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"Persevere and
Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

The farmer's wife with turkeys or poultry for sale had a special cause for thanksgiving.

"If you want to commit murder, get drunk, so we won't have to hang you," is the real significance of the Blythe verdict. What a farce!

Upon second thought, Australia seems to have concluded that the £100,000 subscribed toward a Dreadnought could be better applied in other directions. Our Australian correspondent, writing a month or so since, notes a popular proposal, then on foot, to divert half the sum towards the establishment of a farm for the purpose of training boys to go on the land.

The average Canadian has little idea how far beyond us Australia and New Zealand have gone in the way of bold social and economic experiment. Public ownership of railways and woman suffrage are established institutions in New Zealand, at least. Agriculturally, our Antipodean brethren have perhaps less lead to boast of. Indeed, in this domain, Canada has probably the advantage. Nevertheless, there is much that is interesting and worthy of study in the agriculture of the Island Hemisphere, and The Australian Budget of News, published in this issue, is worth reading.

He who knoweth not resolutely his own mind is easily dissuaded. Many a farmer has been deterred from a forward step by fear of ridicule—by that subtle psychological pressure of conservative neighborhood opinion which is so hard for one who has been reared in the community to face. So each remains rooted to the practices in vogue. Thus, whole districts lag behind in the adoption of progressive ideas, each man hesitating to make the first move. Agriculture, like religion, needs its Daniels—who dare to stand alone, dare to entertain a progressive idea, and dare to give it effect.

During the summer we have received quite a number of letters in dialect commenting upon Sandy Fraser's correspondence. The last one was returned, with a request that it be re-written in plain language. Sandy, be it known, is a sort of privileged character in our columns, and not being conversant with the use of the King's English, is permitted to deliver himself as best he may, seeing that his homilies are too good to miss. Then, too, in his case, the dialect is a feature that adds uniqueness, which would be lost, or, at any rate, impaired, if much other correspondence were couched in the same style. Besides, while "The Farmer's Advocate" is proud of its large proportion of Scotch readers, and not averse to tickling their fancy occasionally with a turn of their own tongue, still it has also many other readers to whom Sandy's orthography is unfamiliar and difficult. In consideration for these, as well as for the reasons noted above, we are constrained to request critics to employ dictionary English as their vehicle of expression. Speaking of Sandy's orthography, we are not entirely assured that it is always perfectly familiar even to his Scottish readers, but that is a matter between him and them.

Growing Attendance at Our Agricultural Colleges.

It is encouraging to note the growing attendance at our four Canadian Agricultural Colleges, not to mention numerous other agricultural and semi-agricultural schools of more or less local constituency. At the O. A. C., for instance, 1,433 individual students have taken longer or shorter courses at the Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute since January 1st, 1909. This includes 445 students in domestic science, and 449 taking the regular four-year and two-year courses in agriculture. At the Manitoba Agricultural College, in Winnipeg, attendance in the regular courses alone has run from 85 in 1906-07, to 173 in 1908-09, with an estimate of 200 in attendance during the session of 1909-10.

From the Nova Scotia College of Agriculture, at Truro, Principal Cumming, at the end of October, estimated that the figures would likely be about the same as last year, namely, 48, which represented a large percentage increase over the previous term. This should be regarded as quite satisfactory in the circumstances, the field here being limited, and only a small percentage of farmers able to send their sons for the full two-years' course. The short course at Truro has grown immensely, starting at 40 four years ago, and increasing to 300 last winter. The present outlook is for a still larger class this winter. Figures for Macdonald College we have not before us at moment of writing, but, surveying the whole situation, one can only conclude that Canadian farmers have awakened as never before to an appreciation of the value of agricultural education, and of the institutions equipped to give it.

Each Farmer Fatten His Own.

The one fact which cannot be too strongly emphasized, writes Thomas McMillan, an extensive cattle-feeder, of Huron Co., Ont., in "The Farmer's Advocate," is that the breeder should also be the finisher of his own animals. If it pays to raise animals and sell them for feeders, it will pay better to feed these same animals more liberally, and sell them at the same age, finished and ready for the block. Mr. McMillan is unquestionably right. The common practice of raising raw-honed steers to the age of two or three years, and then selling them at 3½ or 4 cents a pound as feeders, is wasteful in the extreme. If the total cost of such a beast were footed up, and balance struck in a businesslike way, it would stagger the man who has been raising the steer. In order to leave any profit on such operations, manure would have to be valued almost as high per ton as the feed from which it was produced; whereas we know, on the contrary, that a growing steer abstracts from his feed a much larger percentage of the elements of soil fertility than does a fattening steer, and his manure is, therefore, less valuable. It simply means that the men who follow that system of farming, unless operating in a section where land is very cheap, or otherwise exceptionally situated, are sacrificing profits by marketing their produce through the steers at a very low value per ton of feed. Mr. McMillan buys steers to finish because he can get them cheaply enough to recoup him for the expense of scouring the country for them, driving them to strange quarters, taking the risk incident to any business transaction, and finally securing a sufficiently wide spread between cost and selling price to net him a profit in the average year. If he didn't buy them, someone else would. At the same time, he pities the farmer foolish enough to sell unfinished cattle, and so must every other feeder who understands the economics of beef production. The man who raises the steer ought to

be able to finish him more economically than can a second party. If he cannot, it is due to radical defects in care and feeding practice—defects which he ought to remedy, for they will militate against his success in rearing quite as much as against fattening, if not more. Every farmer should make it a point to fatten his own stock. Therein lies the greatest—often the only—profit.

Cement and its Advantages.

This is the age of cement. Portland cement, almost unknown among farmers in this country until a comparatively few years ago, has largely taken the place of wood, brick and stone. Barn foundations, stable floors, and silos, walks, culverts, bridges and dams, houses of all sizes and classes, including great fireproof factories and stores, are being built of this convenient and lasting material. There is scarcely any subject on which "The Farmer's Advocate" has received more queries than on the question of cement and its uses. One great advantage this new building material possesses is that it can be used to good purpose by those unskilled in masonry.

In an Advance Chapter from Mineral Resources of the United States for the year 1908, the production of Portland cement is classified according to the kinds of raw material from which the cement is manufactured. Type 1 includes cement produced from a mixture of argillaceous limestone (cement rock) and pure limestone. This is the combination of materials used in all the cement plants of the Lehigh district of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and also at several Western plants.

Type 2 includes cement made from a mixture of comparatively pure limestone, with clay or shale.

Type 3 includes cement manufactured from a mixture of marl and clay.

Type 4 includes Portland cement, manufactured from a mixture of limestone and blast-furnace slag.

This last is made only by one company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation. The product is a true Portland cement in every sense of the term. The company deserves credit for working up into a useful article a waste product such as slag.

The most striking feature connected with the Portland cement industry in the United States has been the decline in prices during the last thirty years. The average price per barrel in bulk at the point of manufacture between 1870 and 1880 was \$3.00. Since that time the decline has been steady, with the exception of an occasional partial recovery, until in 1908 it stood at 85 cents. The production in the above period rose from 42,000 barrels in 1880, to 51,072,912 barrels in 1908.

Canadian Portland cement would certainly show a similar fall in prices and rise in production during the same period. It is to be feared, however, that, as a result of the combine of Canadian cement-manufacturing firms recently consummated, prices will now very decidedly tend upward.

Something new in the use to which cement concrete may be put is in the manufacture of railroad ties. Such enormous quantities of timber are required to supply the demand for ties that it seems but a question of time, and not a very long time, until some other material will have to be made use of. On October 22nd, 1906, one hundred reinforced cement ties were installed for experimental purposes on a section of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio R. R., Texas, at a total cost, including laying and ballasting, of \$55.86. All of these ties are in serviceable condition still, and will undoubtedly last a great many years.

A series of official tests of various building ma-