

# The Young Man on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As a farmer's son, and constant reader of your valuable paper (which I consider an ideal one for the farmer or his son), I venture to offer a few suggestions regarding the boy on the farm, and the keeping of him there. I have been much interested in a recent article on this subject, by "Senecus," and though I cannot, from personal experience, look at the question from the man's point of view, yet I think that in some of his views your correspondent is a little too conservative.

In the first place, the farmer often makes a mistake in the very thing which he thinks will keep his boys at home. Before his sons have come to an age to decide for themselves, he adds, as fast as he can, to his farm, which, perhaps, is already large enough for his purpose. So the boy is sickened of farming by an overdose right on the start, and seeing before him the prospect of more land and more hard labor, he is, naturally enough, anxious to turn to other fields.

Just here let me say that we cannot expect all our young men to stay behind the plow. In the past history of our country the professional and commercial men of greatest ability have been raised on the farm, and these must still be supplied by the tillers of the soil, who are and must continue to be the backbone of our nation.

So, if a farmer finds that his son is more adapted to handle the pen than the hoe, he should do all in his power to help him, and feel as well satisfied as if he had stayed with him while his heart and interest were elsewhere.

A great many also object to our boys seeking homes in the far West. Now, I believe that the western districts of Canada offer more inducements to an energetic young man of small means than the older-settled Provinces; and, truly, if we wish to Canadianize and make useful, law-abiding citizens of the vast throngs of foreigners daily pouring into our great Northwest, we should be willing to spare some of our home-bred boys to settle among them, and show by their example what we expect every settler to become.

Then for the boy who remains at home: To succeed in this age of scientific farming, he should be equipped with such training as will best fit him for his work. I would strongly advise every boy who intends to farm to take a course in one of our first-class agricultural colleges, if possible, and take the best procurable farm periodical, of which, I think, he will find none to suit his purpose better than "The Farmer's Advocate." With such preparation, and by concentrating his energies on his work, he should be able to successfully compete with his fellow farmers in an art which is fast rising to take an honored place among the different pursuits of our land.

However, a farmer's son need not necessarily be found at home on every one of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. We all know the old saying, that, "Home-keeping youths have homely wits," and the man who never casts aside, for a time, all thoughts of work and worry, becomes, through time, like "The man behind the hoe," stupid and stolid; a brother to the ox, which no man should be.

As regards the class of boys who desire to continually drive on the roads (though I think they are not so numerous as some people imagine), I say let them try a travelling agency, or something of that sort. It may suit their abilities better than the steady routine

of farm life; but let our fathers look back to the time when they drove, or, perhaps, walked, at least once a week to the place which held for them the chief of all attractions, and I think they will not object very strongly to their sons following their example in this respect.

The subject is inexhaustible, which, perhaps, the editor's patience and space is not, so enough for this time.

A VOICE.

Durham Co., Ont.

## The Quebec Bacon Hog Sales.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

The Government sales of bacon hogs, held at Quebec centers this month, were successful in their main object of distributing a class of hogs that will help to keep the eastern factories going in the future. Sixty-five boars and forty sows of the Yorkshire or Tamworth breeds were sold. A large proportion of them went to the Ste. Hyacinthe and Joliette districts. The two other distributing centers were Cowansville and Huntingdon. The attendance varied from 250 at Cowansville to 500 or more at Ste. Hyacinthe. While high prices were not received or expected, fair returns were realized. On an average the loss per head over the purchase price was about \$3.25. Boars sold at prices varying from \$10 to \$25 per head, and sows at prices ranging from \$15 to \$50 per head. Of the 40 females, 25 were in farrow, and for these there was a keen demand. Following up the work of these sales, it is the intention of the Department to have introduced the most suitable systems of feeding and housing, with a view to producing hogs for which the market calls. There are now in the Province of Quebec three packing-houses, two in Montreal and one in Hull, with a capacity of 17,000 hogs weekly. The supply of these now is drawn almost entirely from Ontario.

It is likely that the Department will hold a series of Farmers' Institute meetings in Quebec in June next, with a view to the delivery of lectures and other instruction on raising hogs for bacon.

## More Thinking Done on the Farm.

The past winter has been an exceptional one. During the whole winter there was not a week's sleighing. The weather has been so mild since New Year's that it has seemed really more like spring than winter. Wheat had a good start last fall, and if we do not get some great setback yet, the prospects will be good for a wheat crop. There was an unusual amount of plowing done last fall, and seeding should soon commence. Oats, round peas, barley and spelt are the only spring crops sown to any extent. Grass peas did well for a few years, some seasons yielding from 25 to 30 bushels per acre, but they were short lived, and where there used to be twenty acres sown there is not one now. Spelt is being sown quite extensively, as it makes splendid chop when mixed with other grains. The principal varieties of oats are the American Banner, Twentieth Century and Australian. Other new varieties are being introduced from time to time, but the above are the main sorts. No spring wheat is sown of any account. The idea of the general farmer at present is to do more thinking, and using the head as well as the hands. Grains are fed instead of being taken to market, thus keeping up the farm. Cattle and pigs are grown more extensively than a few years ago. Nearly all the hogs grown are shipped alive. Before we close we must say that a great deal of the success that the farmer is attaining is through the instrumentality of "The Farmer's Advocate"; wherever taken there is no paper more appreciated.

READER.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

## Don't and Do.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I would like to write a few pointers for the help of young farmers starting in life. I have had 30 years' experience, and 12 years on the farm before that. I know what it is to be in debt, and I know how to enjoy being out of debt, and not without a large family could my home be so happy as it is.

After buying your farm, buy only these things that you really need. Do not go in debt to build.

If your old buildings are poor, it may pay you to get a few rolls of tar paper and some second-class lumber and shingle nails to line them up in the inside, and if you are handy at all you can make it warm for cattle, pigs or fowl, as well as for horses.

Keep the roof patched and waterproof.

Don't sign your name to any paper at all, without taking time and advice.

Don't try growing any new thing only on a small scale. Better a little at a profit than much at a loss.

Don't try to do too much, as the result will be as bad as trying to do too little.

Don't stay around the shop or store any longer than you have to, else your cattle, horses and pigs will be looking for their dinner or supper.

Don't wait till you want that plow or harrow, or any other implement, before you have it in perfect working order.

Don't wait till you want the seed; have it all ready in the bags to sow.

Don't trade, but sell and buy.

When you have an animal ready to sell, get all you can for it, but it don't often pay to wait for higher prices.

Don't work your wife or children to make money for you to buy tobacco or spend at the hotel.

Don't linger too long about thy neighbor's house, lest they or your dear wife will be weary.

Don't lose your temper when everything seems to go against you. We all have troubles.

Don't start out in winter on a journey, either alone or with your wife, without heating the feed of oats that you take in a pan in the oven good and hot. Put them in the bag; lay them on a blanket, and they will keep the feet warm for twenty miles, and then be warm for the horses. Also bring the cushion in the night before and warm it.

Don't skimp yourself of wholesome board, and go thinly clad, then pay the doctor a big bill next fall.

I enjoy your paper very much. If I had Andrew Carnegie's money, I would send "The Farmer's Advocate" to every farmer in Canada. Wishing you every success.

T. B.

## Enforcing the Fruit Marks Act.

The Fruit Division reports the following prosecutions under the Fruit Marks Act:

Geo. Vipond, of Montreal, P.Q., was convicted, April 10th, of violating section 6 of the Fruit Marks Act, and was fined 25c. per package.

Geo. A. Aulsebrook, of Burford, Ontario, was convicted, April 14th, of marking inferior fruit "No. 1," and for this offence was fined \$1.00 per barrel. These apples were examined by Mr. J. J. Philp, Dominion Fruit Inspector, in Sault Ste. Marie. The Fruit Division has a large number of complaints of violations of the Fruit Marks Act in that town. It is insinuated that the absence of a fruit inspector in that district accounts for the fact that a poorer sample of apples has been sent there, apparently, than to places likely to be visited by an inspector.

A. McNEILL, Chief, Fruit Division.

## MARKETS.

### Toronto.

#### LIVE STOCK.

Cattle—Receipts of cattle at the Union Stock-yards and Toronto markets were not so large last week. The bulk of the best export and butchers' cattle go to the Union Stock-yards, while the bulk of common butchers', with a few odd loads of good butchers' and exporters, and nearly all stockers and feeders, sheep, lambs and calves go to the old city market.

Cattle receipts have not been so heavy, nor trade so brisk, owing to dull foreign markets for exporters, and local dealers having bought liberally for the Easter trade. Exporters sold, last week, at \$4.75 to \$5.15, the bulk going at \$5 per cwt. Export bulls sold at \$3.50 to \$4.12 1/2 per cwt. Choice picked lots of butchers' cattle sold from \$4.75 to \$5 per cwt; loads of good butchers' sold at \$1.50 to \$4.70 per cwt; medium butchers' at \$4.25 to \$4.40; common mixed loads at \$3.50 to \$4; fat cows sold from \$3 to \$4.25 per cwt; butcher bulls, 1,000 to 1,300 lbs. each at \$2.50 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Stockers and Feeders—Trade in stockers and feeders has been about steady. The chief demand at present is for good-quality, short-keep feeders. About 600 changed hands at the following quotations: Best feeders, 1,100 to

1,200 lbs., at \$4.50 to \$4.75; best feeders, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., at \$4.25 to \$4.60; best feeders, 900 to 1,000 lbs., at \$4 to \$4.25; best feeders, 800 to 900 lbs., at \$3.85 to \$4.10; best stockers, 500 to 700 lbs., at \$3.50 to \$3.65; common stockers, 400 to 600 lbs., at \$3.

Milk Cows—Trade in milk cows and springers has not been brisk, owing to a shortage in the supply of those of good quality. Buyers were on the market for a carload of choice cows to go to Cuba, which cost, on an average, \$50 each. This is the second shipment bought for that market. Prices ranged from \$30 to \$50 each, with an occasional cow of extra quality reaching \$60.

Veal Calves—Receipts have been large during the past week, nearly 1,200. Prices for the bulk ranged from \$3 to \$6.25 per cwt. An occasional new-milked calf brought \$7 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts light, with prices lower all round. Export ewes sold at \$4.50 to \$5 per cwt; bucks at \$3.50 to \$3.75; yearling lambs, \$6.25 to \$6.75 per cwt; and spring lambs sold at \$3 to \$6 each. Two loads of American-fed yearling lambs were received on this market during the past week which were reported to be of fine quality.

Hogs—The packers have been trying to get hogs at lower prices, and have been quoting \$7.15 per cwt for hogs, fed and watered. Drovers report having paid from \$6.90 to \$7 per cwt. to farmers in

the country, which would mean that packers should be quoting \$7.25 to \$7.37 1/2, fed and watered at Toronto.

#### HORSES.

There was a good trade in horses last week; especially has the demand been good for drafters and delivery horses. Burns & Sheppard report the following prices prevailing this past week: Single realsters, 15 to 16 hands, \$125 to \$175; single cobs and carriage horses, 15 to 16.1 hands, \$140 to \$180; matched pairs and carriage horses, 15 to 16.1 hands, \$300 to \$500; delivery horses, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs., \$160 to \$175; general-purpose and express horses, 1,200 to 1,350 lbs., \$150 to \$180; draft horses, 1,350 to 1,750 lbs., \$170 to \$200; serviceable second-hand workers, \$70 to \$100; serviceable second-hand drivers, \$60 to \$90.

#### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—Stocks are increasing, and prices are slightly easier. Good demand for creamery prints at 23c. to 24c.; creamery boxes, 22c. to 23c.; large rolls, 20c. to 21c.; dairy lb. rolls, 21c. to 22c.; bakers', 17c. to 18c.

Cheese—Market steady: large at 14c., and twins at 14 1/2c., with fair supplies.

Eggs—Receipts large, with prices easier at 16c. for new-laid; cold-storage at 13c. to 14c.; lined, 12c. to 13c.

Poultry—Poultry of choice quality are scarce, with prices firm at 16c. to 17c.;

turkey gobblers, 15c. to 16c. per lb.; hens, 18c. to 22c. per lb.

Potatoes—Prices firmer, Ontario car lots, 75c. to 82c. per bag, and Eastern Delawares, 85c. to 90c. per bag, on track at Toronto. Quebec stock, 72c. per bag; Nova Scotia stock, 75c. per bag, in car lots, on track at Toronto.

Hay—Car lots of No. 1 timothy are quoted at \$8 to \$9, on track at Toronto; No. 2 at \$6.50 to \$7.

Straw—Good demand, at \$5.50 to \$6 per ton.

Beans—Hand-picked, \$1.50 to \$1.60 per bushel; under-grades, \$1.20 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Honey—Market firm for strained, at 9c. per lb., and \$2 per doz. for combs.

Vegetables—Turnips, per bag, 25c. to 35c.; cabbage, old, 40c. to 50c. per doz.; beets, per bag, 50c. to 60c.; onions, \$1 to \$1.25 per bag.

#### BREADSTUFFS.

Grain—Wheat firmer, at unchanged quotations. Wheat, No. 2 white, offered at 80c. outside; No. 3 red, 78c. bid; spring wheat, No. 2, 78c. bid; Manitoba, No. 1, 84c. bid, 85c. asked; No. 2 northern, 83c. bid.

Oats—No. 2 white, 37c. bid, outside; No. 2, mixed, 37c. bid, outside.

Corn—No. 2 yellow, 55c. bid, Toronto. Buckwheat—No. 2, 51c. offered, outside, 48c. bid.

Feedstuffs—Ontario bran, in Meyer's