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EDITORIAL.

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

Travelling eastward on a train through Western Ontario, the late Dr. John A. Williams, an eminent Canadian divine, one day fell in conversation with a young man returning from Chicago, where he had a lucrative position in the mechanical department of a leading railway, in order to pursue a college course. Curious to know what had prompted so unusual a procedure, Dr. Williams expressed surprise that his companion should thus take a couple of years from his work simply to obtain more education. Turning and looking the Doctor straight in the eye, the young man said, "Why, don't you think I owe something to my manhood?"

To-day hundreds of young men of the farm are packing their grips to start for school and college. Why? To what end? Just to escape from physical toil and obtain a soft-handed job? We hope not, because that would imply several perverted notions—one, that farming is not an occupation demanding and worthy the best intelligence that can be applied to it; another, that there is something lowering in working with the hands, and probably a general failure to appreciate the advantages and opportunities of rural life. It may be contended that it is to obtain more money-making power. Usually the material rewards of effort are proportionate to the knowledge, skill and faithfulness put into it, but if our vision takes in no greater orbit than the circle of a dollar, we shall never rise higher than the sordid clod, whether sitting in a palace or digging a ditch. The young man from Chicago had the right idea of the educational outcome—MANHOOD. Ability to serve, and its compensations follow.

Tempted by what they can earn under present-day conditions, we see the appalling evil of child labor in the towns, and even country people taking boys and girls of ten and twelve years from school, or permitting them to leave and "go to work" and earn something. Now, there may, unfortunately, be exceptional circumstances under which younger members of the family, by stern necessity, must forego even a fair rudimentary education, as given in the public schools, but if they lack the pluck and aspiration to improve themselves afterwards, they will go through life woefully handicapped in the race with others, and lacking, in large measure, that insight and outlook which helps to make life worth living. Almost any sacrifice of temporary material comfort should be made, rather than that the youth should suffer so serious a deprivation.

Further on the same rule holds good; increased educational training of the right sort gives increased power in stern work of life, and enhances the good that can be got and given by the individual as his contribution to the well-being of his contemporaries. Take the young man at the agricultural college, where he secures a thorough insight into the laws governing the soil, plant and animal life, studying at once the principles and the best practice in husbandry. He has an opportunity to study closely the economics of the farm, and should likewise obtain an insight into the broader economics that govern the relations of man to man and community to community, and having his vision and his sympathies widened by contact with other students and the faculty. He should come to discern that working with the hands is not mere drudgery, but he will respect it and rejoice in it as much as in any form of toil. Under the inspiration of enthusiastic and practical teachers, these institutions can do wonders for any willing, receptive and self-reliant young man

from the farm who goes there with a reasonable equipment of preliminary knowledge. Demonstration should go hand in hand with what is called theory. Cultivating at the same time the underpinning of a moral purpose in life and character, there is nothing to equal the doing method of education. We therefore look confidently to the agricultural college as part of our public educational machinery, to do an increasing share in stocking this country with successful farmers of unflinching probity, and so grounded educationally that they can hold their own as citizens in the work and public affairs of the country with any other class.

THE LITERATURE OF THE FARM.

The character and quality of the books and papers we read doubtless exert a greater influence in shaping our course of action in life than we are aware of, or are willing to acknowledge. The political proclivities of the people are largely the result of their regular reading of the organ or exponent of a party, presenting, generally, a biased view in the discussion of public questions, in which devotion to party interests play a prominent part. Similarly, at least in so far as it appeals to our judgment and reason, the character of the literature devoted to distinctively agricultural and allied topics which one reads, has more or less influence in directing his choice and course in the operations of the farm in relation to stock-raising, cultivation of the soil, crop rotation, and the special lines of the business to which he decides to devote the most attention. The quality of one's reading, from a moral point of view, the most important of all the incidents of life, unconsciously affects the character and tendencies of the reader; especially is this true of the plastic minds of the youthful members of the family, and proportionately so of those of maturer years. Hence the importance of the exercise of judgment and discrimination in the choice of the books and periodical papers placed in the list of the literature of the farm home. Circumstances may not admit of securing a large library, and a few well-chosen books are better than a larger number purchased without due regard to their reliability and helpful character. But, by all means, do some book-reading. Exclusive perusal of periodicals is too miscellaneous and scrappy to be thorough. Persons who confine themselves to newspaper reading lack in breadth and depth of knowledge, and are liable to degenerate until satisfied with the petty, personal gossip of the neighborhood. It is true that the working farmer has comparatively little time for reading, especially in the seasons for busy outdoor work; but in the long winter evenings he and his family have more favorable opportunities for reading than have city people, whose evenings are broken in upon by various distractions incident to their social life.

A wisely-chosen magazine, and a journal devoted to the specialties of farming and farm life, in addition to the local weekly and a daily newspaper, where the postal department provides a daily service, are not expensive luxuries, and can well be afforded by most farmers, and time can generally be found to read at least the portions of these periodicals in which one feels most interested. And in making choice of these, discrimination should be exercised, after comparison, to ascertain which is the most reliable and helpful in the general and special branches of farm operations and family life. The price of the yearly subscription to a farm paper is but little, especially when one considers its weekly cost, and it is a poor production that is not worth to a farmer many times its cost in useful information and helpful hints and suggestions. But in this, as in

most other things, the best is the cheapest, and care should be given in the selection to be sure that the literature chosen is directed by practical and experienced writers, who know what they are writing about, and are not likely to mislead their readers.

Farming differs widely from other lines of business, from the facts of variation in soils and seasons, and other uncontrollable circumstances, so that a course of cultivation or other action advised, which would be all right in some cases, would be all wrong in others, where the conditions are different. And for this reason each man needs to use his own judgment in view of the character of the land he has to deal with, the weather conditions of the season, the market he caters to, and other considerations peculiar to his circumstances. The more widely read he is, therefore, and the better informed on general lines, the less likely is the farmer to make the mistake of taking for granted that all the recommendations he reads, even in a farm paper, are safe to follow, but he will consider them in the light of his own situation, observation and surroundings, and will adopt or reject according to his own judgment, it may be, after experimenting on a limited scale, to satisfy himself as to its suitability to his conditions. Since, therefore, reading matter has come to be regarded as an essential of modern farm life, the points to be considered in the selection of the literature of the home are quality, reliability, suitability to circumstances, and up-to-dateness of character. And in order to being prepared to get the most out of such reading, it is the part of wisdom to investigate and make choice during the autumn, in order to be prepared with the best reading matter when the longer evenings of the early winter months come.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

The last few years have been years of almost unequalled prosperity for the farmer in many localities in Ontario. Just now we are approaching the winter, realizing that feed is likely to be scarce and dear, a situation that should cause many farmers to do some energetic planning. In the first place, the stock of the least value will probably be discarded as soon as possible. The all-too-prevalent drouth has rendered many pastures almost valueless for this season, and when the fall rains set in every bit of grass will be in demand for the fair support of even a diminished herd. Frosts have visited a great many places in Ontario, warning us that winter is coming. There is no occasion for a panic, but the farmer who wishes to bring his herd through the winter in good heart, at a fair profit, will probably do well to see that his culling is done at an early date. In not a few instances men will be tempted to sell the animal that will bring the highest price. This usually means the sacrifice of the best stock, leaving behind the culls. This is poor economy, and nothing short of the penny-wise and pound-foolish policy of the unthrifty. At almost any cost, retain the best stock, and let the undesirables be fleshed up for local consumption or the canner. The best eat no more than the poorer, while the amount of return is vastly on the side of the higher-grade animal.

The advice of "The Farmer's Advocate" to sow millet and other fodder crops liberally has been very generally adopted, and will help out supplies, but still feed should be most carefully husbanded, and judicious but not parsimonious methods of feeding pursued. By reducing the herd, the feed will go further, and those remaining will receive the necessary full allowance in order to gains in flesh, and a good milk flow in case of dairy cows. Feed will be dear, but so will dairy