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The Farmer's Advocate

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EDITORIAL.

Teddy Rooseveltism.

The United States President would probably be voted the most conspicuous figure in the public eye on the American Continent to-day. Caricaturists delight in portraying him with cowboy hat, high-water boots, revolvers and a big club, equally ready to tackle a mountain lion, a railway trust or a foreign power. But this is not the real Theodore Roosevelt. He is to be found in such great achievements as the Peace of Portsmouth, in his public utterances, in his books and in his domestic life. He is an "outdoor man," it is true, and "The Farmer's Advocate" believes thoroughly in the virtues of the active, outdoor life. That's where the nation's best men are bred. But Roosevelt is not great because he can kill a few "grizzlies" before breakfast. He is great because of his intellectual and moral attributes, the tremendous energy of which, no doubt, finds tone and strength in his periodical outings. As student, soldier, politician, police commissioner, explorer, author, statesman, and head of the nation, he could not have achieved what he has without sterling characteristics and a broad mental equipment. He is a graduate of Harvard University, and possesses a thorough and wide knowledge of the history and literature of the world. A scholar and a well-read man, he is, likewise, the author of many volumes, such as "The Winning of the West," "The Strenuous Life," "American Ideals," "The Life of Oliver Cromwell," and other biographies. His habit of thought is well disclosed to us in such essays as "Manhood and Statehood," "Character and Success," "National Life and Character," "Christian Citizenship," "Colleges and Public Life," and so on, or his declaration in one of these: "Bodily vigor is good; vigor of intellect is even better; but far above both is character." This one observation alone gives the clue to what he means by the strenuous life—a life of achievement based on moral principles. Just where the historian may locate him, remains for the future to disclose, but from his record already may be learned some useful lessons by every student in the land, from the boy in the little red schoolhouse on the hill, to the adults who throng our colleges and other seats of learning. The sons of the farm do well to equip themselves with a sound and thorough education, not only in relation to agriculture, but in general mental equipment, in order to fit themselves for any responsibility which in the order of human events may devolve upon them.

Grit.

How many people stop within touch of the goal? Probably a large proportion of the world's failures are made by men who quit on the verge of success. Discovering their mistake, they blame their "luck." Luck is the illusion of the faint-hearted. Success comes to those with grit and resolution. All people meet discouragements. All come sooner or later to a point where they feel there is no use going on. That is the time the plucky man wins out. The brilliant one often goes down right here before the plodder. One of the most important factors of success is the ability to keep on doing one's best work in the face of discouraging circumstances. The time you feel like quitting is the time to keep on with grim determination. In the refrain of the poem:

"It's sticking to it will carry you through it,
Roll up your sleeves again."

More Thorough Veterinary Training.

A measure is expected to be introduced into the Ontario Legislature this winter, to provide for the taking over of the Ontario Veterinary College by the Provincial Government and affiliating it with the University of Toronto. The above institution, under Dr. Andrew Smith, has long held a high place among veterinary colleges on this continent, but some changes in the curriculum have become necessary to make it thoroughly efficient and up-to-date. Among the improvements demanded are extension of the course from two to three years, the teaching of more bacteriology, efficient training of students in milk and meat inspection, and more time for clinics (treatment of patients whose symptoms and progress are observed by the class). With this we should like to see ample time devoted to the pathology of farm animals other than the horse. In times past too many veterinarians have deserved the epithet "horse doctor." Horses should, perhaps, engage first attention in a school of this kind, but where general stock interests are so important as in Canada, every town should have a veterinarian fairly competent in the treatment of all classes of farm animals. Another subject that should not be neglected is English. Nothing, perhaps, more quickly discounts a professional man than inability to use good language in speaking and writing. The deficiency of some veterinary practitioners in this respect indicates that training in English is as necessary in a veterinary as in an agricultural college. The above improvements, together with a reasonable entrance standard, should place the Canadian veterinary profession in the front rank throughout the British Empire. The burden of the Act will be to take over the College as a Provincial institution and affiliate it with Toronto University, somewhat as the Ontario Agricultural College now is. The course will be extended to cover three years, and later on it may be made four. "The Farmer's Advocate" has long urged this step, and there is no question but that it will be heartily welcomed by veterinarians, farmers and stockmen.

Woodland Exemption in the Interest of Aid.

The recently published correspondence in "The Farmer's Advocate" regarding the proposal to pass a Provincial law in Ontario to empower municipalities to exempt from taxation all un-pastured woodlands, voices a gratifying consensus of opinion as to the justification and desirability of such a measure in Ontario, while a Prince Edward Island correspondent, in the person of Rev. Father Burke, an enthusiast in horticulture, forestry, and all that makes for the well-being of the country, has endorsed such a law for the Island Province, and even from Nova Scotia, Mr. John Donaldson has written to approve such a provident measure. In Ontario, Mr. John Dearnness, and others, have heartily commended, criticising the bill introduced last winter by Mr. J. P. Downey only in that it did not go far enough. The only writer who took exception to such exemption was Mr. E. D. Smith, M. P., and his contention was that forest ought to be as valuable as land under ordinary field crops, and that cheap lands, hillsides, rocky land and poor soil would undoubtedly pay better in forest than any other crop. In this we quite concur with Mr. Smith, but the trouble is that deforestation has gone too far in many localities for the general welfare, and is still proceeding rapidly, so that our Province is losing one of its great aesthetic and economic advantages over countries naturally less favored. To check the depletion and hasten

restoration, some immediate and impressive action is necessary. Nothing will have a better effect than a little financial encouragement. Some have advocated bonusing those who keep woodlands; and this would be quite legitimate, but it is always better to refrain from collecting a tax than to collect it and then hand it back. And, as Mr. Dearnness points out, the discussion and interest sure to be engendered by the passage of an exemption bill, will have the much-needed effect of opening the public eye to see whither we are drifting.

At the Forestry Convention in Ottawa last month, one of the resolutions called for easement of taxation on woodlands in districts where deforestation threatened the general interests of the community. This, unfortunately, applies to nearly every county in Old Ontario. We trust to see the scope of Mr. Downey's bill broadened, and to see it taken up and put through, not as a private bill, but as a Government measure.

Farm forestry is one of our pressing agricultural problems, and we make no apology for devoting frequent space to it. The paper by Mr. E. J. Zavitz, lecturer in forestry at the Ontario Agricultural College, read at the Forestry Convention at Ottawa, is being published in our columns, and should be read attentively by every one who desires to see our farms made more profitable and the whole country a better place in which to live. Hands up for exemption!

Wall Street Methods in Farming.

The following article, from "The Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, is directly applicable to Western, rather than Eastern conditions, but we print it for the salutary lesson it impresses as to the evils of speculation by farmers. The picture of the effect of the bucket-shop in the Western American town reveals the abyss into which many have tumbled who ventured confidently out on the slippery slopes of the down-grade:

Not infrequently the information is volunteered us by farmers that they sold and delivered their wheat at threshing time, and bought its equivalent on the option market for May or July delivery. This is the modern method of holding wheat over winter. It is not very largely practiced in Canada, but the practice is growing, and there is every possibility of it becoming much more common. If the amount of wheat bought on margins by a farmer were only just equal to the amount actually sold the element of speculation could scarcely be said to enter very largely into the transaction; but the introduction of the farmer to the methods of the bucket-shop always extends beyond the limits of trade in what might be called his actual property to the feverish engaging in speculation with a commodity whose daily quotations are the most erratic upon the option market.

It is not a sufficient excuse for indulgence in wheat speculation to say that wheat is more conveniently carried over winter on the option market than in the granary or elevator. Such a statement, takes no account of the daily fluctuations during months of erratic trading, by which the holder of wheat may be called upon time and time again to put up varying sized lumps of money in order that he may have wheat to sell the following summer when he expects it to have risen. That is where the rapaciousness of the option market is satiated. Wheat may be so high in June as to give a man a good dividend for holding grain over winter, but during the months intervening the market has been so manipulated that the legitimate accruing profits have long ago disappeared in margins. A writer who has observed the operations and effects of the