

THE STRUGGLING FARMER.

Reasons Why He Is Poor.

A writer in an American exchange in a picturesque article upon "Why Some Farmers Remain Poor," says:

"I passed the home of a farmer in Northern Minnesota who was reported as being a poor man, with a large family of children to support. He was away from home working with his team. He did not have time to clear much land, because he had to be away nearly all the time to make enough to buy groceries and clothe the family. I could see the reason why it would keep him busy, for it would seem that everything in the way of food had to be bought.

"There were not even enough potatoes growing on the place to feed an Irish family a month, and potatoes are a good form of food for everyone. The vegetable garden and small fruit garden were missing, and there was not even a flower to cheer. No wonder they were poor. People are poor indeed when there is not thrift enough in the mother, if not in the father, to have a garden.

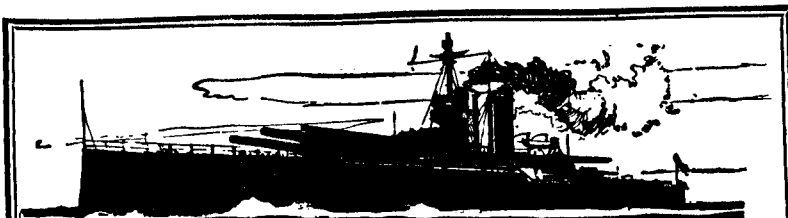
"'Grow enough to eat,' should be the motto of every settler, and this can be done on a very small tract of ground. Potatoes, beans and peas make a pretty, nice-balanced ration, and with other vegetables and small fruit and a cow and flock of hens the poor man may have a table that kings might envy. The first clearing would be garden, and every child should learn to work in the garden as soon as it starts to learn to work at its lessons at school. There is absolutely no excuse for not having a profitable garden where there are children in the family over eight years of age, even though the father has to work out.

"Potatoes and such vegetables as onions, carrots, parsnips, and beans generally can be exchanged for groceries. When they cannot be traded they always can be fed on the farm and converted into products that will sell. How often we have seen settlers buying salt pork, butter and even eggs and potatoes. When these products have to be purchased on the farm, it is no wonder that the farmer has to work out."

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS.

It is the intention of the Agricultural Department of Victoria to inaugurate a Publications Branch of this department in order that information on agricultural matters may be more readily disseminated among the farming community, and in order to give publicity to the results of investigation, experimental and demonstration work which is being carried out by this department in various parts of the province by means of experimental and demonstration plots, and also by different lines of investigation work which are being carried out under the supervision and direction of expert officials of this department and in order that the work may be as effective as possible.

A local fruitgrowers' association has been organized in Oyama under the name of the Oyama and Okanagan Centre District Fruit Growers Association: President, Mr. E. Trask, Oyama; vice-president, Mr. J. Goldie, Okanagan Centre; secretary treasurer, Mr. R. E. Bourne, Oyama; directors, Mr. Twogood, and Mr. S. Heddle, both of Oyama. Mr. Trask was appointed as delegate to attend B. C. F. G. A.'s annual meeting at Victoria.



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AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OFFICERS.

Officers for the Burquitlam Agricultural Society this year will be: Honorary president, Hon. W. J. Bowser; hon. vice-presidents, Lieut.-Colonel J. D. Taylor, M. P.; W. J. Manson, M. P. P.; F. Carter Cotton, M. P. P.; A. C. Flumerfelt, M. P. P. Robert Newman was re-elected president and Mr. Robert Morrison was selected as vice-president. F. Cockerell was appointed secretary over Mr. H. B. Baker on a close vote. The directors will be: Messrs E. H. Wiltshire, W. Walker, Andrew Haliburton, Wallace Whiting, A. Cameron, S. Cowan, Robert Findlay, Ewen Martin and W. Wilson.

FINE WOOL WILL BE NEEDED.

Farmers in Western Canada are rapidly getting into the sheep business. They are commencing with range bred Merinos largely, and then proceeding to use coarse-wooled rams, in the endeavor to increase the size of their lambs. This is what is being termed on this side "muttonizing." It would not be at all amiss if these mutton fans would remember that the world has got to have fine wool, and that they must keep a certain amount of Merino blood in their flocks, if they are to shear this class of wool. It would be better by far to keep their flock entirely pure if they could do so. Fine wool breeders are facing the greatest year in the history of their breeds.

A decided change of conditions is noticeable in the Matsqui district since the advent of the creamery at Clayburn, and there is every indication that what heretofore has been a large hay and grain district will gradually be transformed into a dairying district similar to the Chilliwack Valley.

Many of the larger farmers are already planning to go into mixed farming and recently on one 500-acre farm on Matsqui Prairie 40 head of milch cows were added to the stock, while on scores of smaller farms additional cows are being purchased. It is stated that hundreds of cows will be added to the herds on the prairie in the spring. The creamery, which is now churning three days per week, will, it is stated, in the summer churn daily, as they are at present unable to supply the demand for the butter which they turn out, and which recently secured first prize at the Dairy-men's convention held at New Westminster.

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