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EDITORIAL.

Watch the egg-circle movement. It is the new thing in Canadian co-operation, and one of the most promising.

The trouble with the woollen industry is that it has too much protection already. That is, the manufacturers have too much protection. The result is our clothing bills are much higher than they would be with moderate duties on British imports.

"My own opinion is that sheep-raising in Ontario would still be exceedingly profitable if nothing but mutton were produced," writes E. C. Drury, who gives reasons and figures in support of his opinion. Quite right. The sheep, of all our live stock, is one of the most economical producers of human food. The wool is an extra, and the destruction of weeds another clear gain.

Our boys and girls must learn not only how to work, but to be proud of work; happy in achieving, and never so proud as in a good mastery over the impediments that Nature purposely places in their way. Eliminate the whine. Sing with the sun, and let every hand-stroke give joy to the clean vitality of a resolute citizen.—[The Independent.

Indicting Mr. Patten and others for their bull operations on the Cotton Exchange, observes the Saturday Evening Post, is very much like passing a law that a man may play poker all he pleases, but if he wins he shall be liable to thirty days in jail. Indicting a handful of bulls who happened to win, leaves the wrong and harm of gambling in cotton just what it was before.

Those who have given it a fair trial consider thinning one of the most important orchard operations. By relieving the tree of the tax of producing a surplus number of seeds, it guards to some extent against alternate bearing. By removing defective fruits, it improves the quantity and sample of the number-one grade, and, especially if the thinnings be destroyed, it reduces the percentage of insect injury.

The itinerary through Eastern Canada of the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education was announced in "The Farmer's Advocate" of July 14th. That the Commission will hear the industrial-training side of the case fully set forth may be taken for granted. Those educationists and others who recognize the need of knitting rural education more closely with that best and sanest of all callings, agriculture, should not let modesty deter them from appearing before the Commission to emphasize this side of the subject.

Citing facts from experience, Mr. Drury riddles the argument that a duty on wool is necessary to make sheep-raising profitable in Canada, strongly supporting our statement that wool constitutes a relatively small proportion of the returns from our flocks, and demonstrating that a five-cent duty on wool, even though the wool-grower got the full benefit of it—which is unlikely—would swell the returns from his sheep only about three per cent. That small gain to him as a sheep-raiser would probably be much more than offset by the increased prices he would have to pay for woollen clothes, if the duty on cloth were raised to the extent Mr. Biggar seems to suggest.

Almost White Slavery.

It is customary in this country to deplore the conditions obtaining in the Old World, where it is so difficult for a laboring man to attain a competency or aspire to any social rank above the one he was born into. Yet, if many of us had our way, we would have practically the same situation reproduced in Canada. The spirit of dominance and selfishness is strong within us. We may rejoice in a general way to see the other fellow well-off, but for ourselves the ideal is to have many workers receiving low wages, to the end that we may derive much profit from their labor, and enjoy privileges that are out of the question for our less-fortunate brethren. This spirit is sometimes manifested in shocking instances. We heard of a case in Oxford County the other day, where a well-to-do farmer had hired an Englishman and his wife, the latter assisting more or less with the heavy housework, such as washing, milking, etc., and the man working faithfully the usual full hours observed on a dairy farm, and these two people, boarding themselves, received a combined yearly salary of free house rent and \$150, or less than three dollars a week. They lived for weeks, it is said, on bread and apple sauce. It would be interesting to observe how an employer who took advantage of a poor man that way would square his account with the Recording Angel.

Summer Course for Rural Preachers.

The last may not always be the best, but in this case it is at least one of the best. Amherst Agricultural College (Massachusetts) has a summer course for country preachers. This work was first begun last year, and twelve pastors attended. These have spread the report of the benefits of the course, so that many more are expected to be in attendance this year, and success seems evident for the plan.

What do the ministers study at the Agricultural College? The practical problems of the farm. They receive lectures upon live stock, crops and soils; they study co-operation on the farm, rural literature, rural education, agricultural economics, and the social organization of rural communities. And for their wives is given a course in domestic science, which is calculated to assist them in becoming more fully helpful leaders of country women.

Why should these things not be? The congregation of the country preacher and the village pastor is made up of farmers, their wives, sons and daughters. These are his people, his associates, his friends, his peculiar charge. Until he can meet them as friends, talk to them not only on the beauty of the character of Christ, but also on the beauty and character of their Clydesdales; until he can show a mastery of the everyday problems of the farm, and of the youth thereon, he cannot expect to command their respect and confidence when he essays into the higher realms. He seeks to be the adviser, the leader of these young farm people; first, he must gain their respect and friendship. Can he do it if he shows small desire for that close touch with Mother Earth which is their lot, and which is not usually associated with a standing collar, a Prince Albert coat, patent shoes, and dainty hands?

The wonder is that the country preachers have not asked for this work years ago; that the divinity schools have not incorporated such work in their theological courses, for the great majority of ministers turned out each year must go to the country and small-town pastorates, and must remain there, whatever their ambitions may be. The great toleration of the rural population,

and their reverence for the divine calling of the preacher, has given them a passive leadership which has taken more of the outward form than of the real spirit of masterful directing.

The country church and the country school should be the two centers about which the community rallies, and from which its life may be directed.

The summer agricultural school for the preacher will do much to accomplish this end. It is a splendid idea, and should be more widely introduced.

A Fair and Convincing Argument.

The strongest argument is the one which takes cognizance of all the essential facts. So many writers and speakers seek to strengthen their case by ignoring the modifying factors, leaving these for their opponents to bring forth. This gives the opponent an opportunity to magnify them in his reply, and cast a well-deserved imputation of unfairness upon controversialist number one. We were pleased to observe that Mr. McMillan, in his closely-reasoned letter, pointing out the handicap that has been imposed upon Canadian agriculture by the system of protection in vogue, and the folly of Canadian farmers giving a handle to the protectionist propaganda by seeking a dubiously-advantageous protection on their products, did not go to extremes and attribute every ill of agriculture wholly to this cause. He frankly admits that Mr. Flavell, "in his timely and able letter, is right in saying that the large body of Ontario farmers do not sufficiently grasp the possibilities of their favorable situation," and that "these are, in their lethargy, almost a deadly handicap to the notable exceptions to which he (Mr. Flavell) refers. Nevertheless," concludes Mr. McMillan, "the situation is before us, and it is greatly deepened through the conditions of which I speak." That is quite true, and we believe that to many readers the complex tariff question will have been rendered much more clear through the fair, strong and lucid article published over his name in "The Farmer's Advocate" of July 14th. It will pay Canadian farmers to study not the superficial promises, but the fundamental principles underlying tariffs and trade.

A Country Governed by Farmers.

The three things, according to Frederick Howe, which make Denmark unique are peasant ownership, nearly universal co-operation, and the political supremacy of the peasant class. Denmark has "a farmer Parliament, a farmer Ministry, and a farmer point of view in its legislative enactments." Over 89 per cent. of the Danish farmers are said to own their farms, the average size of which is thirty-nine acres. A farmer who has paid one-tenth or more of the purchase price of a farm can borrow from the State Treasury on mortgage, at four per cent., to pay the balance. The railways are State-owned, and conducted to pay wages and expenses. City wages are determined by the agricultural index.

Intensive cultivation and co-operative buying and selling have made the Dane the best farmer in the world. The farms, says Mr. Howe, are cultivated like market gardens, the chief products of which are butter, eggs, bacon, poultry and fine stock. There are now 1,087 co-operative dairies, comprised of a membership of between 90 and 95 per cent. of the farmers. These export to England nearly a million dollars of butter per week. The egg-export society is another example of co-operation. It was organized in 1895, and has developed an export business of over six million dollars per year. The eggs are stamped, and expertly graded. Emphasis is put on quality, rather