

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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## Editorial.

### This Year and Next.

An interval between the activities of 1904 and the work to be planned and done in 1905 can hardly be said to exist, yet we all should, at this season, pause and think before we bid farewell forever to the year just done and welcome with glad hand the newcomer. The hour of retrospection, that period to think backwards, as well as inwardly, is at hand, crowded fast on us as it is by the coming days, with their work to do; yet we should not let it pass unheeded. Even if we only look back over the twelvemonth, we cannot but feel that, first and foremost, thanks are due the Creator for mercies shown, for health preserved or restored, for the privileges of freedom, education and religion which we enjoy, and, after that, the true man or woman cannot but be possessed with a feeling of sadness because of that terse, expressive saying of the late Cecil Rhodes, "So much to do, so little done," a truism to those who have other interests besides those of self; yet, while that sadness exists for sins of omission, it should be overshadowed by the glad tidings that there is work to do for all. While every person can read and ponder over lessons of the Recessional, none can afford to sit down and dream of what the future may hold.

To have a part in the upbuilding of a great nation, should, at the threshold of the new year, cause us all to become optimists, and fire young and old to do the very best that is in them.

From the young men and women especially, the future calls for earnest work and honest endeavor. Those great fields of life, politics and commerce, need more and more honesty of purpose and backbone to say and to do the right, irrespective of the immediate consequence; and it is from the young people such must come.

At this season, then, more than ever, should high ideals be sought, and vows for their steadfast following be made, so that when to us the end of years come and our earthly work is done, we can utter those beautiful lines of Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar":

Sunset and evening star,

And one clear call for me!

And may there be no moaning of the bar

When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,

Too full for sound and foam,

When that which drew from out the boundless deep

Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,

And after that the dark!

And may there be no sadness of farewell

When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place

The flood may bear me far,

I hope to see my Pilot face to face

When I have cross'd the bar.

### Pride in One's Profession is Essential to Success.

The live-stock World draws attention to the message of the United States Chief Magistrate re agricultural colleges, and regrets that all the graduates do not follow the profession.

"President Roosevelt, in his message to Congress calls attention to the effective work being done by the agricultural colleges, and points out some of the great advantages of such an educational system. Without the aid of the Federal Government progress would be rather slow along these lines, for, as yet, local appropriations have not been sufficient. The President says: 'The activities of our age in lines of research have

reached the tillers of the soil, and inspires them with ambition to know more of the principles that govern the forces of nature with which they have to deal. Nearly half of the people of this country devote their energies to growing things from the soil. Until a recent date, little has been done to prepare these millions for their life work.'

"Those who have watched these schools are convinced that they are as necessary to the farmer as the law school is to the lawyer. The trouble is that not all who receive this agricultural education go back on the farm and apply it as they should."

The pity of it! And who can lay a finger on the cause? Many men and many minds has been stated as a fact, and it is fortunate for the nation, that all the farm-raised men and women do not stay on the farm; yet we regret, as does our brother editor of the Windy City journal, that the proportion of college men working on the farms is too small; but the cause, the cause? We believe some causes to be, among others, courses not practical enough, and the teachers not enthusiastic or proud enough of the premier profession—agriculture. And when we say teachers, we do not confine ourselves to the professors, but include the parents. The great fault of many farmers to-day is the lack of pride in their profession.

### Territorial Grain-growers, and the "Farmer's Advocate."

In a letter to the Editor of the "Farmer's Advocate" a short time ago, W. R. Motherwell, Abernethy, Assa., well-known as the President of the Territorial Grain-growers', said: "Your journal has certainly been a warm friend and supporter of the Grain-growers' Association. I hope to be writing a letter to the press generally very soon, and shall send you a copy, but I am free to admit that much more should be coming to you as a slight recognition of the valuable assistance the 'Farmer's Advocate' has rendered our organization in the past."

### Territorial Grain-growers Deliberate.

One of the satisfactory and encouraging features in agriculture to-day is the increasing tendency of farmers to unite to protect themselves, to further their interests commercially, and for educational purposes. A notable example of the above are those organizations known as the Grain-growers' Associations, of which there are two in Canada—the Manitoba and Territorial Associations, the latter being the parent.

The development of these associations has been remarkable, and promises to be even greater, and to the body politic, city as well as country, affords an opportunity for study; in fact, furnishes a reliable index as to the progress being made by the Western farmer. In such associations are to be found three types of men—those holding radical (or progressive), moderate (constituting the majority), and conservative ideas—and with such variety it is only to be expected that the stream of business at a convention is no sluggish one.

It was patent to the most indifferent observer who attended the convention at Regina that the

delegates thought the proceeds from this year's crop were not as large as the crop warranted, this dissatisfaction resulting in attempts to put a finger on the cause or causes.

The grading system was seriously attacked, but we are convinced that until a better system is devised the present works out as good as human ingenuity can devise, and with as few mistakes, and in saying so, we desire to express our absolute confidence in the integrity of the Chief Inspector. Mistakes will occur, but we think such are not done wilfully. The responsibility resting on the chief grain inspector's shoulders is immense, and, all things considered, the work is done remarkably well. There may be weak spots that need strengthening, and the decision of the T. G.-G.'s to send a representative to Winnipeg to watch the grading and gather information is much to be commended. The voiced dissatisfaction with Mr. Horn's rulings was not on account of any doubt of his integrity—all seemed to be satisfied as to that—but the opinion was expressed that in taking Manitoba wheat, from which, this year, the samples were obtained entirely, as his standard, an injustice was done the N.-W. T. With all deference to the opinions of those holding that view—who, by the way, claim wheat from the N.-W. T. is superior to that of Manitoba—we are of the opinion, in which we think all will concur, on deliberation, that the opposite is the case, and that the suggestion for a set of parallel standards from the N.-W. T. wheats is not feasible. In fact, if such were done, each separate district would be justified in clamoring for standards of their own. Everybody knows the quality of wheat varies markedly in various districts in Manitoba, and as the soils become more or less exhausted in the Territories, under present methods of cultivation, the same variations will appear.

A satisfactory feature was the entire absence of feeling—city versus country, or that every man's hand is against the farmer.

Probably, the two main things to which this organization should immediately devote itself are: FIRST, the making of Winnipeg an order point and sample market, thus opening the way to the abolition of selling on grade, and the building up of a flour-manufacturing industry in the West, and thus keep the valuable offals (bran, shorts, etc.) in the country. The SECOND important thing to do is to use the funds of the Association, of which there is this year a surplus, to put an organizer on the road, so as to increase the number of members. Two adages must be remembered, "There is strength in numbers," and "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and the membership should, and must, grow in a way commensurate with the importance of the interests represented. Several minor resolutions were adopted, as will be seen in our report of the proceedings. The car service has, this season, been satisfactory, except in a few isolated cases. A feature of the proceedings, and a precedent that other Ministers of Agriculture could well afford to follow, is the stepping down into the arena by the Commissioner of Agriculture to make plain the results of his interesting and valuable experiment re the prospective milling values of different grades of wheat. This experiment is to be repeated, and could be made even more useful, by also using samples of Manitoba-grown wheat, to settle the contention of some that the wheat of the Territories is superior to that of Manitoba. The fourth annual convention at Regina was the birthplace of many valuable ideas to be acted upon. Future conventions will be watched for with interest by all concerned in the growing of our great world-renowned cereal—wheat!