

# The Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established 1866.

Vol. XLIII.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1874.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 13, 1908.

No. 829.

### EDITORIAL

#### THE WILES OF THE LIGHTNING-ROD AGENT.

The article by Mr. A. Lindback, Provincial Fire Commissioner of Manitoba, on "Lightning Losses and Prevention," which appeared in our June 25th issue, has excited considerable interest among our readers, if we may judge from the number of questions on the subject since received. It will be remembered that Mr. Lindback recommended simply the use of lightning rods, without expressing preference for any kind or make. With him, we believe that any kind of metallic rod, properly grounded and connected, is a great protection. Any kind is better than none. But, on the ground of expense, we have for years advised the use of galvanized wire for this purpose. Nine strands of No. 9 wire makes a very efficient lightning conductor, one that has the hearty endorsement of the best authorities we have been able to consult.

As to expense, the materials for rodding a seventy-foot barn, forty feet high—wire, standards, staples, nails and corks—will cost but \$4.50. As about two hundred feet of rod are needed, that is less than two and a half cents per foot. Any farmer may make and erect such a rod. Many have done so—there is nothing very difficult about it—or he may hire someone to do it who has a better head than himself for going up high. Some carpenters, and others of our acquaintance who make a specialty of such work, charge five cents per foot, all fittings included. The lowest charge that we have heard of lightning-rod agents making is eleven cents per foot, though, no doubt, they may sometimes, rather than lose an order, do it for less. This we do know, that a lightning-rod man, only this summer, who had erected rods at eleven cents, tried to secure an order at twenty cents, stating emphatically that that was the lowest price he had ever accepted, although prepared, of course, to come down in price and make the farmer believe he was getting a bargain. We had hoped that they were improving, but lightning-rod agents are the same slippery sharks as of old.

Next, as to efficiency. Agents, especially when talking to a victim who has some notion of putting up wire rods, make a great deal of what they claim to be the superiority of copper rods. They will even advise the tearing down of iron rods and the substitution of "proper" ones—that is, the ones they are selling. Now, in the first place, these rods are usually miserably flimsy, breaking easily, and are sometimes copper only in name. In the second place, while copper is undoubtedly a much better conductor of electricity than iron or steel, it is not recommended by the best authorities to be used for lightning rods. Sir Oliver Lodge, the best authority on the subject in the world, while not discouraging the use of copper entirely, recommends the use of iron instead. In smoky and inaccessible situations, he says, where iron would rust more readily and be difficult to replace, copper may with advantage still be used, but, in general, iron is much to be preferred. The reason he gives is that while copper is the best conductor, yet a discharge of lightning onto a copper rod is apt to be of so violent a nature as almost to amount to an explosion, causing risk of fire, while with iron it is withdrawn more quietly and harmlessly.

Properly-erected lightning rods are a valuable protection to farm buildings, and none should be without them, but anyone who yields to the specious plea of the lightning-rod agent, and consents to pay \$30.00 for a job that could be better done by himself or a handy neighbor for \$10.00 or less, by following the directions so often given through these columns, pays dearly for his whistle indeed.

#### BROADENING THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.

The aim of the new movement in education is not less schooling, but better; not narrower education, but more rational and broader; not sordid ideals, but high ones, based on a recognition of the true dignity of manual toil, the rightful wage of the worker, and a constant aim further to intellectualize labor in the factory, as well as on the land, so that the ninety or ninety-five per cent. of our people may earn more, live better, and learn to take that pride and active interest in their work that will go to make prosperous, intelligent, well-disciplined, well-read, well-travelled, thinking, moral people, with as little poverty as possible, without slums, and without that forlorn and hopeless element of population known in other countries as the submerged tenth.

It is well to be educated in the liberal arts; it is even better to be educated in the science and art of one's employment, for such education is pursued in after-life, developing with the experience of the individual, whereas one who is educated only in things that have no direct bearing on his occupation, too often loses interest in these, after his schooling ceases, and, having no broad avenue along which his intellectual faculties may lead, these, for want of exercise, commence to atrophy, and he sinks to the dead-level of hopeless mediocrity. In short, he becomes a clodhopper, or human automaton, according as he labors on the farm or in the factory.

The new education is calculated to uplift the everyday citizen, not only as regards his material prospects in life, but intellectually, aesthetically, and morally, as well. It aims, in short, to stem the constant recruitment to the ranks of clodhoppers and ambitionless, animated machines. Vocational education, as a supplement to the so-called "liberal" subjects now offered, will make for the betterment of the individual in every way, and wonderfully contribute to the progress of the state.

#### WHAT PATRIOTISM IS.

Patriotism is love of country. Its truest manifestation generally occurs, not in war, but in time of peace, as in the personal sacrifice occasionally exhibited by one who would rather live frugally in his own country than to forsake it for alluring fields abroad. We have no desire to disparage the courage of the soldier. A brave soldier is worthy of all emulation, and yet it must be recognized that the hot-blooded ardor which carries one into the excitement of battle is not nearly so rare, not nearly so noble, not nearly so well deserving our praise, as the patient fortitude that enables one to bear up manfully under besetting temptation and incessant petty annoyance, discouragement and frustration. The active quality of courage is good, but the passiveness of fortitude is much better.

We dwell a moment on this point because there is a prevailing tendency to exaggerate the physical courage of the soldier as being the chief factor of patriotism. Patriotism does not, by any means, consist in giving oneself up to battle in the service of his country. Often the truest patriot is the one who remains at home, boldly criticising the jingoistic policy that brings on and sustains the war. In fact, much that parades as patriotism is jingoism, pure and simple.

Patriotism is enduring, and deep as the depths of the sea. Jingoism is impetuous; it is a perverted form of a shallow patriotism—a froth which churns up and splashes over under the influence of a warlike breeze. Jingoism and patriotism are antitheses. The latter is to be cultivated; the former repressed.

#### PETULANCE AT EXHIBITIONS.

Attendance at exhibitions, either in the capacity of exhibitor, visitor, official, or even as a press representative, often conduces to a peevishness of disposition. If one wants to hear a choice line of complaint, all he need do is to foregather with a party of tired exhibition folk. The management of the fair comes in for a proper rating; all the evils of which a judge could possibly be guilty are laid against him; rival exhibitors have their lesser sins magnified out of all recognition; directors in the ring are declared partial to men they have never seen, and, in some cases, to whom they do not speak; and, in short, the whole thing is a big graft. It's the easiest thing in the world to work oneself up to such a pitch of dissatisfaction with the world at large, and just as easy to view things with more equanimity.

The cause of it all is over-worked nerves. For weeks preparations for the exhibition are under way. Extra care is given to the exhibit, whether it be live stock or merchandise; additional work is undertaken; arrangements that are entirely new to many have to be made, and then the tension of the showing and judging comes on top of tired nerves. Afterwards there is a relaxation, but between the two stages is a period of peevishness. When the exhibition frequenter feels this condition coming on he can save his reputation for agreeableness, and also avoid the ill effects of an irritable disposition, by going away to some quiet room and taking a good long sleep. The world will never take the knocker seriously.

#### EXHIBITION CATALOGUES.

A pretentious exhibition in this age which fails to provide a catalogue of the entries of live stock is certainly behind the times, and lacking in ambition. A few of the leading Canadian Exhibition Associations have displayed the necessary enterprise—notably those of Toronto, Winnipeg and Halifax, and the Ontario Winter Fair at Guelph—but there are at least half a dozen others in the Dominion which, for their own credit, should follow the example set by the fair boards mentioned. The only practicable means by which visitors can intelligently view the exhibits of live stock is that of a carefully-prepared and correct catalogue, with numbers assigned for each entry, and a corresponding number attached to the animal or its stall; or, better, to both. The numbers should be large and plain enough to be seen and read from the judging ringside, or when on parade, and exhibitors given to understand that their exhibits will not be considered unless the rules in this regard are complied with. It should be insisted that in every instance certain information should accompany the application for entry, which should include the name and address of the exhibitor, and the name of the animal, date of birth, and name and registry number of sire and dam.

Exhibitors are, perhaps, nearly as much to blame for neglect of this excellent advertising medium as are fair boards, as the former often show little interest in supplying the needed information and in conforming to the rules involved. The people who patronize the show and pay for the privilege of seeing the exhibits are entitled to as full information regarding the entries as can reasonably be given. The rules in this respect should be strictly enforced, unless satisfactory reasons are given justifying the failure to conform. In order to the preparation of a correct and reliable catalogue, entries must positively close in time to admit of correspondence, if need be, in order that possible errors or omissions may be obviated, and the compilation and printing done so that the catalogue may be available