



Vol. XLVII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 5, 1912.

No. 1041

## EDITORIAL.

It takes a good deal of rain to drown out the pastures.

The probability of dear oats for another season is now looming up as a result of the St. Swithin's forty days' downpour.

Whether the extra grass and milk flow will make up for the deterioration or loss of the oat crop is a conundrum.

The outstanding advantages of a variety of crops and products extending over the year, including those of live stock, the dairy, poultry, canning crops and fruit were never more clearly apparent than this season in Old Ontario.

The proposal to admit ditching machines free of duty is cordially approved on all sides. Without affecting any established industry, it would give an immense impetus to tile drainage, which means to agriculture and ultimately to the whole country. Taxing this improvement (drainage) is more foolish than taxing buildings.

It has been wet enough here, but evidently far worse in England. Six inches of rain in one day, following three weeks with rain every day, and all this after a whole summer of excessive precipitation, is the almost incredible newspaper report. No wonder the fields are described as swamps!

"One thing the milking machine will do is to improve the social side of farm life," remarked a user of that modern dairy convenience to the editors of the Farmer's Advocate. "One man regularly milks our herd of thirty cows, and if the rest wish to get away for the evening they can. It will also," he argued, "put dairying on a better business basis in time, placing it in the control of wide-awake business men, who will figure cost of production and organize to secure prices in keeping, particularly in the case of milk or cream produced for retail trade." Whether or not he is right on the latter count he is certainly correct as to the former. Everybody sincerely hopes the milking machine will prove out a thorough practical success.

Nineteen twelve is continuing the record of 1911 for seasonal extremes. A bitterly long cold winter was followed by a wet spring and backward seeding on most fields. With the interruption of a few weeks drouth in June and early July, protracted to ten weeks in one locality, the cold wet weather has continued to near the end of August. It has been the wettest harvest in a long while. Fall wheat and barley were tardily housed in most districts, but oats stood musty and in many instances growing in the shock. Some that were stored in a tough condition were worse off than those left in the shock. Corn suffered from poor seed, wet cold weather and latterly in some fields from white grubs cutting off the roots, but for the most part has preserved a most remarkable color, and made wonderful growth of late, considering conditions of soil and climate.

### Putting Land Out of Reach.

Several numbers back, in the course of an article of editorial correspondence describing agricultural conditions in the vicinity of Aylmer, we penned a sentence which arrested our attention as we wrote it. We wonder whether it impressed anyone else the same way. Speaking of the local canning factory and milk condensary from the producer's point of view, we quoted a well satisfied patron of both as estimating that they had raised the price of land in the vicinity by 25 per cent.

That looks on the face of things as though the condensary and canning factory must be a fine thing for farmers in that locality. Undoubtedly it has been to their advantage, but is the advantage so great as it seems? Who reaps the ultimate advantage? Not the producer to any large extent, but the land owner. Where these two functions are combined in the one individual well and good, but where the producer is a renter or is working with capital borrowed to purchase a farm at the enhanced valuation, the case is different. He has just so much extra rent or interest to pay, and these charges absorb the greater part if not all the increased earning power of the land. The tenant or borrower receives larger gross proceeds, handles more money, but derives little if any more net return. The advantage of increased land values accrues to his landlord if he is a renter. If the producer is a proprietor working with borrowed capital, it is consumed in larger interest payments necessitated by the extra twenty-five dollars or thereabouts required to purchase an acre of ground.

It is so all the world over. Increase in land values, brought about through increased earning opportunities, benefits the man who happens to be holding the land when it goes up, but not—at least not to any great extent—the producer who comes subsequently on the scene to buy or rent it. The same thing occurs with all other natural resources. The landlord profits from all increment in value, whether brought about by his own effort, the effort of his neighbors or other efforts outside their immediate sphere. As colonization proceeds to the remotest corners of the world, settling all available land and laying title to all mineral, timber and other forms of natural wealth, the increment in values will augment at an ever and ever more rapid rate. All the increase in consumption, all the efforts of producers, will merely increase the value of real estate and enrich real estate owners in spite of themselves. To the landless young man of to-day, increment in value of real estate merely puts further off the day when he may hope to acquire capital to purchase a large enough parcel of land to operate successfully. In other words, it becomes harder for him to buy a farm. This is still true even though he mortgages heavily, for a certain proportion of the price always has to be paid down in cash.

Is this right? Is it best? Is it necessary? The single taxer and the still more radical person who opposes private ownership in land altogether will answer at once "No." We are not professed single taxers. We urge no propaganda, ride no hobby and have no axe to grind. But we reflect sometimes upon these things and would encourage others to do the same. There are big questions involved—questions with many sides, but they will have to be settled some day, and the nearer we approach to the condition of a cor-

ner in land the more acute will that necessity become. Meantime the duty of the hour of those under the necessity of making up interest on higher-priced land is to utilize fully the advantages which their situation confers upon them; otherwise the privileges will be handicaps, increasing the load of overhead charges.

But the broader economic problem is the burden of this article, and to it we invite the attention of thinking readers.

### The Militarism of William Booth.

Press and pulpit with singular unanimity, concede to the late General Booth the possession of remarkable gifts of prophetic discernment for individual and world needs, and statesmanship in action. Not content with turning a search light upon Darkest England, he set in motion plans to deliver the dwellers of that vast under world whose individual regeneration he believed would be facilitated by opportunities to work under wholesome conditions. Opinions may differ as to how his method of human regeneration harmonized with the teachings of his Great Leader, who preached "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you," but granting the correctness of General Booth's philosophy, it is to be said that he had a wonderfully common-sense faith in the soil, and in rural life, which found expression in his schemes of social uplift. All may not have been accomplished in his farm colony projects that he sought, but this may be said of all human effort. By gravitating multitudes of people to farm life, his endeavors led to undoubted good in the way of material betterment. No one seemed to recognize better than he the needs of human nature and how to meet them. In that great trio of modern religious leaders, on the score of organized achievements, he is not inappropriately classed with Luther and Wesley. His methods with adaptations have spread among other organizations, particularly in relation to humanizing efforts among the congested city multitudes. It is well worthy of note and emulation as among the secrets of his success, that creed building and theological hair splitting had little or no charms for the mind of General Booth, and instead of spending precious time and energies in conflicts with other bodies, he went straight ahead with a vast program of constructive work, in fields of moral and social degradation largely untouched by others. His war cry was not a call to waste, and cruelty and desolation. Transformed lives and brightened homes were the sublime conquests that attended the militarism of William Booth. Of militarism, such as this the world stands most in need, and on such fields are to be found the most courageous and deserving heroes.

### Australian Notes.

Each year the Government state farms hold a great display at the Sydney Royal of British and cross-bred sheep. It is the occasion when there is made available to the public the work of experts in trying to prove which are the best crosses for carcass production. With merino ewes are used as crosses, Lincoln, Leicester, Border Leicester, Southdown, Shropshire, Hampshire, and Dorset Horn. The resultant wethers at 17 months old weighed from 92 lbs. to 115 lbs. live weight. The Dorset Horn was the heaviest, with the Lincoln only two pounds behind. With regard to the wethers at five months, the Lincoln-merino cross weighed 81 lbs. and the merino-Leicester 71.