

not in the long run outclass the results of the official investigators. Dr. Saunders was not "paid" to find out what it required to produce a wheat like "Marquis." You can't "pay" men like Saunders, and Burbank, and Edison.

Nothing is more certain than that there are young Burbanks growing up in considerable numbers on the western prairies, only needing encouragement and direction to lead them to results no less momentous than have crowned the efforts of the men we have named.

When these wonderful men were mere boys, like the average young hopeful you find in any boys' or girls' club, who would have ventured to predict that they would find a way or make one to what they have accomplished? And who will dare to say of any particular boy that he cannot do still greater things than these great leaders of to-day have done?

It is, withal, a most fascinating study, this interbreeding, cross-fertilization of plants. There are few things so completely within the reach of any member of a farm home that will afford greater delight, that will "pay" better, that will make a man such a first-rate companion to himself as a little corner of his holding close to the home buildings dedicated to investigations and experiments.

How many farm chemists have we actually "carrying on" after they have heard the elementary lectures and dabbled in the experiments at the college? What might it not profit some man or a great many men if one obscure but patient observer found out just how the flax-straw that is grown in Western Canada can be dealt with so as to make it a commercial success in our textile industry?

Has Nature set limitations upon man so that he cannot hope to do anything better with those thousands upon thousands of straw piles than burn them, or at the most use them for bedding his cattle? The thought is preposterous, but the idea will

remain where it is until some strong soul comes along and actually delivers the thing that has been simmering in many minds for generations.

It is hardly necessary to put up a similar plea for the livestock end of the Canadian farm because it seems to be doing remarkably well. As all educationalists know, far more is being spent in thought, in energy and in money upon the improvement of certain livestock units than upon the education of the young people.

Then there is an important difference in the boy's eye between a promising young calf or a colt and a head of wheat. Between the boy and his colt or calf a bond of real human interest starts in right away and grows stronger as time goes on.

groups of friends and visitors to the home with a few ordinary microscopic slides placed under an instrument of average power, and with the solitary exception of a principal of one of the city schools, not a single individual of those hundreds of educated citizens had ever seen "anything like it." "Well now, what d'ye know about that!" "I'd no idea there was anything so wonderful in such a common thing!" are a sample of the expressions of amazement that punctuated the little show.

Now this will all have to be changed in so far as the coming men and women are concerned. There's money enough and to spare in millions to do it if the heart is there to do it wisely. Money is but dirt in the wrong

all departments that with the public support, such as it has been, the educational work which has been done through the ordinary public schools as well as the colleges has been wonderful.

The onus of the blame is on the back of the dollar-devoted citizen who is more concerned in heaping up an already top-heavy bank account than in helping to raise the minds of his young people a bit higher above the store-counter, and the livestock ring than his own has been pitched at since he could remember.

The observation has often rung out from the public platform that the greater part of the farming interest by their attitude towards the development of the young folks are of the opinion that a well-bred livestock unit is

of far greater account than a boy or a girl raised on the farm. That is a raw statement, but it is in perfect accord with fact in the case of very many fathers of sons and daughters who have been born upon and are expected to remain on the farm.

And what a wretched, short-sighted policy it is—even if the father must look at it from the selfish point of view of his own material interest. Does he reflect that in a few fleeting years at most he will be quite unable to rampage about his cattle barns and grain fields at the killing

pace he has set for himself? Does he ever stop to think what sort of a companion he will be to his children when the day of enforced idleness and imprisonment in the sick ward comes?

And just how far may he reasonably expect "the family" to interest themselves in him at that high-and-dry period of his one-sided existence as they look back on the years of drudgery they have passed through at his hands?

This is a "thought" that is worth thinking over.

People talk of "sacred history," meaning what happened in Palestine many centuries ago; they have yet to learn that the history of modern Canada is every bit as sacred.



Making a careful selection of heads from a first-rate crop of "Marquis"

The lad needs little or no inducement to keep his eyes peeled for faults or fine points in the living intelligent thing, but the study of a few grains of wheat, oats or barley is a far more prosaic job.

And yet just here is a great, inexhaustible mine of mental and material wealth that so far has barely been tapped. How many boys and girls, for instance, have had the privilege of examining the structure of a wheat or an oat kernel through an ordinary high-powered microscope? How many teachers in the public schools of Western Canada have any idea of the anatomy of the wheat plant, as seen under the microscope?

For many years the writer at odd times has entertained

place unless used with wisdom and foresight as to its results.

Some two years ago a friend who is fond of figures got hold of the list of Manitoba automobile licenses, made an analysis of same and of the public accounts dealing with the Department of Education, and found that (making fair allowance all round), the province had spent in that year something like twenty-nine times the amount on automobiles it had set aside for public education, the former for the greater part used for pleasure only.

This is a poor showing for Manitoba, and its much advertised educational facilities. This state of things has not been created by the educationalists, but in spite of them. Let us say for