

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.

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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.

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But it does almost always result in such raising of price where the article is not produced in sufficient quantity to supply the home demand, and, moreover, it gives an effective lever to monopolists and combines. The spectacle of powerful monopolies, such as the United States steel trust, selling more cheaply abroad than at home, is significant. The danger of such restrictive combines Mr. Biggar lightly passes over to the ingenuity of law-makers. Well, the law-makers do not seem to be making much headway regulating them in the United States. We submit that it is vastly better to keep weed seeds out of an onion bed than to trust complacently to some easy means of exterminating them after they are in. We can not and do not desire to prevent the formation of combines. They may be of much advantage in a country where they are not given opportunity for price extortion by protection from legitimate foreign competition. Free trade is the proper force to use on trusts. Then, their economic advantage may be conserved, with a minimum of opportunity for extortion.

Coming down again, then, to the specific case of the woollen industry, we desire to ask Mr. Biggar once more whether he has ever in his own mind essayed to compute the staggering cost to the United States of fostering its woollen industry? And all for what? To build up a powerful woollen trust which seeks to bear the price of wool and bull the price of woollen goods. Witness the recently issued minority report of the United States Senate Committee on wages and the cost of living:

"In all the United States there were five per cent. of the people directly financially interested in maintaining the exorbitant tariff on woollen goods, and perhaps less than one per cent. of this five per cent. got 95 per cent. of the spoils beyond a living, and yet every citizen must have woollen garments and blankets."

The ingenious palliation of the burden of a protective tariff, the eye-filling magnification of the benefit to the Canadian farmer of having a woollen industry in his midst, we have space only to point out. It is just such reasoning that has built up, little by little, our present burdensome

protective tariff. We want no more of it. It is time to whittle down the schedules.

We say nothing of the imputation of bad quality in English woollens. That has been already met by English manufacturers, as well as by the experience of readers who have worn English cloth, in comparison with Canadian or American.

The one important point Mr. Biggar has contributed to the discussion is that the free admission of tops and noils would counteract the effect of a tariff on wool, even if such were provided. He has made out a strong case for the taxation of tops at as high a rate, at least, as the nominal duty on wool.

The abuse of wool, tops and noils coming in free, in virtual evasion of the supposed duty now imposed on wool, we agree, should be ended. But that must not be accompanied by an increase in the tariff on woollen goods. It is too high already.

The Best Investment.

While Canadian farms have a more or less steady income throughout the entire year, yet the surplus of the annual earnings accumulate largely during the summer and autumn, and as the end of the season approaches, considerable figuring is being done now to determine the ultimate disposal of this accumulated cash. It may be placed in the banks at four per cent.; much will be invested in Western lands or New Ontario mines, some of which will pay well, some not at all, and some will be a total loss. We like to feel that we have money in the bank that we can get the benefit of at any time—but never do; and many of us, indeed, cannot resist the opportunity of putting some money in a chance game either of the fortune wheel, mining stocks, or Western lands.

But, before you decide what to do with this year's accumulation, try to find out what the boys feel to be most urgent, learn the girls' opinions, and consult long with your wife. Are there no fields needing underdrainage? Are all the fences all they should be? Is the home well provided for in those things that make the young folks love to linger in it, and the mother happy? Have the sons good work teams to drive? Think it over, long and well. A bank account drawing interest to make a larger bank account, or an investment in more land to make money to buy more land, does not add one whit to the pleasure or satisfaction or fulfilment of a life, and when the end of it all comes, it is hard to see what good it can then do; but judicious investment in improvements for the home, the farm, the stock, add to the joy of everyday living, and to the financial account, as well.

Tariffs, Trusts, Prices and Wages.

The minority report of the United States Senate Committee on wages and the cost of living, which has been recently issued, takes the form of a reply to the majority report. The report, of course, has a political aspect, and is designed to serve political purposes, but the following three paragraphs are quoted for what they are worth:

"There are few trusts that could survive a revenue tariff. So enormous have been their profits that we find organizations springing up all over the country, like the Elgin Board of Trade, the wholesale grocers, lumber dealers—associations that have contributed largely to the advance in prices and the frauds perpetrated by manufacturers of certain goods in reducing the weight or contents of packages from 20 to 50 per cent., and maintaining the same price."

"It is difficult to understand how anyone can favor high rates of duty if he does not honestly believe that it will increase the prices to be realized by the manufacturers producing the article affected by diminishing or destroying competition, and thus necessarily increasing the cost to the consumer. Then, we were many times mournfully warned that any reduction in rates would flood our country with lower-priced German products, and that the smoke of American manufacturers would disappear from the heavens. Now we are informed that the tariff has not increased the cost of those articles entering into every household and administering to the health and comfort of every family."

"Great Britain is a free-trade nation, and it is the most prosperous nation in the world, except our own. Shoals of emigrants from the tariff-ridden nations of France, Germany, Italy and

Russia go to England to work. But Englishmen do not emigrate to those countries, because the standard of living is lower. The general testimony is that the rate of wages for all mechanical trades is substantially higher in Great Britain than in those protectionist countries, while the prices of necessities are lower, leaving the Englishman a wider margin to live upon. It is about sixty years since Great Britain adopted free trade, and, during that time, according to a table published in Whitaker's Almanac, wages have increased 81.7 per cent., and prices only 3 per cent.

Appreciation from a Reader.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have frequently had reason to express my gratitude to you for the continuous feast of good things supplied by your paper, and a recent editorial, "The Glory of the Corn," has so aroused my admiration that I must ask you to accept my congratulations on your ability to pen such an article.

After reading it over several times with growing admiration, I read it aloud as we were gathered around the breakfast table Sunday morning, after which we adjourned to the cornfield, where my thirteen-year-old nephew, who is rusticating with us just now, read it aloud, while we had an enjoyable little nature-study together.

Next to the ability to produce literary gems, comes the power and intuition to select skillfully from other writers, as when Dora Farncomb, in her exceptionally helpful talk, in issue of August 18th, quotes from "The Romance of Medicine," we, who are not wide or deep readers, feel grateful to her for culling this gem and setting it before us in such a way that we are compelled to think big thoughts, and lead true lives.

And all this strength and beauty of expression never in any degree impairs the purely practical. It is no easy matter to conduct a farm according to the high ideals set before us in "The Farmer's Advocate," but I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that it is a remarkably good thing for us to have these ideals before us—we "tag along" after them as best we can—and frequently last year's ideal becomes a reality this year, while this year's advanced ideal is tempting us upward and forward. For instance, at "Farmhill," a cement-block silo, alfalfa hay, improved stock, and other good things have become realities this year, and we are steadily endeavoring to do something towards improving the general appearance of the place, in the way of care of trees, garden and roadside, and expect to find time during September to thoroughly clean and whitewash all pens and stables, and while much must still remain to be done at some future time, we feel that we can always depend on "The Farmer's Advocate" to tell us what to do, and how to do it.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Editor—or, rather, shall I say, Messrs. and Mesdames Editors—on the exalted position you undoubtedly occupy in the hearts and homes of the farmers of Canada, whose physical, mental and spiritual welfare is constantly advanced by your combined efforts.

Brant Co., Ont. DAVID PATTON.

The Country Church.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"The Farmer's Advocate" has done good work by calling attention to the problem of the country church. Especially is it right when it points out the need of ministers who are specially trained and qualified for ministerial service in rural communities.

To begin with, church leaders are generally city men, who see the church's work from the point of view of the city man. It naturally follows that the church's policy is city-born and city-bred. The country churches are regarded as being of but secondary importance, and are expected to accept the policy of the city churches, and to adapt such policies as best they can. Further, there seems to be a sort of stigma attached to the work of the country minister. Chaucer and Goldsmith did not see it that way. The Church's Head and Founder, and His apostles, were countrymen, but the bald, unpleasant fact remains that, for a man to choose the lot of a country minister, means that city ministers and city church-goers will in their hearts regard him as a man of inferior parts.

The fault lies in the country minister as much as in anyone. Too often he takes the country charge with great reluctance. His hope is that one day he will be called to the big city church. His sermons are prepared and preached in view of the great future that he feels he deserves. He regards himself as but a sojourner among the country people. The city is his home. He busies himself with city problems. His church policy is an aping of some city policy. In the meantime he fails to realize the fine opportunities of service in the present. Without being aware of it, he becomes an actor, and before he knows it he is an imitator, an echo, and not a voice, and his whole life is touched with hollowness and artificiality. Little wonder that such a minister soon finds himself out of touch with everything red-blooded and hu-