

L  
VOS  
LIFE TIME.

Y

IN A

IN A

ANO

to build

tures in the

akes.

atalogue No.

O., LTD.

ITARIO.

Life

ance Co.

ated 1889

ts nearly

00,000,00

's liberal up-to-

contracts. The

tection, for

at or to provide

liquidate mort-

eral Profits

esirable features.

o devote either

Apply to any

TO, ONT.

TUNES

They are

hard work.

at. Protect

Insurance.

ation in its

par or a

more En-

ne some of

materialize.

L LIFE

CO.

ONTARIO

estments

it at 3% when

our guaranteed

guaranteed by

y of first mort-

ich are specifi-

usts

ario

LONDON

resident.

nger.

ENT

ERS

u find out all

the

anning

IANO

Value "

lars.

PIANO CO.

essary) Ont.

# The Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED 1875

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT

VOL. XLVIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 25, 1913.

No. 1096

## EDITORIAL

An unexpectedly early harvest is being garnered in the Canadian West.

"Philanthropy," observes "Judge," "is the most effective form of advertising." Just so,—and it is also a neat way of drawing red herrings across the trail after large favors have been secured by capitalists at the public expense.

Some little things are big. More farmers have spoken to us about Peter McArthur's article on round-headed bolts than about any other since he commenced his popular correspondence for our paper. At one time or another, we have all had just such an experience. The article voiced a grievance which we hope may be remedied.

The Okanagan United Growers, Ltd., are said to have contracted for the export of 30,000 boxes of apples to Australia on the basis of \$1.40 per box f. o. b. Okanagan points. "The Farmer's Advocate" of Winnipeg raises the question why this fruit should be sold for export while inhabitants of the Prairie Provinces are eating about one apple for every ten they should eat—and would if the fruit were cheaper. Fruit rotted in Okanagan last year while poorer American apples retailed on Prairie trains at ten cents apiece.

Several carloads of plums, shipped from Forest, Ont., to Manitoba, are reported almost a total loss through delays in transit, and lack of re-icing the refrigerator chambers. They were due to reach Winnipeg in five or six days, but did not arrive until nine and eleven days respectively. There is little encouragement, with such results, to produce choice fruit for the consumer, and now would seem a timely opportunity for those who betimes are so exercised for the development of east-and-west interprovincial trade to bestir themselves so that the people who have largely built the railroads will enjoy a decent share in their operation.

The Ohio Farmer makes caustic comment upon the "grub" served by concessionaires at the state fair. "All of the lunch counters are about equally bad, and the dining halls are worse than the lunch counters. \* \* \* Some of the boys were sick from the stuff they had to eat. \* \* \* Those who secure concessions to sell food, should furnish some guarantee as to the quality of their offerings." Similar criticisms would apply on many Canadian fair grounds, though, of late years, there seems to be some improvement. There are places where, if one goes early on days that are not extra busy, he can secure a tolerable meal for half a dollar. Seldom for less.

Says the New York Independent, discussing the appalling record of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, which has killed seventy persons and injured four hundred by wrecks on its system in the last twenty-seven months: "We would like to see a law enacted making it a criminal offense, punishable by a heavy penalty, for an engineer to run past a danger signal, no matter what happened as a result. But we would make the culprit, not the engineer, but the railroad. A few fines of five thousand dollars each, paid out of the treasury of the railroad, might do much to make its engineers obey danger signals."

## Educating the Farmer.

A good deal of deliberation is occasioned these days by the important necessity of "educating the farmer." City dwellers and townfolk have been taking a charitable interest in the problem. Their solicitude is beautiful, and with the aid of their keen business insight no doubt a satisfactory solution will be found. But it is so difficult to help "the farmers." Some of them are unkind enough to make insinuating enquiries about the motives behind all this "educational" propaganda. They are even ungenerous enough to ask whether it is altogether disinterested, and a few forward ones go further and declare it is wholly selfish. Talk about ingratitude! It would serve "the farmers" right to let them go on in their slipshod ways, and perish in their tracks. Still, that can't be done, either, for citizens must have bread, and the cost of living is going up and up. The only hope of keeping it down is to persuade the tiller of the soil to produce more. So the citizen realizes that he has far too much at stake to countenance a policy of laissez-faire. Willy or nilly, the farmer must be "educated." Everybody knows our land is capable of producing twice as much as it now does, and with bigger crops there would be lower prices—a bigger loaf for a nickel, and a larger chop for a quarter. Yes, the farmer needs "educating"; there is no doubt about it. We must spend more on the Department of Agriculture. A few more commissions might help. Beefsteak is dear—let us boom beef raising. Cheese exports are declining—whooop up the dairy business! The export bacon industry has gone to the dogs—send another commission or two over to Denmark to find out what is the matter. We need more sheep to consume weeds and furnish mutton and wool—issue a pamphlet and get more articles about sheep into the agricultural press! Start the poultry writers scratching out reams of copy about profits of chicken raising and egg production. Renew all efforts. Bend every energy to the Great End. Let us see whether we can't cut the cost of living in two! But what effect will it have on the price of farm produce? Hush, don't mention that. Perhaps "the farmers" won't notice.

## Some Misdirected Effort.

In all seriousness we submit that it is about time for our agricultural spokesmen to penetrate the maze of superficialities which enshroud the rural problem, and get down to brass tacks. The effect of a successful concerted attempt to encourage agricultural production in Canada under present conditions, would be to reduce prices for most classes of farm products and to curtail profits. It is much of a kindness to the farmer to accomplish that?

But, do we not wish to see the farmer more highly educated, and have him produce larger crops? Most assuredly we do, so long as it is going to benefit him individually. We like to see each man who is engaged at farming doing as well as it is possible for him to do, living as well as it is possible for him to live, and enjoying as much education as it is possible for him to acquire. But the motive behind all the propaganda work referred to in the preceding article is a selfish one, and conceived not in the farmer's interest, but in the interest of city people. Our Departments of Agriculture are very largely maintained and bonused, not really to help the farmer but to help the consumer, the manufac-

turer, the banker and the transportation interests. It is all very courteously done in the name of the farmer—and, as usual, the farmer foots the bill.

Perhaps the best feature of all this effort to inflate agricultural production is its futility. Bulge a rubber bottle in one place, and it gives in another. Boost agricultural production in one direction, and it is liable to contract somewhere else, unless conditions favorable to expansion have been brought about by other means. The laws of economics will have play.

We do not for a moment pretend that every farmer is making out of his farm all it is capable of producing. More enterprise, more intelligence, more business ability would improve the showing in many cases. But human nature being what it is, we believe it is safe to assume that Canadian farmers are doing the best they can. Economic obstacles handicap them. The high cost of inefficient labor is one, the high cost of living, machinery, supplies, live stock and land are all factors which complicate the problem of making the farm pay. Let reformers grapple with these things first, and then come to the non-plussed husbandman with their beneficent schemes for doubling the production of his land. Lighten the economic burden on the farmer's back, and he may then be able to straighten it, look around and devise some means of increasing production himself.

## Who Will Get Busy?

"The Immigration Department has succeeded in attracting people from the British rural districts. The next thing is to induce them to take up and till land in our rural districts. There probably never was another young country with great areas of fertile agricultural land, that had so large a part of its population assembled in towns and cities as Canada now has. The balance between city and country must be redressed if any progress is to be made in the work of lowering the cost of living."—Toronto Mail and Empire.

To state problems like the foregoing, is as easy as rolling off a log in the water; to solve them is another proposition. Any facile pen can reel off directions to the government to turn the tide of population to the farms, and decide with a sweep of ink that the balance between city and country "must" be restored, but the outcome of generations of misdirected public schooling and decades of systematic public policy in regard to industrialism, transportation and banking are not to be reversed in a day to appease the clamor for lower cost of living, and thus actually strengthen the disposition to live in town. What is needed, rather, is a still higher cost of living in order to bring people to their senses. Our Toronto contemporary has laid out for legislators, educationists and publicists, the greatest, most emergent program of public endeavor that has ever been tackled in this country. Are those who desire to have it solved willing to get down on their marrow bones and perform their share of the job, which means more than handing out a few additional millions for the promotion of agriculture?

Destruction of crops by hail for two years in succession in one part of Southern Alberta has given a strong impetus to the idea of mixed farming.