

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED"

ESTABLISHED 1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1876.

XL

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., OCTOBER 5, 1905.

No. 680

### EDITORIAL.

#### A Lever for the Farmer.

A report of the annual meet of the Pictou County (N. S.) Farmers' Association, as given in one of the Pictou papers, reads as follows: "A feature of the afternoon's meeting that would, perhaps, interest some of the readers of the Chronicle was the discussion that took place re the importation of horses by the Government. The opinion expressed by nearly everyone present was that the horse for the farmer to raise was one that at 2½ years of age could be hitched alongside his dam and made to earn his feed doing farm work until ready for market. That, while the Standard-bred and Hackney might do for the rich, the farmer should back his money on the Clydesdale as more suited to his needs. The opinion was also freely expressed that the importation of horses should be left to private enterprise."

The pros and cons of this particular question we need not discuss just now. The point is this, that the action taken by the Pictou farmers in considering a situation which affects them is to be commended, and that the Farmers' Institute affords an arena which may be conveniently and effectively used for such discussions. In fact, with judicious handling, there seems little to prevent the Farmers' Institute from becoming, not only an institution for the extension of good farm methods, but a power for the farmer's interest in every other line as well.

It is time some such stimulus to placing a finger on the course of public affairs were constantly before the farmers. Too many, we fear, have been, so far, only capable of being placed in one of two classes, represented by (1), the farmer who seldom reads, knows little of what the Government is doing, and, on election day, goes out to vote for the old party his father had stood by, and, more than likely, his grandfather, and possibly his great-grandfather; (2), the farmer who reads and understands things pretty fairly, but who simply takes it out in grumbling when a measure is adopted which he disapproves of, without taking any further step to remedy the evil. It is, it must be conceded, not easy to keep track of all the affairs of Government. To do so requires continual watching, and to judge upon such conditions as may present themselves requires much thought. Yet, the farmer has as good a chance as any other man, both to watch and to judge, and affairs of state affect him just as deeply.

Upon the whole, Canadian Governments are remarkable for the attention which they pay to the farmer. In no other country in the world, perhaps, are the agricultural interests made more an affair of the deliberations of state. That such should be the case is not wonderful, but farmers would do well to see that, under the guise of "helping them," a lot of grafters and leeches do not fasten themselves upon the public orb. The interests of the Dominion are pre-eminently agricultural. At the same time, it stands to reason that the more power the farmer himself possesses, the more effectually he can press his claims for those things which will be for his benefit. The Farmers' Institute, it would appear, might be made a very good lever by which he may work. Let it once be recognized as a power, and the people's representatives will defer to it, and rightly so, since, necessarily, it stands for a vast mass of people.

But that it may ever be a power, a few things are urgently necessary. Its work must be seri-

ously, systematically done. Those who come to its deliberations must come prepared—not with a few hazy ideas, exploited with a glib tongue, but with a preparation that comes of deep study and ripened thought. This, with a prearranged programme, common sense, despatch, and a businesslike procedure which recognizes that time must not be wasted, may, if followed up by vigorous action where action is necessary, accomplish much, and help greatly in giving the farmer his rightful status in the public life of the country.

#### The College-Trained Man.

The recent article in our Home Magazine department on "The College Man in Commercial Life," expressed the growing appreciation of collegiate education on the part of business men. That it has long been discredited on this continent is ascribed to an imported notion. A great many of our mercantile class are men who have come, or are directly descended from men who have come from the Old Country, where the classically-trained products of the universities were averse to the so-called mercenary nature of business occupation, and, besides, were not fitted for it as to habits, tastes, or character of information obtained, so that when forced into it they often failed to acquit themselves with credit. In America, however, various causes have cultivated the commercial spirit among the people, and this, in turn, has had its effect upon the character of the schools, where in a system of education has been evolved that is better adapted to the requirements of the business world. Not only have the academic courses been modified by this influence, but the establishment of special business and technical colleges, and schools of practical science and agriculture, have been a marked feature of the commercialization of American education. Though less radical, perhaps, north of the International boundary, this change has been noticeable in Canada as well as the United States.

It is well to keep in mind that the value of a college training lies not so much in the acquirement of knowledge as in the intellectual development of the student. As ex-President Mills, of the Ontario Agricultural College, used to express it, he "grows in mental power," becomes more capable, more resourceful. His scientific training enables him to work better, to perceive opportunities more readily, and to perfect his methods. Who can estimate how much of America's material progress during the past century is directly or indirectly attributable to her schools?

Perhaps greatest of all benefits of a modern college education is the training it affords in the humanities and in activities. In a residential college, particularly, the daily association of a body of bright young men of diverse attainments, drawn from widely-varying districts, and representing many walks and conditions of life, yet all bound by the sympathy of a more or less common purpose, coming in contact with a wide diversity of type and attainment in the men composing the staff, and all intent upon the one aspiration of self-improvement for their life work, results in an evolution of mentality and character—to say nothing of the physical benefit of college farm work and athletics—amounting almost to a transformation. A great institution, like the Ontario Agricultural College, for example, in which most of the students reside, is a miniature democracy, and a valuable aid in the protean development of student-character.

A liberal education broadens one's knowledge

of and sympathy with his fellow men, and does much to prevent him from becoming sordid. It enables him to get more happiness out of business and of life; and what makes a man better and happier is vastly preferable to that which merely augments his bank account. Education, therefore, by making men better citizens, is a great boon from a national standpoint, and for this reason it augurs well that the business world should yearly attach a greater pecuniary value to scholastic training, and, in our judgment, also, the mercenary political world will stand to profit by an increasing infusion of college-trained men.

Probably one of the greatest reasons for his disparagement in the past has been the average college graduate's ambition to commence away up the ladder, and proverbial aversion to starting at the office boy's job and working up, which is the only way to acquire the thorough, detailed experience and knowledge that characterizes what we call the practical man. However, the increasing regard for the dignity of intelligently-performed labor—which is one of the encouraging tendencies of the times—is, to a certain extent, proving a corrective influence, and the outlook would seem to be for a still more general education among the masses, bringing with it a greater average of efficiency, an enhanced culture, a higher citizenship and a nobler humanity. The sun of the twentieth century will not be obscured by the darkness of ignorance.

#### The Western Grain Crops.

As seen from the train, Sept. 16th to 18th, the wheat crop along the main line of the C. P. R. through Manitoba and Saskatchewan appeared to the writer to verify the most roscate reports read in the newspapers. Oceans of wheat, all clean and bright, mostly standing in stook awaiting the thresherman, was a sight to cheer the heart of the beholder interested in the prosperity of our great and growing country. The crop appears to have stood up well, so that the cutting and binding was clean, and with scarcely a sign of waste and no appearance of damage from frost, even to the oats, which were also practically all cut, and the stooks stood thickly on the ground, evidencing a remarkably heavy yield. Comparatively little threshing had apparently been done on the dates mentioned, and one could hardly credit the reports of large shipments having already been made, the bulk of the crop standing in stook to be threshed without stacking. A heavy rain had fallen and operations were at a standstill, awaiting a drying time, which appears to have materialized since, and it is hoped that threshing and the filling of the big elevators seen at nearly every station along the line from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw may ere this reach the reader be an accomplished fact. The heaviest wheat seen was in the vicinity of Indian Head and Regina. Westward of Moose Jaw and on to Calgary fine herds of fleshy cattle were seen grazing on the ranches, together with many large bunches of brood mares and colts, mostly of the lighter sort. Glowing accounts of the harvest of winter wheat and other grains in both Southern and Northern Alberta, and of abundant supplies of pasture and fodder for stock, together with a good prospect for sugar beets in the South, make the outlook for all the West exceedingly satisfactory, and hence the spirits and hopes of the people are high, while they wish that their best expectations may be fully realized is cherished by their compatriots in the older Provinces, who are also enjoying a large measure of prosperity this year as they have done for several years past.

J. C. S.