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EDITORIAL.

The Farmer's Son's Position.

The following query is one of a number of similar purport recently addressed to the "Farmer's Advocate": "Would you advise a farmer's son staying at home after he is of age, against his own wishes, but to favor his father, while receiving no payment or promise of remuneration for his services?" There are, doubtless, many young men so situated, who are more or less dissatisfied with their position, in view of the uncertainty as to what they may expect to receive from their father, or when, in the future, it may be expected to come to them. Where this condition continues until the young man has reached the age of twenty-five or over, as is not infrequently the case, the young man has our sympathy, and may well be excused for becoming restive regarding his position. But the boy who has barely attained his majority should consider that his parents have done a good deal for him in giving him a home, food and clothing for all the years of his past life, and, let us presume, also, the advantages of securing a fair education, and although he may, by his work on the farm, have partially repaid these obligations, he should consider that it would savor of ingratitude to leave home against his father's will and wish as soon as he has reached the age limit of a minor. Common fairness would suggest the exercise of patience and consideration of the interests of the father for a reasonable period, and this is a case where there should be more mutual frankness in discussing the prospects of the son before he has reason for dissatisfaction with his position.

If the boy's inclinations are to make farming his life-work, he should have some definite assurance as to what assistance he may expect from his father, and when he may expect to receive such assistance. If circumstances are such that no assurance can be given that he will in reasonable time receive help to start business on his own account, the father may well give him some interest in his business, or allow him a fair remuneration for his work, in order that he may, if so inclined, lay aside the nucleus for a business of his own, or make such investment as his judgment may suggest. The father should consider that were the son to leave home, a hired man would probably have to be engaged to take his place, and that good wages would be required to be paid for what might prove to be inferior and unsatisfactory help, in which case it would have been better to have given the same allowance to the son who had been trained in the ways of the father. If, on the other hand, the son has a strong inclination to try some other occupation, the father, after giving him wise counsel that fails to convince him, may be doing the boy a lifelong injustice by exercising his authority in checking his ambition and compelling him to take up a life-work that is distasteful to him. Some boys have a natural liking and qualifications for a trade, for a profession, mercantile life, engineering, or some other branch of science, in which they would probably be successful; while if persuaded against their will to take up farming they may succeed but partially for want of the enthusiasm that comes with a love for one's chosen calling. One of the surest ways to discourage a boy and create in his mind a distaste for farming is to make a drudge of him, treating him as a hired man, minus his wages, and giving him no personal financial interest in the business. For the happiest results to both there should be mutual confidence and consulta-

tion, and nothing will be more likely to bind the boy to the farm with the silken cords of satisfaction than giving him something in the line of live stock to call his own, to feed and care for, and dispose of as his judgment may dictate. The best way to create and keep in the mind of the boy a love for the farm is to so treat him as to win his confidence and insure his contentment. And we believe that if such course is pursued, the boys, as a rule, will be found not unreasonable in their demands.

Some Interesting Statistics.

The dairymen's annual conventions always afford an opportunity of comparing the output of cheese and bacon during the season immediately preceding with those of previous years. For several years up to 1904, there has been a continued increase in the value of the above named products exported. In 1902, their combined value amounted to \$37,500,000; in 1903, \$47,500,000; but for 1904 the figures have receded to \$41,000,000. The greater part of this decline was due to the smaller make of cheese and the lesser price for cheese and bacon this year, as compared with last. In round figures, the decrease in cheese amounted to 300,000 boxes, or \$7,000,000. Butter, on the other hand, partially redeemed the situation by an increase in the value of exported product of nearly \$200,000 over the previous year, amounting all together to \$7,500,000. When we come to localize these values we find that Ontario is responsible for the decrease of revenue from exported cheese and bacon, and that Quebec butter has to be largely credited with the increase in the export of that product.

The bacon business was quite disappointing during 1904. Nothing seemed to be able to raise the price for Canadian goods, and, in spite of the fact that it costs about six cents a pound to raise hogs in Denmark, the Danes continue to supply the greater portion of the 3,250,000 cwts. of pork and bacon required in Britain.

These figures and a general view of the whole situation forces the conclusion that the best method for the farmers of Ontario and Quebec to pursue is to increase the production of dairy products, including bacon, but, at the same time, endeavor to decrease the cost of such production. The decrease in the amount of milk supplied by each individual during the past year did not appear very great at the time, but so sudden a decline in revenue from dairy products as we have just witnessed cannot fail to make itself felt in the lessened purchasing power of the people, and, consequently, tighter money. The experiment of "in-and-out" farming has too often been tried, and has been found too expensive for the average farmer. The system that returns the largest profit, and, consequently, the one that all should follow, is to stick to a particular line, like dairying, through its ups and downs, modifying operations according to conditions, but never entirely abandoning it for something untested. The work before us for 1905 is to raise the value of the cheese, bacon and butter exports, to not only make up for this year's decrease, but to place the high-water mark where it should have been at the end of 1904, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$55,000,000. A singular condition has existed the past year which promises to react next season, namely, that cows have failed to produce the quantity of milk naturally expected of them, and that next summer they may be expected to return to their normal production. With this the case, and in spite of the low prices prevailing for cheese and bacon, we should bend our efforts to attain a new high record for the production of these staple commodities in Canada.

Notes on the Ontario Agricultural College.

The Ontario Agricultural College is in full swing for 1905, with over six hundred students in attendance. This includes the Macdonald Institute classes and about two hundred in the short courses for live stock and seed judging, forty-seven in dairying, and about twenty-five in poultry. It is a sign of the times that the attendance at the short courses is about double what it was last year, and when in the judging pavilion the other day we noticed that about three hundred persons were on the amphitheatre seats, including some of the regular college-course students, intently following the points of horses in the ring. While here and there we noted a man advanced in years, the class was practically made up of young men—strong evidence of the awakening thirst for special knowledge on the part of the rising generation of farmers and stockmen. In the regular college courses there are one hundred and sixteen old students and one hundred and seven new, or two hundred and twenty-three in all. There is a slight falling off in the number of old students, due, in part, to the regulation which now requires matriculation standard for those who go on to the B. S. A. degree. The general educational standards of Canada, the U. S., and other English-speaking countries, are rising. For the work of agricultural education and research, and other departments, outside of farming proper, an increasing number of men are called for yearly, and a great institution like the O. A. C. would be remiss in its duty if it did not make the most thorough preparation for supplying that need, and doing it with the most thoroughly qualified men, who will do themselves, their country and the College credit in whatever position they may be called upon to fill. But right at this point something more should be said. We recently began a discussion in the "Farmer's Advocate" on the education of the farmer's son for the farm, which is attracting widespread interest, as, indeed, it should, for there is no more important subject to-day up for the consideration of farmers. In our issue for January 5th, Mr. Richard Gibson stated that the chief function of the Ontario Agricultural College was to turn out professors for American institutions, and that the College was beyond the ordinary farmer; and, in the same issue, Mr. H. W. Parry declared that the agricultural college of to-day turns out more specialists than it does bona-fide farmers. We asked President Creelman what he had to say to these statements, and he replied that, so far as the O. A. C. was concerned, they were not correct. In the first place, out of over two hundred students going through the College, only about twenty graduated with the B. S. A. degree yearly, and these were the only men eligible for the positions referred to, but through the press and otherwise they are in the public eye. But what does become of the students? A careful inquiry covering the past twenty-five years, in regard to all the students who had come to the college from Ontario and every other country in the world, showed that fifty-four per cent of all that were traceable, were actually in the Province of Ontario to-day, and of that number seventy-one per cent. were actually on farms and farming. A great many more were farming in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, in the Maritime Provinces, and elsewhere in Canada. The two-year or "associate" diploma course is especially designed and conducted with a view to the needs of the practical, everyday farmer, and this is the course which the bulk of the students take, and if a parent concludes that for the better preparation of his son for life