

What are We Farming For?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Ye hae' bin' doin' yir best for the farmers o' Canada these mony years I hae' no doot, an' ye will be havin' their thanks for all ye hae' bin' tellin' them aboot their coos an' horses an' pigs an' sheep, an' hoo to mak' the moist oot o' them. Ye hae' a vera gude department for the lassies forbye, tellin' them hoo to mak' bannocks an' sich like things, an' ye hae' got tae sic a place in the esteem o' the people o' Canada that a gude mony o' them would be almaist willin' to swear by "The Farmer's Advocate." Indeed, I mind seein' an auld farmer at Kirk one Sunday with a copy o' yer paper in his han', but whether he was takin' it tae a neebor, or had got it mixed up in his min' wi' his Bible I dinna ken.

But, Mr. Editor, there is ane or twa things ye hae' not as yet touched upon in yer editorials. Ye may be think it's no juist the thing for an editor o' an agricultural paper tae be meddlin' in what is supposed tae be the wark o' meenisters an' sic like people, wha mak' it their business to hand oot the moral law, but ye must hae' a care that ye dinna let yer modesty wrang ye, an' at the same time deprive mony o' yer readers o' the privilege o' yer experience in this warl' as far as ye've got, an' the gude advice ye could be givin' them regardin' the rale purpose in life an' the rale object in makin' a success o' farmin'. Gin ye give me yer permission, and ye dinna think it's takin' too much on mysel', I will be takin' up yer pen for a meenute or twa tae write a few words tae ma brither farmers, wha will maybe tak' it a richt frae ane o' themselves, wha has as muckle need o' gude advice as ony, but wha wad like tae gie' a bit o' his experience to those readers o' oor paper wha dinna luke elsewhere for advice.

Noo, in the first place, ma farmer frien's, may I ask ye why ye are farmin'? Ye will, na doot, say to mak' a livin'; an' gin I ask ye, what forbye, if ye tell the truth ye will say, to mak' money. Noo, I believe in wark, an' plenty o' it. The mon wha will na' wark has na richt tae either heaven or airth, an' I believe also in a mon havin' an aim in life, an' if that aim is to mak' the bawbees, weel an' gude, sae lang as he can see beyant that, an' kens he will be makin' the richt kin' o' use o' them. The way ye spend them will show pretty weel what kin' o' a mon ye are, an' we can be tellin' that same if ye dinna spend them at all. It has bin said that a fool an' his siller are sune parted, but a mean man an' his siller are never parted, an' there's muckle truth in it. Money is no' meant to be kept all one's days in the bank or in an auld stockin'. If ye have a craze for collectin', ye had better start in on these picture post cards, or something like yon, an' no' on money, which will dae nobody ony gude sae lang as it is rustin' in yer auld box. I ken a lot o' fouks wha are warkin' frae daylight till dark, an' what they hae na' time to dae on week days, they pit off for the Sabbath, an' their only reason for wearin' themselves an' ithers oot this w'y is to mak' the pile in the bank a wee bit bigger. They ken naething o' the pleasure tae be found in God's warld, for they dinna tak' the time to study Natur', or onything else, an' as for readin', all they dae o' that will na' pit them to wearin' glasses at forty. They are juist as puir as money can mak' them. John D. Rockefeller says there is naeboddy sae puir as he who has naething but money, an' naeboddy has mair richt tae ken this than auld John D.

Noo, if it is no' for the pilin' up o' siller we are pit intae this warl', what is it for? Weel, I luke at it juist this way. It seems tae me that this is one great schule for ilka ane o' us, auld an' young, an' we learn oor lessons; aye, an' get oor skelpins tae, frae that auld teacher, experience. She will gie us an edication that will be teachin' us the difference betwixt richt an' wrang, an' that is ane o' the maist important lessons we can be gettin' in life. When we ken that weel, we will na' be a' the time tryin' tae get the best o' oor neebor, or be doin' the crooked things we are sae apt tae dae when oor lesson is na' weel learnt. But as we get aulder an' wiser we will be seein' hoo short-sighted we were, an' by the time we will be graduatin' frae this tae the High Schule wi' charactar for oor diploma, we will be judgin' things accordin' tae their real value, an' I'm dootin' we'll no pit them in the same order as we're daein' the noo.

Let us mak' sure we hae the richt idea o' life an' then we will no' be heapin' up siller to be spent by oor bairns after we are gone, but we will be tryin' tae mak' the best use o' it as we go along, by givin' those bairns an education an' trainin' o' the mind that will mak' them usefu' an' respectit citizens o' this great an' prosperous country. Then will we be fulfillin' the true object o' oor existence, an' life will be tae us an tae oor children a grand success.

Weel, Mr. Editor, I manna' tak' ony mair o' yer space, an' hopin', for yer ain sake, that I have na' said onything with which ye will na' agree.

SANDY FRASER.

Mr. F. W. Young, Perryboro, Que., writes: "Please find enclosed \$1.50 for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" for this year. It's the farmer's best friend, and we would not be without it for \$5.00 a year. We have taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for three years, and since that time we have gone into two kinds of pure-bred cattle, Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorns, which are a great deal better than grades. We wish you every success."

Farmers' Clubs and Consolidated Schools

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The article of Lachlan Mackay, in the March 15th issue of your paper, entitled "The Farmers' Banquet," reminded me of a suggestion which I intended to make through your valuable paper. The suggestion is an outcome of the Farmers' Institute work in this section. Shortly after New Year's, the President and Secretary of our Institute took a trip through the neighborhood and organized Farmers' Clubs in the leading centers. Our club meets every two weeks in our schoolhouse, and spend the evening hearing papers read or lectures delivered by one or two of the members, and in a general discussion afterwards.

The objects of the club are: The discussion in public meeting of all matters of interest to farmers; the development of public speaking in the members, and fostering the spirit of mutual aid and co-operation.

The farmers of this neighborhood have taken hold with a will, and the interest in the meetings is, increasing. We try to have the subjects of the papers as timely as possible; for instance, at our next meeting we will discuss the selection of seed grain.

Now, if all the ex-students of the O. A. C. would use their influence to have clubs started, and would then offer their services and knowledge, the good influence of the College would be greatly extended. The boys and young men should be initiated in the art of public speaking as soon as possible, and if given some regular part in the programme their interest would be maintained, and their love of farm life greatly augmented.

I am a firm believer in consolidated schools, not that the present schools are not doing good work, but that better work would be done. They would tend to raise the wages of teachers, and thus improve the class of teachers. Many a poor child also, who, on account of distance from school or an aversion to travel a lonely road alone, seldom goes to school under present conditions, would have an equal chance with the others, and would thus be saved from illiteracy. The number of illiterates is still large in many sections. The general adoption of this system is still apparently in the distant future. We are as a people too conservative for such radical changes as consolidated schools and commutation of statute labor. By the way, the commutation of statute labor was about the first question to be discussed by the Farmers' Clubs here. The result is that we are going to give it a trial. Hoping to hear from some others on the question of Farmers' Clubs.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

JOHN EVENS.

Put the Small End Down.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

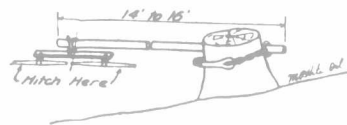
Some time ago I noticed an enquiry in your paper as to which end of a cedar would last the longest in the ground. A few years ago I found it necessary to replace an old board fence, that had been built about forty years before, with something more substantial, and in tearing away the old fence, I was surprised to find about half the number of posts rotted off completely at the ground, and the rest of them were just about half rotted off. Upon examining them, I found the ones placed with the big end in the ground were the ones that were completely useless, and those placed with the small end in the ground would have done good service for a number of years if the rest of the fence had been equal in strength. It is needless to say that since then I always put the small end of the post in the ground, and I expect to have good fences for many years longer than if I put the butt-end down.

Renfrew Co., Ont.

YOUNG FARMER.

Stump Puller.

The accompanying cut, says Thomas Patton, in the Practical Farmer, shows a No. 1 stump puller that costs really nothing, except a stout hook, with six or eight links attached, the last one being a ring 6 to 7 inches in diameter, to admit pole or arm, which should be 14 to 16 feet long. With this arrangement and a common pair of horses, you are able to twist out many stumps.



This work should be done when the ground is soft. If stumps are very large, and with many roots, dig earth away from a couple of them and chop off. This will cause them to let go much sooner. Anyone who has worked around the obstructions, knows how troublesome they are, often causing breaks of one kind or other, and sometimes very costly ones, generally occurring in the busy season, when time is precious. With this simple device the stumps can be readily removed.

We Need the Best.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Professor Sherman, the Chief of the Department of Entomology at the Ontario Agricultural College, has been tempted back to his native State by the hope of a higher salary than he could hope to secure in Ontario. This might be due to several reasons: That an entomologist is easily spared in Ontario; that Ontario is not so wealthy as the State overbidding her; or that all agricultural scientists are underpaid.

The first supposition cannot on any grounds be confirmed. Canada, with such a diversity of crops subject to insect depredation, contains only two active public entomological stations, and of these, only one includes within its duties the education of our agricultural youth in the ways of and remedies for insect pests. These two men are combating with an enemy to agriculture which, according to Professor Slingerland, of Cornell University, "costs the State more to feed than would maintain the entire educational system," and which is second only to politics as an expensive parasite on society. Instances which would prove the extent of insect ravages are within every farmer's ken. Who is there of "The Farmer's Advocate" readers—the most advanced class—who has not lost more every year by the depredations of potato beetle, Hessian fly, clover midge, San Jose Scale, codling moth and pea weevil, or any of their hundreds of allies, affecting garden, field or orchard crops, more than would pay his entire tax bill? And who does not owe to the remedial measures learned from neighbors, Institute speakers, the press or bulletins that he saved any of his crop?—such is the fecundity and rapacity of the various insects. Yet all this information originally emanated from the economic entomologists, and was by them distributed wherever it might help a farmer.

Grant him credit for this; and in a day when we are publicly juggling with hundreds of thousands of dollars, when individual merit selfishly applied reaps such rich rewards, the Province of Ontario cannot afford to hesitate over \$500 on the salary of the Entomologist. Five hundred dollars can be saved from one man's crop in a year.

North Carolina, the State to which Professor Sherman returns, is of the same size as Older Ontario, and of the same population, but far inferior in resources and in the value of agricultural products. Although not so far advanced entomologically, they are so much farther advanced economically that, with less at stake, they deem it wise to safeguard their interests by employing, at \$2,200 per annum, an entomologist whose worth richer Ontario refuses to recognize, with a foolishness of the "pound foolish" brand.

There are only two States in the Union—New York and Pennsylvania—wealthier than Ontario, yet the majority of them maintain entomologists at higher salaries, with more assistants than any of our politicians ever granted to any except political friends.

There only remains the undeniable statement that agricultural experts are underpaid. They are even underpaid by comparison with other scientists of this Province. Would the farmers admit that they have in their charge an industry inferior in importance to mining? They would be the last to do so. Nevertheless, in a Province with two technical mining schools and one agricultural college, higher salaries are paid the mining instructors than those of agriculture. Nor have the former any claim to the greater reward. Their preparation has been no more arduous, nor their hours longer. In the School of Practical Science the maximum salary is \$2,500 to \$3,000; in the Ontario Agricultural College it is \$2,000, and the former is as much too low as it exceeds the latter.

There is a general recognition of the small salaries of school teachers. Let this extend to the salaries of professors, and let them all be raised to a point where the man of science will no longer be compelled to depend upon love for his work for sustenance as well as encouragement.

H. R. McMILLAN.

Sowing Clover on Fall Wheat.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in your issue of March 15th a letter about early sowing of clover seed, by Mr. Lawson. I may say that I have used his plan for the last fifteen or twenty years, and once or twice have been too early. Six years ago I sowed it in the last week of March. About three weeks after I was crossing the field, and the seed was as nicely set as I ever saw. Then came a couple of hard frosts a few nights after, and nearly killed all the clover, but the timothy sown at same time was all right. I prefer to sow timothy in spring to fall, as it does not get big enough to hurt the clover, as it will sometimes on rich ground, if sown in the fall. I must say that I greatly prize "The Farmer's Advocate," as it is open to all questions. Wishing you every success.

Madison Co., Ont.

THOS. DICKINS.