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EDITORIAL.

In feeding remember that a mixture of grains nearly always gives better results that one grain fed exclusively.

"It is necessary to define anew the liberal education. Studies are no longer considered liberal in proportion to their remoteness from practical learning, but, on the contrary, to their direct relationship to life."

A very significant reversal of attitude is denoted in that letter of the young man who told how he had been awakened by a short course. Three years ago he was well satisfied with himself, but dissatisfied with his circumstances. To-day, after having made gratifying progress, he is dissatisfied with himself, but well satisfied with his position on the farm.

An official census of Canadian manufacturers, taken in June 1911 for the calendar year 1910, denotes a remarkable industrial development during the decade. Compared with the census of 1901 that for the year 1910 registers an increase of 4,568 plants, of 176,030 in the number of employees, of $127,759,066 in salaries and wages and of $684,922,264 in the value of products. The infant is doing well.

That the advice given through these columns, some time ago, in connection with care in the feeding of musty grain, hay or straw, to horses was timely, is clearly proven by the fact that as the heading of an article by "Whip," elsewhere in this issue, indicates there has been almost an epidemic of bowel trouble in horses this winter. Good prices for hay have caused feeders to attempt to save it for sale, and to feed straw. There is little straw in the country this year which is fit to feed horses, consequently much trouble has been experienced. Readers will welcome "Whip's" splendid article dealing with causes and cures in this issue.

How much of wood-craft lore and prophecy disappears before the relentless advance of scientific investigation! A common ground for predicting a hard winter is the early and numerous appearance of Northern birds. Mr. Klugh in his most instructive series of nature-study notes explains the circumstance as due to exhaustion or covering by snow of customary food supplies in more northerly latitudes. As a matter of fact, he adds, some of our mildest winters have been those during which winter birds have been most abundant. Early appearance of other birds in spring is just as liable to be misleading in the opposite direction.

New facts about old subjects is the suggestive theme neatly illustrated by Peter McArthur this week. The scientist who surprised his friends by writing a long paper filled with newly discovered facts about such a familiar material as water did something scarcely more remarkable than the agricultural scientists who are continually discovering important principles about old phases of agricultural practice. How many of us, for instance, could tell exactly why we plow? As Mr. McArthur truly observes, "When a man claims to know all about any subject, he is simply showing that his observations and studies have been very superficial."

Co-operative Credit.

Co-operation is a working together for mutual benefit. There is a difference between co-operation and association. The world is filled with enterprises (agriculture among the number) which are too colossal to be operated by any individual. Association from the primitive ages gradually developed into coercion or enforced co-operation. Slavery was co-operation, but it was in the coercitive form. The moral and physical constraint of slavery was so great that in time it was overthrown. Restraint gradually became more limited, and the economy of the most civilized nations of the world on the surface seems to be free from it. Yet we have private enterprise and thousands of men under the leadership of employers. In many cases this is a good thing. One furnishes capital and all things necessary for operation; the other furnishes the labor. With this comes association of capital. Large-scale business demands large capital and even a moderate business, to be placed on the best working basis, must have considerable financial backing. Joint-stock companies, large corporations, great industrial associations, get money through the association of capital. Their credit is good in the eyes of the people controlling the money in the country. But what of the farmer? He is often obliged to do without things which would make for an increase in the returns from his soil, because he cannot get the money necessary to properly equip his farm. Any form of company which associates capital and not the people can not, economically considered, be the best possible method of organization. Yet this is what we have.

Canada is a comparatively new country, and up to the present agriculture has been its mainstay. Farmers have prospered in the past, and in most cases have given little thought to banks and credit, more than from time to time to make small deposits to their savings accounts. But things are changing. The entire economy of city and country is taking on a new phase. Successful agriculture is now scientific agriculture, and scientific agriculture demands a certain amount of funds for its operation. Equipment is absolutely necessary and costs dearly. Let a young man start out to farm to-day and let him buy his farm, his farm stock, his implements and machinery, and build suitable buildings to house himself and his stock and implements, and it requires a nice sum. Capital is required for land and for equipment. The farmer of to-day cannot build his house of logs and sow his grain by hand and reap it with a sickle. The man already owning land often needs money for improvements to his buildings and to buy feeding stock or to add to his soil-tillage equipment. Short-term and long-term loans are necessary, but where can he get them? He may be able to get a short-term loan at the bank, but a real long-term loan cannot be had. True, he can mortgage his property, but the man to take the mortgage must know the land, consequently the man seeking credit has a very limited field of operation and must pay whatever interest the local money-lenders ask. Even then the mortgage is generally a short-term one reaching over only a few years, and the borrower must pay it back at the expiration often just when his business is "getting on its feet" and when he most needs the money. Hon. Myron T. Herrick, writing in the Breeders' Gazette, dealing with this subject, says, "All that is needed is financial machinery adequate to make farm mortgages the basis of security, with the marketable qualities of a railroad or industrial bond, and to develop a demand for such a security on the part of that class of the investing public which is always seeking conservative investments." Where would some of our greatest industrial corporations be to-day were it not that their promoters were able to get cheap money for developing purposes?

The other form of loan (the short-term loan) should require no mortgage. Farmers should be able to borrow on their personal credit, as do merchants and manufacturers. Surely an honest and industrious farmer's personal credit should be and could be recognized by the banks, and surely many farmers operate upon a large enough scale to warrant banks in dealing with them. But the question of size of the business should not be a limiting factor. The farmer should be able to borrow readily on his personal credit in proportion as his business warrants.

Is there a remedy for existing conditions? There is, and it is operating right here in Canada, modelled after co-operative rural credit systems which have been operated for some years in different European countries; systems in the hands of farmers, operated by farmers for the benefit of farmers. Chas. A. Conant, in an article in the New York Times last September, said: "What the farmer needs is the application of more capital to the development of his existing plant and the extension of his arable land. . . . The movement is a sane and a healthy one to convert the value of land into a form as negotiable as the value of railways, mills and factories, by the issue of negotiable securities. . . . If the farmer can convert his assets into a form equally negotiable, he will unlock for his use the stores of accumulated capital of the world." This is what co-operative credit will do and is doing in sections of Europe and in the upwards of one-hundred societies in Quebec.

In 1906, under a Provincial law, the first society of this kind in Canada was started at Levis, Quebec, with Alphonse Desjardins as founder and president. This is really a co-operative bank, with 1,100 members, founded through the necessity of giving the farmers and workingmen credit on easy terms and keeping for themselves the profits accruing from loans. In the founder's own words, the bank was established as an institution that would receive the savings of the farming community and urban laboring man, and place the sums so accumulated at the disposal of the same classes of our people instead of sending huge sums or part of them to the chartered banks to increase the wealth of other classes. This bank gets its capital stock in 5-dollar shares, payable by very small instalments, the number being unlimited. Interest is allowed at three per cent., but to be a depositor it is necessary to be a shareholder. Loans are made only to shareholders. Liability is limited to shares subscribed. Moderate interest is charged on mortgages and notes. From seven to nine members constitute a board of administration. A credit board of three members and a supervisory board of three are all chosen by the general annual meeting. The members of the credit board deal exclusively with the loans, and they, as well as the supervisory board, cannot borrow directly or indirectly from the society nor indorse for anyone. The manager handles all monies giving a guarantee policy. This co-operative bank has been a success. The increase in business last year over