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WINNIPEG CANADA

MAGAZINE FARMING

Recently we read in a magazine a story of the farming of a certain city man. He was getting along famously in the beautifully illustrated tale the magazine printed. But a few days later we accidentally met the city man. He had quit farming, had "words" with his farmer. Said farmer had been "playing him for a sucker," and admitted that he had earned this title. Didn't know whether he would farm any more or not but would keep the farm as a summer resort for his family. So ended one more romance of successful city farming. Here is another. A certain New York woman wrote for a prominent rural magazine an account of her farming, and while she gave no figures she told the public that it cost her less to live on and operate the farm than the rent alone of her modest apartment in New York. This "modest apartment" rented for \$5,000 a year, and of course she could economize a trifle by living on a farm. A few years ago we caught a magazine writer in some contradictions and asked him for the facts. He admitted that he had "embellished the tale"—and so he had, to the extent of changing the farm from a losing to a paying enterprise. Such embellishments, we may add, are rather common in magazine farming. The trouble is that the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth wouldn't be so interesting or so charming. Magazine agriculture is worthy of investigation these days rather than of full credence because so much of it is over-embellished.


MADE-IN-CANADA

Last fall, when the "Made-in-Canada" train was in Montreal preparatory to starting on its trip through to the West, a representative of The Globe went through it on a trip of inspection with a number of manufacturers. At the conclusion of the trip one of the members began to eulogize the undertaking, and declared that no Canadian should buy anything except a "made-in-Canada" article. He was so pronounced and outspoken in his comments that a few of those present began to question him regarding the clothes he wore. They found that his shoes were American-made, his socks German-made, the cloth in his suit came from the west of England, his shirt and collar were American-made, his hat was also American, his watch had an American case and a Swiss movement. This man, who proclaimed that Canadians should buy nothing but "made-in-Canada" articles, was a walking example of imported goods.

If there is any moral to this story it is that the keenest theoretical protectionist is often the greatest free trader in practice. The Globe believes that the standard of Canadian products is steadily improving, and that in many cases now where imported fabrics are worn as a matter of habit the home article is frequently not only just as good, but actually better. The best argument for made-in-Canada goods is quality. Sentiment does not count for much when a man is spending his own money on goods for his own use.—Toronto Globe.

UNEARNED INCREMENT IN GERMANY

American cities in which the unearned increment of real estate keeps far ahead of taxation may study with interest the system in force in Frankfurt-on-the-Main, an account of which by William Dudley Foulke, originally presented at the last convention of the American Civic association, is published by that body in pamphlet form. In Frankfurt every change of ownership not depending upon inheritance is subject to a city tax of 2 per cent. of its value, and if since the last transfer, in less than five years (or 10 for unimproved property) there has been an increase of 30 per cent. in value, there is a supplementary tax: To 35 per cent., the additional tax is 5 per cent.; to 40 it is 6; to 45, it is 7, and so on until the total tax reaches 25 per cent. Expenses for permanent improvements are deducted, and there are other allowances. If property is exchanged, the tax is levied but once, and upon that property which has increased most. This system has been in operation since 1904, and in the judgment of experts it has worked very well, giving the city a fair return for the increased values which are due to its growth and prosperity.—Springfield Republican.



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