

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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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 and 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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progress of drainage should be longer retarded by the imposition of a duty exorbitant in itself, but in the aggregate yielding no great revenue to a flourishing country like Canada, will not commend itself to the good judgment of the country, when all the foregoing considerations are taken into account. Leading men in Canadian affairs, from the Maritime Provinces westward, who have looked into the subject, fully concede the imperative need for action and the wisdom of the step which this article urges.

What Shall Our Boys Do for a Living?

Parents or guardians have been watching with more or less animation the published lists of successful students at the midsummer educational examinations, and presently will be planning future courses or "careers" for those in whom the hopes of the family are centered. The title of this article was chosen as the subject of a book written a few years ago by Charles F. Wingate, about the time that large families were going out of fashion. Nowadays the youth settles the matter for himself at about thirteen years of age, tackling the first job that strikes his fancy. A reputable tradesman tells us that lads once entered his premises with some deference, desirous of learning the trade, and were eager to qualify themselves for usefulness. But now, when the "Boy Wanted" card appears in the window, he stalks through the door, with the demand, "How much is there in it for me?" Times, as well as manners, have changed.

The choice of an occupation and the necessary preparation therefor are about equally important. Neither can be done aright without careful consideration and ample time to qualify. A boy of average attainments may make his way fairly well in any one of a dozen different pursuits, but if he shows special gifts in any particular direction, or, as it is called, an unmistakable "bent," then, devoted to such an occupation, his life will be most

satisfactory and successful. Care need be exercised that a mere passing whim or fad is not mistaken for a real endowment.

Law, medicine and other professions and mercantile pursuits are overcrowded, and only the few rise to eminence or places of emolument. In industrialism or railroading, one only out of multitudes emerges to power and influence. The masses must toil or battle for little better than livelihood. Factories and foundries, warehouses, stores and street railways swallow up the multitudes of mediocrity. The veterinary profession, so long at a low ebb, is improving because of improved college courses and the demands of the time for elaborate and rigid systems of live-stock oversight and meat inspection. Hosts of town boys have been going into electrical fields, which seem likely to be too well filled, with heavy competition in the lower grades of work. It is encouraging to observe that in many sections of Canada the teaching profession is taking on a higher status, with more encouraging remuneration. The public school will yet assume its proper place in rural communities, and more properly relate itself to country life and its great occupation.

Sons of the farm, with a real liking for natural science, coupled with some administrative capacity, are finding a widening field for opportunity to serve the country well in places of experiment, research, demonstration, and in the multiplying schools and colleges where agriculture is taught, and in the forestry service.

In single issues of each of a couple of Toronto newspapers, lately, the advertisements for teachers for country public schools, chiefly, numbered about 225, and, as a rule, the salaries offered appeared to range from \$500 to \$600. This is more in keeping than former conditions with the higher standards now required and the importance of the work which they are called upon to do. To attract young men permanently to the teaching professions, a better scale of stipends must prevail.

However, the one great occupation that is undermanned is farming itself, and it is no exaggeration to say that no other presents so many substantial inducements, such independence, such a certainty of a fair competence, with so much that is wholesome and attractive. As an industry, it has had to make its way against obstacles, and has not been "fostered" or fattened on the public domain, as is the case with too many of the enterprises that center in the cities. It is fortunate, indeed, that farming is not a millionaire-creating business, and happily there are signs of a reversion against money-worship in the public mind. It has been slow in coming, but not the less sure. Making money is no great achievement, after all, and the gold kings will be forgotten about as soon as they get back to their six feet of land. Farming in a beautiful land like Canada, with its varied specialties, horticulture, dairying and live-stock husbandry, is an occupation of which to be proud, and rural life is in many ways incomparably the best. But the time is gone when any old way will do on the farms. It is the place for the student and the thinker. For growing up, there is no place like the farm. This is why the sons of the farm so generally forge to the front in competition with the city-developed youth. For any pursuit, there is no preparation equal to a few years on a well-conducted farm, where stamina and resourcefulness are daily developed in a hundred ways. It is a profession to be learned. Those who would rise in this walk of life need take time to prepare. It is a poor place for the dullard. Farming is a combination of science and practice and business, demanding knowledge and skill, as well as ability to do manual work. Once and for all, let there be no mistaking the fact that, to farm well means capacity and training, and those who lack these pre-requisites will probably do well to drift into some occupation that makes less exacting demands upon intelligence and resolution of character.

Commenting upon the farm-labor problem, a Toronto daily recently put forth the opinion that there is a great future ahead for the scientist who will invent a harvest hand that is able to work twenty-four hours daily three months in the year and hibernate like the bear the remainder of the season. This has been the trouble too long. Men have been engaged for short summer seasons only, and no work given during the winter months. The farms on which labor is employed by the year do not suffer at any season from lack of help to such a degree as farms on which hired men are kept only during the haying or harvest, or the summer season. The best method to secure satisfactory labor in country districts, and one which has been advocated through these columns time and again, is to so manage the farm as to have profitable work for the hired help winter and summer, and to supply them with houses to live in. This means an increase in the live stock kept in the country, more fertile farms, greater satisfaction for all concerned, and better returns from the land.

The Diversification of Crops.

In dealing with crops suitable for irrigation farms, the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1911 gives the following on diversification of crops which is applicable on any soil where general farming is carried on.

Diversification of crops is essential to a permanent and prosperous agriculture, and this diversification should exist on the individual farm, as well as in the community as a whole. The importance of diversification is recognized and practiced in every community that has been long established, even where the products of other sections are easily obtainable. Where a community is isolated, diversification is still more important because of the high cost of transportation. The greatest economies in agricultural production are secured not where specialization is practiced, but where diversification of crops permits the most uniform and continuous employment of labor, and where the larger proportion of needed food supplies is produced at home. It is a deplorable feature of many new agricultural regions that a large proportion of the food supply is imported, when it could be produced much more cheaply.

A high degree of specialization in farming is economically more feasible when a community is well established, and where facilities for an exchange of products and a shifting of labor are highly perfected. In a new and isolated community, on the other hand, the best and most rational development is secured when a sufficient diversity of industries is practiced to supply the majority of the home requirements to keep labor continuously and effectively employed, and to insure a revenue from some of the crops when others fail.

Unfortunately, much of the exploitation of agricultural land in new regions is done on the basis of a single crop. Not infrequently, investment is solicited under an arrangement whereby the land is to be planted to some perennial crop, and cared for by the seller until the crop comes into production. Such schemes of exploitation have little to recommend them, even when carried out faithfully. The rigors of pioneering are not to be lessened that way. The profits in agriculture are seldom large, and are assured only as a result of close personal attention, careful economy and persistent effort. Non-resident ownership and operation permit none of these, and are seldom, if ever, profitable.

Under ordinary conditions, farming should not be looked upon primarily as a money-making occupation, but rather as a means of a fairly certain livelihood and an opportunity for home-making. As a general thing, investment opportunities in agriculture are to be found in the increase in land values, and are therefore of a speculative nature. Under favorable conditions, farming may be expected to afford all of the necessities and some of the luxuries of life, and it favors the development of healthy, sane and self-reliant citizens. These are the principal features and advantages of farm life with irrigation, as elsewhere, in new communities or in old ones. One whose chief desire is to accumulate wealth through the investment of money can usually find more profitable openings in some other line than farming.

HORSES.

Begin to put the finishing touches on the colt intended for the fall shows.

It is surprising how few foals are seen in a day's travel through the country. No wonder the demand for horses keeps up. There are thousands of mares not being bred which, if placed in service, would yield a large profit to their owners.

The Chamber of Commerce stakes at the Detroit race meeting went for the second time in the history of the event to a Canadian horse. Joe Patchen II., the big son of Joe Patchen, won it in 2.03½, 2.04½, 2.05½.

Teach the colt what is expected of him, and he will do it freely and willingly. Get him on his good behaviour before taking him before the judge. Manners count greatly in the show-ring, and must be taught thoroughly previous to the show.

In reading the reports of the Western exhibitions, the large numbers of Clydesdales out and the comparatively few Percheron and other draft entries listed, leads one to believe that the Scotch breed still stands in greatest favor throughout Canada.

Weight on horses' necks has always given more or less trouble in the working of farm implements and machinery. It is not uncommon to see horses with large sores on top of the neck, due in part to this cause. If you have never tried one