

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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down. And, by the way, if a reciprocity treaty is negotiated with the United States, wool should be one of the items on which our Government should stand for reduced tariff. That would be one of the greatest boons our sheep industry could experience. One thing certain, if the increased Canadian import duties asked for are to be accompanied by increased tariff protection on the finished product, the request never should pass. The whistle would cost too much.

Passing the British Budget.

The long-fought budget of 1909, with its land-increment duty and national land valuation, at last became law in practically the same form as when it left the Commons last year. The only change of moment is a clause making clearer the exemption of agricultural land from increment duty, so long as it has no higher value than its value for agricultural purposes only, when sold in the open market. This amendment was made to satisfy members from agricultural constituencies.

The agricultural development act of last year, which depended on the budget for its funds, comes into operation, and eight commissioners have been appointed, one to retire each year. Under the Small Holdings Act, some farmers were displaced, without any compensation, and this was a grievance. This injustice is to be remedied by an amendment, under which farmers whose land is requisitioned for small holdings, will receive compensation for the disturbance of their tenancy.

The South Lincolnshire Small Holdings Association has been remarkably successful up to the present. Several thousand acres of crown lands have been divided, and about 1,000 acres owned by Lord Carrington. The rents, amounting to £8,000, have all been paid, not a penny being in arrears. The subdivision has proved a decided benefit to the district around Spalding.

F. DEWHIRST.

This is the day of illustrated documents. Even the report of the Ontario Veterinary College comes to us brightened with appropriate cuts. Pretty soon the consolidated statutes will be illustrated with photogravures of eminent jurists and counsel, accompanied by reproductions of select exhibits from the rogues' gallery. When that time comes the law will be interesting to others than culprits, victims and lawyers.

Sandy Fraser Picks a Crow with Lockie Wilson.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I see oor auld frien' Lockie Wilson has been makin' some comparisons between the place o' his birth an' the lan' o' his adoption. 'As we wad naturally suppose, he finds he did weel to mak' the change. Western Ontario is mair progressive, he says. The farmers up there can juist walk away frae us fellows doon East, when it comes tae horse shows an' horticultural societies, an' a' that sort o' thing.

Noo, it will na doot be a muckle surprise tae Mr. Lockie Wilson, but I'm gaen' tae agree wi' him on ane point, an' that is that I believe he's no' far oot in his figures as tae hoo mony o' this an' that an' the ither organization there is "west o' Toronto," an' hoo few o' the same there is "east o' Toronto." "Weel," ye'll say, "gin ye admit that, ye'll hae tae admit what he says aboot lack o' progressiveness in the Eastern half o' the Province." But I dinna' ken as I will. There's aye the twa sides tae the story, ye ken. Of coorse, we mauna' forget that there's mair nor a few o' oor toons an' toonships doon here that were settled by Heeland Scotchmen frae the ither side, an' we a' ken that the Lord never intended the Heelander to live on a farm. Ye canna' plant potaties tae the music o' the pipes vera weel, an' that's aboot the only thing that will pit life intae a mon frae the Heelands. I hae seen too mony o' them sittin' on the fence watchin' their auld wumman hoein' in the corn field, to be sayin' muckle aboot their abeility as farmers. A couple o' hundred years or so back, their ancestors used tae mak' a habit o' raidin' the farmers in the Lowlands an' takin' hame a few sheep an' pigs, an' sic like things that they couldna' be bothered raisin' for themselves. This, of coorse, was vera convenient, but ye can see at the same time that it isna' any great wonder that their great-grandchildren dinna' tak' kindly tae the farm, an' canna' be induced tae join mair nor ane or twa horticultural societies an' sic like progressive things. Ye'll have noticed I have na' said a word against the Heelander. He's a canny, cautious chap, but it's maybe that that's the anther reason for his holdin' back in the traces. It rins awa' with the siller when ye start oot tae be progressive, an' droppin' the bawbees is what no Scotchman can sian', be he frae the North or the South. An' richt here I wad ask Mr. Wilson for a few mair statistics. Will he tell us what proportion o' the farms in Western Ontario are mortgaged, an' the same for Eastern Ontario. It wad be unco' sad tae fin' oot that some o' oor Western farmers were like the wee laddie leadin' the pig, progressin' backwards.

There's anther reason that could be brought forward, gin it were necessary, that it's maybe a link in the chain that ties us tae the habits o' oor ancestors. Oor frien' the French-Canadian is a mon who believes in livin' "the simple life." His wants are few, an' horticultural societies isna' ane o' them. Gin he has a nice patch o' buck-wheat, an' an acre or twa o' peas, he wouldna' ca' the king his uncle. Weel, we hae this remnant o' a great nation among us in considerable numbers, an', as I said, maybe it's a link in the chain.

But noo, gin ye want tae ken the real reason o' why there's mair daein' West than East, I'll tell ye. The Lord gie'd ye a better chance, Mr. Lockie Wilson starts at Toronto an' draws a line straight north tae the Ottawa River. "On the west side o' this line," he says, "the people are progressive; on the east side, they're not." Noo, I ask ye, Mr. Editor, to tak' ye're map o' Ontario, gin ye hae one, an' look at what like a country it is on each side o' this line o' Mr. Wilson's. On the west side it is apparently guid farmin' land, wi' toons an' cities scattered a' aboot, that would na' be there gin they hadna' a great territory tae draw on.

Noo we'll look on the east side o' oor line, an' what dae we see? Is it anything mair than a succession o' lakes an' young mountains till ye get awa' doon tae the last five or six counties that mak' the point o' the wedge between the Ottawa an' the St. Lawrence? Ye say, Mr. Editor, that there are places in the East where progress is vera much in evidence, an' sections in the West where it isna' tae be seen, but ye are evidently o' the opinion that the West has the best o' it, after a'. But I want tae ask ye, in the name o' common sense, how can we hae as mony spring horse shows, an' field-crop competitions, an' horticultural societies as the West, when we hae na' got the population or the land, except lakes an' mountains, as I showed ye a while back.

Why doesn't Mr. Wilson go tae the "habitant" on his wee bit farm up among the Laurentian Mountains, an' ask him why he's no' as progressive as his brother farmer in the Eastern Townships? Hoover, the above isna' exactly a parallel case, for we're no' all markin' time between Glenora an' Toronto, an' the day may be comin' when we'll get the better o' the natural disadvantages we hae tae face, an' the West will wake up tae find us marchin' alongside o' them, maybe a step or twa ahead.

I see, Mr. Editor, that amang a' the reasons ye gie for the West leavin' us awa' behind in the dust, ye dinna' mention "The Farmer's Advocate." Ye shouldna' let yer modesty wrang ye that way, for ye na doot did the maist o' yer wark in the former days "west o' Toronto," an' we canna' deny that they seem to hae been takin' yer teachin' tae heart. At the same time, things are changin', an' noo, little as some o' yer Western readers may believe it, an occasional stray copy o' "The Farmer's Advocate" is seen "east o' Toronto."

Yours for progress,

SANDY FRASER.

Strike Root Into the Soil.

The Scottish Farmer sees in the brisk emigration of bone, muscle and brains to Canada—for it is not the wastrels that are coming—this explanation:

"Here he toils for half a century, paying his annual rent of, say, £100, and at the end he is no nearer owning the land than he was when he began. There, he toils hard on his 160-acre quarter-section. The work is possibly harder, and the trials more arduous than would have confronted him at home, but the land is his own all the time, and at the end of fifty years he is a capitalist in a country where wealth is ever increasing through the only sure method of becoming rich—the increment of land values."

In this connection, let us remind farmers in Eastern Canada that the West is not the only place where land values are increasing. They are going up in many parts of Eastern Canada, even outside the fruit and truck-farming regions. Land values in this country are cheap, compared to what they will be in another decade or two. In less than twenty years the price of average farm land in Eastern Canada will probably have doubled. The last great area of good land is being taken up in our own West. Then, as the land monopoly narrows, watch prices soar.

Young man, now is the time to strike root into the soil!

A further extension of short-course work is the special aim in connection with the Farmers' Institutes in Ontario during the coming winter, as announced by Superintendent Putnam. The classes in judging live stock and seeds, the fruit institutes, and special poultry and dairy meetings held during the past two years, have been much appreciated, and the institutes, whose annual meetings are announced mostly for June, are asked to co-operate in still further extending these features. The Department of Agriculture at Toronto would also welcome applications for such meetings or short courses, even from farmers who are not identified with Institutes.

HORSES.

Would Exclude Unsound Horses from Registration.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Shire Horse Society of England rejected a proposal made at a recent meeting, that, after a certain date, no animal would be eligible for registration in the studbooks of the breed, "unless its sire is certified free from hereditary disease by a veterinary surgeon duly appointed by the society." The Shire breeders of England might have done worse than to have taken the suggestion under consideration. The step would have been along the line of modern thought in regard to draft-horse breeding, and could in no way have been regarded as indicating that the Shire is more subject to hereditary disease or unsoundness than any other breed. It is time this question of hereditary unsoundness in sires of the draft breeds was more seriously regarded by breed societies and associations. These organizations exist primarily for the advancement of the interests of the various breeds, and in no way can the interests of any particular breed be advanced better than can by keeping in mind the main question, the question of ultimate result, the promotion of soundness in breeding horses. Nothing can be of greater importance to the owners of mares than the knowledge that the stallion they are using is attested sound by an official veterinarian of the association in whose studbook he is registered. Examining stallions for unsoundness, and in some way denoting those that did not come up to requirements, might work some little hardship on horse owners, but it would offer security to the public, and best public confidence in the horse, the society and the breed.

"EQUITANT."