

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

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.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s. in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
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11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

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similar demand is being put forth by the fruit-growers. These two extreme cases typify the mistaken attitude of all Canadians who fear reciprocity with the United States in agricultural products. Such reciprocity would be a good thing for both countries, if prices averaged the same on each side; but it is an especially good thing for Canada, seeing that for many lines it opens to us a larger and more rapidly-growing market than we already have.

Against one-sided free trade there is something to be said, though probably not so much as is commonly supposed; but, as to complete reciprocal free trade in agricultural products between Canada and the United States, the Canadian argument is overwhelmingly in favor of the affirmative.

It is a great mistake to look at any tariff question from a short range. The newspapers have been publishing views and interviews from prominent business men, raising alarms, and trying to estimate just how reciprocity will affect such and such an industry. The fact is, the wisest of them do not definitely know. They might as well, and about as profitably, ask what particular molecules of water will flow in and occupy the space where a log has been lifted out of a stream. An expert in hydrostatics might possibly venture an opinion on such a point, but the layman cannot tell, and doesn't need to waste any time chasing this particular eddy or that. One thing is certain: let a nation in its tariff policy follow the principles that are fundamentally sound, which are, with few exceptions, the principles of least artificial obstruction, and the currents of trade will take the most advantageous channels as surely as water seeks its level. Hasten the day of world-wide reciprocity.

High Moral Tone.

I must say I appreciate very much your stand on the current economic topics of the day, especially as they affect the welfare of farmers, but, most of all, the high moral tone of every page of the paper. The perusal of the paper is a benefit to every member of the family, old and young, and is a great factor, making for the best interests of this young nation.

Bruce Co., Ont.

THOS. P. McDONALD.

"The Farmer's Advocate" Farm.

The press of the country appears to be greatly interested in the new farm proposition undertaken by "The Farmer's Advocate." It strikes some of our contemporaries as somewhat novel that a farm paper should go farming. But why not? The principles and practice for which the paper stands have "made good" in one form or another on thousands of farms—some on one farm, and some on another—and this is only still further coupling sound theory and practice.

Comments upon the venture from subscribers and contemporaries have been favorable, and some of them quite complimentary. The Christian Guardian, of Toronto, is pleased to announce the fact in its leading editorial, remarking that "The Farmer's Advocate," certainly one of the best agricultural journals published in the world to-day, has recently carried on an experiment in orchard culture and reclamation, the great value of which lay in the fact that the work was undertaken and carried through under conditions and limitations such as the ordinary farmer would meet, and no rose-colored report was made, but just plain, accurate and matter-of-fact statements that were nevertheless most encouraging.

The Weekly Sun, Toronto, observing that the farm is to be under the superintendency of the managing editor of "The Farmer's Advocate," is kind enough to refer to that individual as "A good manager, and not afraid of work, either physical or mental," adding that, "If success is to be achieved in the double capacity of teaching and practice, he will achieve it." The Toronto Star also assumes responsibility for a similar opinion. Let us hope the editors of The Star and The Sun are shedding the light of true prophecy. The Toronto World considers the venture to be one of genuine value to the agriculturists of the Province, and even those beyond its limits.

"Authorities agree that there must be more scientific farming in Canada if its splendid soil resources are to be properly utilized. The experiment will be watched with interest, and, it is to be hoped, will demonstrate the advantage to be derived from skillful husbandry."

The St. Thomas Times "congratulates its agricultural contemporary on this practical venture, and hasn't the least doubt that success will attend the efforts."

The Fenelon Falls Gazette, however, complains that

"The information on hand does not state whether paying off the mortgage usually found decorating such places will be included in the operations. The experiment would be of infinitely more value if all the difficulties and conditions often found could be duplicated and overcome—a mortgage to pay off, the expenses of illness, accidents and unforeseen losses to meet. Nobody doubts that a farm like the one mentioned can be taken hold of, built up and made productive with capital and proper methods; but the problem is to do it under the ordinary or adverse circumstances that handicap the efforts of the average farmer."

Happily, we can assure the Gazette that paying off a five-thousand-dollar mortgage will be part of the manager's duty. Moreover, he expects to make the place pay interest, not only upon the mortgage, but upon every dollar invested. Unfortunately, he has no serious infirmity or sickness in his family at present with which to meet the Gazette's demand, but expects to encounter a fair share of all such obstacles, besides a number that would not be met with by a farmer able to devote his whole time to the details of the farm. For example, read this voluntary experience from a city man who has tried farming and failed:

"I am very much interested in the announcement of 'The Farmer's Advocate' farm. You are, if I understand aright, entering the ranks of the 'gentleman farmer.' You will spend your days in the city, and your nights on the farm. The day's work will be fairly fatiguing. At first your enthusiasm will overcome all sense of time. But after a while, if you are an ordinary mortal, nature will assert itself, and sometimes you will be glad to rest when you get home. You will have 'a competent working foreman.' Will he remain such? Left so much to himself, will not an insidious process of deterioration take place? Will he not begin to 'lie back on you,' to accomplish just a little less? Will he not tend

to save himself, and find that more help is needed? Will not small expenses that the hard-working farmer running his own farm would keep down, tend to increase? Will you, with your city work to attend to, see and check all this at once, and continue to get as good service out of your foreman and his men as the working farmer would get out of his men, and will you be able to prevent leakages? A farm that is going to pay for all hired help, and return a profit to the proprietor, has its work cut out for it, and only the vigilant eye of the master, or a foreman who is not only competent, but thoroughly conscientious and hard-working, can accomplish it. I am, sir, a gentleman farmer who has not succeeded in making it pay, and does not know any who has."

While we decline to accept the impeachment of 'gentleman farmer,' we do recognize that our anonymous correspondent has explained some of the drawbacks of absentee management. We have no desire to minify these, but hope to succeed in spite of them, by careful supervision, by strict accounting, by enlisting the loyal co-operation of well-paid employees, and by adopting better methods than those generally in vogue. For instance, we propose to adopt a three-year-rotation; to work four horses together on every implement where practicable; to grow a liberal acreage of corn and alfalfa, instead of so much grass and oats, and in other respects to improve opportunities now all too generally neglected. The two purposes of the farm are: (1) To show a profit by good methods; (2) to make every day's labor produce a maximum result. If we can succeed in the face of the obstacles set forth in the letter quoted, the experiment will be fraught with immense value and hopefulness to Canadian agriculture.

Britain's Record Year.

(Our English correspondence.)

British external trade for 1910 topped even the high record of 1907. The month of December, added to the previous good months, made a new record for foreign trade. The imports of foreign and colonial produce for the year were of the value of £678,440,173, and the exports of British and Irish produce were £430,589,811. This is the third time in history that our external trade has exceeded one thousand millions sterling in a single year. In the import figures, as might be expected from our large industrial population, grain and flour reach the largest single value, £77,298,365. This is a decrease of nearly six millions on 1909. Lower values were indicated by the quantities imported. Wheat imports were 105,228,638 cwt., against 97,854,425 cwt. in 1909. The decline in flour imports, which has been such a noticeable feature of recent years, continued, being 9,960,491 cwt., against 11,052,640 cwt. the year before. These figures show the steady advance of home milling.

Meat and animals for food were worth £48,879,065, an increase of about a million and a quarter. Fresh beef for the year weighed 7,051,495 cwt., about a million more than 1909. Mutton imports were 5,406,026 cwt., a substantial increase, but bacon imports showed a considerable decrease at 3,863,369 cwt., and hams, at 719,126 cwt., were also much lower in quantity. These figures go far to explain why bacon and ham have recently been high in price.

Raw cotton forms a big item, at a value of £71,716,808, while the demand for wool is shown by importations worth £37,362,789.

How dependent Britain is on overseas supplies of butter is evident from the butter imports, £24,493,000 worth. In last year's figures, imports of food, drink and tobacco accounted for £257,788,416.

The export figures of the year were very satisfactory, almost every head showing an increase. Cotton goods form by far the biggest single item, and were of the value of £105,915,626, an increase of over twelve millions on 1909. Iron and steel, woollen goods, machinery and chemicals all show big totals for the year.

It is interesting to note the growth of British foreign trade in the last decade, because during most of that period the manner of conducting that trade has been fiercely attacked by one of the great political parties. Not counting re-exports, the total trade at the beginning and end of the decade were as follows: In 1900, imports were £523,000,000; exports, £291,000,000; 1910, imports were £678,000,000; exports, £431,000,000. The man who can see no cause for satisfaction in such a fine growth of trade must be a confirmed pessimist. Of course, no one contends that the value of external trade is the sole barometer of prosperity, but a decreasing foreign trade and a decaying country generally go together.

As to the internal trade of the country, the railway traffic is a good indication of prosperity.