening comes one of the boys asks if he may go to church. Consent is given and off he goes. While the younger boy and the father are milking, father starts the same old music: "Twelve cows are too many for two to milk, and I don't see why Jack had to go to church to-night," etc. As they are working the music drifts from one thing to another, and finally the father starts grumbling about not milking regularly enough. Is it any wonder the young men leave the farm?

I think all farmers know the more regularly chores are done—the greater are the profits, but is that any reason why chores should be done so regularly and at such hours as to render it almost impossible for a person to get any recreation. I know many farmers do not realize how the frequent grumbling makes one feel. If they would only stop at that very moment and say "Why do the young men leave the farm?" I know by my own experience and observation that such men as these are the ones that complain most of the scarcity of farm help.

In the early days of Canada, when Egerton Ryerson was bent on a mission to the Indians, he found that in order to accomplish the greatest results he had to first live socially with them and secondly work with them. It is the same with the farmers of to-day. The older men must live and work socially with the younger men before the growing generation will take up the work of their parents with any great enthusiasm.

Elgin Co., Ont.

SUCH AS I AM.

### One Stays, One Goes.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

One reason why so many of our young people leave the country and go to the town is because they become tired of remaining at home, seeing only a few people, and want to get into the busy city with all its bustle and excitement, where they make numerous acquaintances, and are able to have a good time. This ought not to be unless the social intercourse of the community is at a very low ebb. If the young people are gathered together in the winter evenings to a "Reading Circle," a "Singing School," for some other meeting of the kind where they will learn to take their places on the platform, a "skating or hockey match," or a straw-ride, and in the summer evenings to sports such as base-ball, etc., or an "ice-cream social," it is quite probable that more of them would be contented to remain in their own community. The telephone plays a large part in the social life of the community. It brings the young people in touch with their friends, markets, and everything that helps to make their work easier and home life more enjoyable.

In some cases of "teen" age boys leaving the farm and going to the city, I think the father is pretty much to blame. One farmer gives his son some interest in the farm, perhaps some animal to be his own. The boy cares for that animal, takes an interest in his father's stock, and learns how to feed and care for them. Another farmer thinks only of making money, does not give his boy anything to look after, nor any spending money, but expects him to work hard all the time for nothing.

Both of these men expect their boys to stay with them on the farm. The first boy stays, the other doesn't.

If the young people of the community become interested in farming, in Institute meetings, and in country life in general, they will not have any desire to move to the city with its pleasure and excitement.

P. E. I.

A FARMER'S SON.

### False Ideals the Wrong.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The main thing that is wrong with most communities is false ideals among the people. By this I mean that the possession of much land, large houses, and extensive farms and herds, is looked upon as being an indication of a successful life. Everywhere the man who has acquired these things is pointed out as the successful man, while others more worthy of praise, but because of their devotion to duty, and spirit of helpfulness to their neighbors, are pointed to as failures because they have been content to occupy a more humble lot. As the possession of much material wealth is only accessible to a few, this false sense of values tends to discourage many from taking up the strenuous effort necessary to become a successful farmer, and seek in the city an easier, if not more profitable, means of earning a living. Many of our young folk have been driven from their homes to the towns, because of the anxiety and inclination of their parents to labor early and late day in and day out to leave their children rich in worldly goods, when the children would rather see the parents indulge in some recreation and let them work out their own ideals and earn their own reward.

Another thing that is wrong with the community and tends to drive the young people to the cities, is the isolation of rural life; the farms of this country are too large to permit of people living in close proximity to each other. This could be remedied by cutting the large farms up into several smaller farms and getting more people on the land. Some of these days it is going to become a vital question how to keep production up to the demands of the consumers, and many of the consumers will be glad to become producers of food-stuffs if the way is opened for them. It has been advocated that the large farmers build houses and hire married men by the year, but from the standpoint of the future welfare of this country, would this be a wise solution of the problem? I think not, because the country never was nor never will be adapted to support a hieling population. I believe some system could be established whereby small farms could be fitted up and sold on easy terms to the land hungry. Many farmers would be glad to part with their surplus acres at a reasonable price, and many men in the cities raised on the farms would be glad to go back to the land, provided the way was made comparatively easy for them to take up an honorable position thereon.

Farming will never be noted as an easy money proposition, and it is well that it is so. It also will never come into its own as a desirable way of earning a living until people cease to mistake glitter for gold and begin to live for the really great things of life—such as are found in the beauties of nature, the science of plant and animal life, and a free life in the open air instead of the passing pleasures and excitement to be found in the