

expense. This question is not to be confused with the question of consolidation of school districts, but may be discussed absolutely on its own merits as applying to the districts as they now exist.

4th. Consolidation of districts—in its various aspects: Is it feasible? Will it pay? etc.

5th. Then there is a group of questions of perhaps less pressing importance, e.g., the difficulties connected with advertising for and securing teachers; the need of a right basis for scaling salaries, in graded schools, and the factors which should determine in such a matter; the best method of procuring school apparatus and supplies, etc.

If you would invite correspondence upon this subject I think you would get some interesting information.

[The suggestion is a good one, as there are a number of questions regarding which a discussion by the school trustees of the province in convention would be productive of much good. We shall be glad to have correspondence on this subject. Ed.]

Disappointed in a Railway.

It seems to be the lot of railroad builders to carry disappointment to a large number of people: here is an expression of the feelings of a large settlement in Saskatchewan.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

For two or three years we as farmers and land owners have petitioned the G. T. P. to run a branch of their line up the Qu'Appelle valley from a point near Hide, east of Ellisboro, to a point at Fort Qu'Appelle and from there on to Regina. But now after all the promises they have made us, we find they intend to run from Yorkton to Balcarres, and down a coulee known as Rocks Coulee, at or near the Mission, to Fort Qu'Appelle. Now what we wish the G. T. P. to know is that this route will not benefit our district, as it will be from sixteen to twenty miles from a settlement that would contribute thousands of bushels of wheat besides cattle and other farm products. If the G. T. P. take the present survey would run their line from where they cross the valley east up past the Labrett Mission, then travellers who wanted to go from Regina to Winnipeg could do so by the all lake shore route and not have to go so far around as via Yorkton. The G. T. P. would also get millions of bushels of wheat which now goes to Sinaluta, Wolseley and Summerberry.

We are at present tied up at Sinaluta for want of cars and it is a well known fact that the C. P. R. have not got cars enough to carry out the product of our country.

A number of land owners have said if the G. T. P. would put a branch up the Qu'Appelle valley they will give \$40 for every quarter section they own which would mean \$5,760 per township.

OLD TIMER.

[Railroad builders have first to consider the possibilities of revenue from the operation of a line, they then have to decide how they can best tap a district and push on through it. Doubtless the G. T. P. have spent considerable time in trying to locate their line where it will do the most good to the greatest number and consequently secure the maximum freight for the road. When they have come to their final decision there will be some disappointed people but these may rest assured that if their district justifies it they will in time have a line. What our correspondent says about the beauties of the Qu'Appelle valley and lakes is not a chimera, that part of the country being recognized as among the most beautiful and interesting districts in Canada.]

Why This Boy Keeps to the Farm.

Let me contribute some of my own experiences in an attempt to throw some light on this ever present problem.

I am one of those many individuals whose good fortune it is to have been born in Ireland, where in my early days my time was passed on my father's place, which was justly celebrated for many miles around for the beauty of its surroundings. A show place at any time, it was at its best during the months of May and June. How well I remember the masses of rhododendron, azalea, hawthorn, red and white, double and single, lilac, laburnums and many other shrubs which converted the whole place into one mass of gorgeous bloom. Also the acres of woods filled with primroses, bluebells, orchids and anemones, and the flower beds full of all varieties of bulbs, perennials, and annuals. Who brought up amongst such surroundings as these, could leave them without sincere regret, and the feeling that if it were possible to make a good living there, nothing could induce them to leave it permanently?

Unfortunately such needs arise, but when they do, who would not, having once lived in such surroundings, strive their best to emulate them once they had a home of their own?

And in making a new place, with your family around you, be sure they will enter heart and soul into the work if they are properly trained, and in so doing they will not only be kept aloof from evil associations, but will acquire such an affection for the place they have helped to build up, and feel such a pride in the results of their work, that it will be something more than common that will induce them to wrench themselves away from a place that is home to them in very truth instead of merely in name.

Believe me, one of the reasons why boys desire to leave the home where they could obtain a living is because it is often too much like a boarding house where they have to work out their board.

W. J. L. HAMILTON.

An Appeal to Farmers to Unite.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A crying shame it is that a country like this that is unsurpassed, in wealth, especially in coal, should be buying and burning, for cooking and heating purposes soft coal from Pennsylvania at \$10.50, and millions of tons lying in our own mines right at our doors. In the towns of Lumsden and Pense, our nearest stations, five days in the week you could not scrape up a grain sack of coal. About one car per week is the average amount coming to these

rattled, but if you had burned your last board of lumber off your granary, and had burned your cupboard and last chair to keep from freezing, you would write some pretty strong editorials on this subject.

WHEAT HEAD.

Re Society of Equity.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Kindly allow me a few lines on the above subject, which, in my opinion, does not receive fair treatment at your hands. At different times I have noticed that subscribers take exception to your views regarding this Society of Equity, and always it has seemed to me that your answers to them were of the most evading character. In your number of Nov. 21, page 1802, I notice a report of the convention of the Alberta Farmers' Association and the Society



SUMMER SPORT ON LAKE NEAR LION, ALTA.

Photo from F. W. Kimson, Lion

towns, and each farmer and villager gets a few hundred pounds. The situation is indeed alarming. Farmers living at some distance have burned good lumber for which they paid \$30.00 per M., and others are burning their out-buildings and some cutting their fence stakes at the ground, to keep from freezing to death. Such is the state of affairs in outlying districts. But why should we be forced to such extremities? Are we living under, and ruled by an autocracy like a lot of serfs in Siberia, who have no say in the government of the country, and go along like dumb driven mules, knowing nothing, and saying or doing nothing to bring about a better state of affairs?

But how is the evil to be remedied? Where does the blame lie? Could not the Grain Growers' Association own and operate a coal mine as well as the mining companies, who now operate them? We would then be sure of getting coal at cost price. (Asking for coal at the Lethbridge mines is like asking the C. P. R. for cars to ship wheat. We can take it out in asking). But the price is not the kick, there are hundreds of farmers living back from town who would pay willingly \$20.00 for a ton of soft coal to keep from freezing. Where are all our legislators, who were going to do so much before the last election? Is it not high time that farmers would lay aside party politics and unite in one common interest for the advance of their own interests? Whether Liberal or Conservative goes to parliament or governs this Western country, it makes little or no difference to the farming community. The candidate may truckle for the farmer's vote, and come out to the country schoolhouse and give a real nice pleasing talk, but when the farmers ask for anything it is quite another thing. As long as farmers split on party politics, just so long will they be humbugged, and slighted and laughed at by both Governments and Corporations of all kinds.

Farmers will get stirred up for about two months before elections by some party issue that neither concerns them nor profits the country. It is the old adage of the tail wagging the dog. The most powerful corporation in this great agricultural country is the farmers and only one in ten will join their own organization, the G. G. A., and when it comes to show their might and power, they split on some mere trifling question, which some shrewd politician throws out to trip him up, knowing if the farmers' vote is divided, they can use him for their own selfish ends. He can grow wheat and feed the world, and he has the power to rule this his country to a great extent if he would use his vote and influence to do so, instead of building up rich corporations, such as the C. P. R., who charge him more for drawing his coal, than the coal is worth.

Mr. Editor you may think I am insane or at least

of Equity, copied from the *Telegram*. For what reason you select this particular report I cannot understand, unless it is your object to harm the Society of Equity.

Why not take the report from the representative of the —? This report from the *Telegram* is only meant to create a misunderstanding of the objects of the Society of Equity, especially so by the last sentence: "We went up to meet farmers anxious to join", said one of the delegates, "but found we were among a bunch of Socialists." As you well know Mr. Editor, this Society has no political color, but its object is to further the interests of the farmer and give him better prices for his produce. Then why try to belittle this movement and keep other farmers from joining, by printing such rot as the opinion of the delegate mentioned above?

This Society of Equity has nothing to do with any political party, every farmer should join, no matter what is his religion or his politics.

Now, Mr. Editor, if it is not plain to you what this grand Society purposes to do, do tell us and we will flood you with literature concerning this our grand movement.

All our farm papers do everything in their power to educate the farmer and teach them how to grow good big crops, but none of the papers go to the trouble of teaching the farmer how to sell these big crops.

If the object of your paper is only to teach farmers how to grow big crops, then Mr. Editor, I can explain your attitude towards this Society of Equity; as in this case you are backing the speculators and capitalists.

If, on the other hand, you really take the farmers' interests at heart, as you profess you do, then Mr. Editor fall in line, and back the farmers who support your paper; fight with us against the speculator; give us Equity editorials; in short, support the coming power "The Society of Equity."

H. C. D. GILDEMEESTER

North Battleford, Sask.

[Ed. note. We regret that we are unable to please our correspondent by adopting the two final sentences in his last paragraph as our rule of life. We deplore exceedingly the intolerance which dictates the second last paragraph of his letters; because this paper does not beat the drum for the S. of E., is no sane reason for stating that it is backing speculators and capitalists. It may as well be understood right here and now that if that opinion as expressed by our correspondent is a governing one in the S. of E., we beg to venture the statement that we do not believe it in the interests of Canadian farmers that such a society should be encouraged; we also venture the opinion that our correspondent is merely speaking for himself and not for the society