

### Do Farmers Encourage Their Sons?

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Your articles that I have read on "Do the daughters get fair play?" have roused me to ask the question, "Do farmers encourage their sons?" If you keep the sons on the farm, will the daughters need or wish to go to the city? No! They will be needed as helpmates some day to brighten the sons' homes. You go to most farmers' homes, and will you find a father who takes his son into his counsel and asks his opinion on his daily work? Do you find him sending his sons to the Agricultural College, Guelph, to see and learn agriculture, stock-raising, and dairying? Does he send him to the best fall and winter fairs, where he can see and study the best that farm and factory can produce? Does he ask him for his opinion on buying this breed of cattle or sheep, or working this field by some method different to what he has done? Does he give him an interest in anything on the farm to rouse his curiosity and interest to study and observe what is the best for that thing? I have seen enough of just the reverse to drive his son from the farm. If you enquire the reason you will find that in nine cases out of ten the father says: "Time enough yet for you to bother your heads. What do you know? You have had no experience. Wait until you are as old as I am, then you will know something and be able to give advice." Do we have to wait that long? What is more active and sharper in taking in everything than the brains of a farmer's son, who has an interest in everything he likes? He has ideas his father never thought of. Is there any harm to hear them? Canada sends men to different countries to encourage immigration. Fathers, go into the city and make an emendation. Migrate your sons back to the farm, and this fair land will need no foreigners. Give them an interest. Give them good literature to read, which can be procured so cheaply. Get the "Farmer's Advocate" and the books they offer. You will get more than 5 per cent. return on your \$1.00 invested. You will develop the ideas of your sons, who will govern this Dominion in the future. Send them to Guelph and good fairs, so they may study the line they are interested in. Let your farm be run as Brown & Sons, not Brown and his hired boys who never receive their wages. Farmers want their sons to be doctors, lawyers, druggists, or business men, which is all right, and proud we ought to be to know that the most of the best business men and doctors in our cities to-day, and representatives in Parliament, were one time farmers' sons. But because farming is hard work, should we go to the overcrowded city? What is more pleasant than working with Nature, where, no matter which way you turn, God's pure light is shining there. Fathers, don't drive your sons from the best part of God's earth—"The Farm"—but make them your partners, thoughtful, pure men.

York Co., Ont.

W. G. H.

### Sugar Beets at London.

One of the "Advocate" staff, recently, in company with Mr. J. Sisler, of Aylmer, Government Inspector of sugar-beet growing in the districts of London and Alvington, visited a number of the 21 farms in the townships of Westminster and London on which one-quarter acre plots of beets are being grown from seed supplied by the Ontario Government, and from each of which ten average beets were taken, on August 22nd, for the first analysis for sugar content. The plots, with very few exceptions, were found in excellent condition, the beets looking healthy and vigorous and having grown and developed satisfactorily, the foliage, especially of those growing on clay-loam soils, looking exceedingly fresh, while on gravelly or light sandy soils, though the roots had made good growth, the leaves were, owing to the drought, considerably wilted, but if rains come soon will doubtless revive and produce satisfactory crops.

The growing of sugar beets presents no more difficulties than does the culture of mangels, and any land that will grow a good crop of mangels will, with the same preparation, produce a good yield of beets, with about the same amount of labor, the only difference in the treatment required being the sowing in rows closer together, and a larger quantity of seed to ensure a full and continuous row of plants, which should be thinned, or singled, to a distance of about seven inches apart in the row, the rows being 21 inches apart, and sown on the level. The object is to have the foliage when nearing maturity almost completely covering the ground, a condition which is said to contribute to the highest percentage of sugar content in the beets.

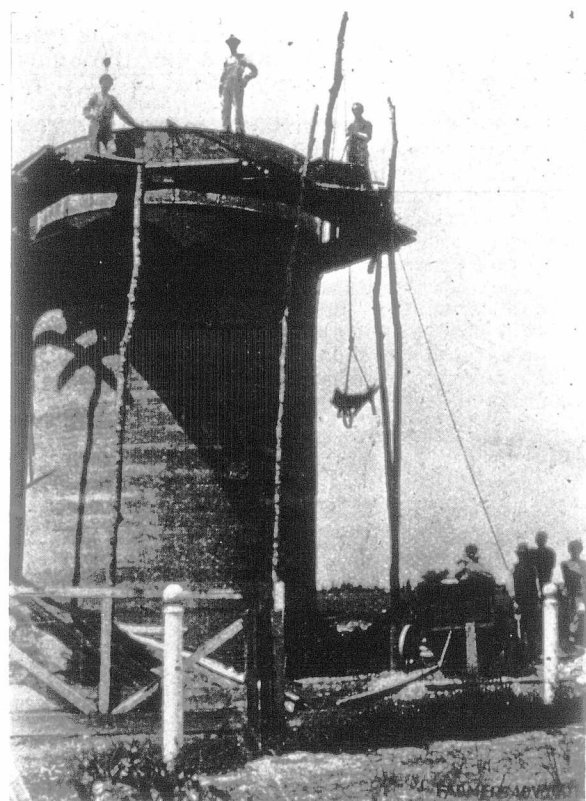
The improved variety of sugar beet, unlike the mangel, grows and develops below the surface of the ground, and cultivation should be such as to keep the beet covered by the soil to the very crown, the exposed parts being almost if not quite devoid of sugar. The improved sugar beet has no straggling rootlets, but a single straight taproot which runs down deeply into the ground,

finding moisture if any be present, and being thus prepared to resist the effect of drought to a large degree. The secret of success in the culture of this crop is the frequent stirring of the soil when the plants are young, to kill all weeds while they are small, and to thin the plants properly, at the proper time. This time, fortunately, comes between seeding and haying, when other farm work is not pressing, and the same may be said of the season for harvesting the roots, which is in the first half of October, as a rule. We believe it is beyond doubt that the experimental plots being cultivated this season will prove that large areas of the Province of Ontario are admirably adapted to the production of the sugar beet to a high degree of perfection. The preparation for next year's crop should be commenced in the present month by plowing and cultivating the land to secure the germination of as many weed seeds as possible, and by applying clover where it is needed and can be had. Manure sod on land in good heart, plowed at this season, well worked on the surface during the fall months and ridged up before winter, to be levelled by cultivation in spring, will make an ideal preparation.

### A Commission on Agricultural Education.

In accordance with the intimation made last spring by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. R. P. Roblin, a commission has been appointed by the Manitoba Government to report on the advisability of a provincial agricultural college. The following is a report of the committee of the executive council, which was approved on Aug. 1st:

The honorable the president of the council submits to council a report setting forth:



CIRCULAR CEMENT-CONCRETE SILO, BUILT FOR MR. GEORGE LETHWAITE, HURON CO., ONT.

Whereas the Province of Manitoba possesses a large area of arable land, an intelligent cultivation of which it is desirable to foster and encourage;

And whereas it has been urged upon the attention of the Government that great benefits would accrue to those at present engaged and hereafter to engage in agricultural pursuits by establishing and conducting within the Province a college or institution wherein scientific and practical knowledge, applicable to agriculture, would be afforded

And whereas the question of establishing and maintaining such an institution, together with its radiating benefits, is one involving and connected with the good government of the Province, and the conduct of part of the public business thereof, and it is desirable, prior to action being taken in the premises, that the fullest possible inquiry be made with regard thereto, as herein-after provided.

On the recommendation of the honorable the Minister, the committee advise:

1.—That pursuant to provisions of chapter 22 of the Revised Statutes of Manitoba, a commission be issued, addressed to the following named persons, that is to say: Reverend Principal Patrick, J. A. M. Aikins, K. C., the Hon. Thos. Greenway, Harvie C. Simpson, of Virden; George H. Halse, of Brandon; John S. Miller, of Manitou; and Harry Irwin, of Neepawa, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon:

(a) The wisdom and advisability of establishing and maintaining an agricultural college in the Province of Manitoba.

(b) The best method of conducting or operating such an institution.

(c) The probable cost thereof.

(d) Such matters or things connected with or growing out of the subject of inquiry as will afford to the said commissioners the fullest possible information and material to enable them to report fully and comprehensively upon all and singular the premises.

2.—That power and authority be conferred upon the said commissioners to summons before them any party or witnesses, and to require them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, and to produce such documents and things as they may deem requisite for the full and complete inquiry and report upon the subject matter aforesaid.

3.—That the said commissioners shall at their first meeting appoint one of their number to be and to act as chairman of the commission during the sittings thereof.

4.—That the said commissioners report to the said Minister upon the subject of inquiry (transmitting at the same time all the evidence taken and information derived) with all reasonable and convenient dispatch.

5.—That the commissioners, subject to the approval of said Minister, be empowered to employ such clerical or other assistance as may be necessary.

6.—That the said commissioners for their services be each paid a sum equal to the amount respectively expended for travelling, living, and other incidental and necessary expenses.

### Brandon in Line for an Agricultural College.

A meeting of the Brandon Farmers' Institute was recently held for the purpose of discussing the advisability of establishing a provincial agricultural college, and to consider the best location for such an institution. The principal speakers were Dr. McInnis, M. P. P., Prof. Wolverton, Mr. G. R. Coldwell, and Mr. Finlay, principal of the city schools. Each of the speakers strongly urged the need of higher education for the farmers' sons and daughters. Dr. McInnis thought that a building suitable to the requirements of the Province would cost about \$100,000, and that \$40,000 would be required for annual maintenance. The desirability of having such a college located at Brandon was strongly urged by the speakers, and before the meeting adjourned, the following resolution was passed: On motion of Alderman Coldwell, seconded by Prof. Wolverton,—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is altogether desirable to establish an agricultural college in Manitoba, and that it should be located in the vicinity of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, that place offering the greatest advantage for that purpose; that a petition be prepared by the Farmers' Institute, and signed on its behalf by as many farmers as can be got, embodying the above resolution, and forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba and of the Dominion; that the Brandon Board of Trade and City Council be asked to co-operate with the Farmers' Institute."

### A Model Silo.

We present on this page an engraving made from a photograph of the circular cement concrete silo built this summer on the farm of Mr. George Lethwaite, of Huron County, Ontario. The silo is 30 feet high and 14 feet in diameter. It required 30 barrels of Beaver Portland cement. The cement was mixed in a Hodgert mixer, one part cement to 12 parts sand and gravel. Steel rings were used, 14 feet in diameter by 2½ feet high. The cement was placed in the first ring, and then a second one was placed on top and filled while the first was setting. As soon as the second ring was filled, the first one was unbolted and hoisted by four men with ropes. Doors were put in every 2½ feet; size of doors, 2½ feet wide by 3 feet high. The holes for the doors were made by inserting a wooden frame, until the cement set, and on the inner side of the silo the frame was made about two inches the largest so that when the doors are put in they will be flush with the surface. The roof is to be of galvanized iron. The cement cost at Goderich \$3 per barrel.

### Prizes for Photographs.

In our Home Department of this issue, several handsome prizes are offered for the best amateur photographs of country scenes. We direct the attention of all interested in photography to this interesting competition, the conditions of which should be carefully read. We trust that many will compete.

### So They All Say.

DEAR SIRS,—I have taken your paper for nearly nine months, and never had a paper that I was so delighted with. Am sending you a few names to send the paper to.

WALTER E. HOOKER.

Bury Co., Que.