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"Persevere and
Succeed."

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EDITORIAL

J. A. Jackson, Elgin Co., Ont., whose letter appears in this issue, is another farmer who lets his hogs fatten themselves by turning them into the corn field. Read what he has to say.

Passing the farm occupied by a horse-dealer lately, it was noticed that he had been feeding baled hay to horses running in the pasture field. The pasture was not very bare, only getting that way; and, in beginning to supplement the pasture so early, it is to be presumed that the dealer thought it more profitable to keep his horses in fair flesh than to bring them back to condition after they had got thin. Probably, also, he had some regard for the pasture itself, and did not wish it nipped close, as that would check later growth. It is in order for cheese-factory patrons and other milk producers to imitate the example set by this horse-dealer. If such a course is profitable for him, it is even more so for them. Green food is, of course, better for milk production than dry, and, by beginning to feed what has been sown or planted for this purpose in good season, the shrinkage in milk flow which usually takes place at this time of year may be materially lessened.

The holiday season has come to be recognized and established as the correct thing for dwellers in towns and cities to religiously observe. Trains have been loaded with excursionists going to the seaside, the lakeside, the wild northern woods, or the quiet countryside. Dwellers in the country can scarcely appreciate the delight with which the humdrum and confining labor of office or store is exchanged for a week or two of outdoor life. It is probable that this matter of taking holidays has become a popular fad, and that some return home more tired than when they went away for a rest, but there is no doubt that a thorough change is good for almost everyone. Canada is wonderfully favored in having so many fine places for picnics or for camping parties, every little neighborhood having within easy reach some beauty-spot in which at least a day may be delightfully spent; while, for those who can take more time, and can afford to spend more money, there are the pure waters of the St. Lawrence and other rivers, or the great lakes on which to sail or by which to camp, or the northern rock, lake and wood region in which to stay for a time. But farmers and their families may feel aggrieved at the mere recounting of such places of resort, as the holiday time is their busiest season. They need not. The fact that farmers are so busy in the summer season makes it possible for city people to get away then, as business is slackier than usual, and the farmer's turn comes afterwards, when the show season is on. On the whole, it is doubtful whether the average farmer does not get as many holidays as the average of those who live in towns. It is the few, only, of these latter who take any extended holiday, the artisan class and factory workers, who constitute the great bulk of the population of cities, being kept grinding at work very steadily.

It would be well if farmers and their wives not only took a day off now and again, as many of them do, but should plan for a few days' trip by rail or boat once in a while, and see some of the grand sights our country affords. A suitable time could be chosen, and their minds would be freshened by the change, and they would have more delight ever after in their country and their surroundings.

Readjusting the Burden of Taxation.

Close students of public affairs will not miss the deep significance of the Parliamentary struggle now in progress over the budget of the Hon. Lloyd-George, present British Chancellor of the Exchequer. The perpetual pressure, under existing world conditions for armaments, often overstimulated by panic, and the genuine needs of social reform, as expressed in old-age pensions, the new employment scheme, and other measures tending to improve the condition of the masses, necessitate increasing national expenditures. Financiers must, therefore, find new sources of revenue. The burden may be laid on the necessities and comforts of the people, upon industry and commerce. This is the protectionist or so-called tariff-reform method. The alternative plan is that of Lloyd-George, to levy, rather, on the economic surplus, vast incomes, unearned wealth in the form of land, etc., in the hands of the few, and luxurious expenditures. It is proposed, in short, to tax certain incomes and properties, on the ground that society, and not their individual recipients, have "earned them." That this is the trend of the age, there can be no doubt. The public will not, we feel sure, be long confused or diverted by the munificence of "Carnegieism" or of Mr. Rockefeller, or of those imperial patriots who howl for Dreadnoughts but who want someone else to pay for them. There has been a nervous wail from some of the great landed interests and financial magnates, but where, they have been reminded, would they go to fare any better, or even as well, as under the new financial proposals in Great Britain? The House of Lords will naturally seek to frustrate or delay the movement, but signs are not wanting that it expresses the mind of the nation, rather than a resort to the perilous experiment of protectionism, in place of the system in which the very warp and woof of the Empire is interwoven, and which has made it the foremost commercial and financial power in the world. With regard to the land taxes, if the new budget in some measure results in bringing the land within reach of those who want to live on it, thus relieving the unwholesome congestion of the cities, it will be one of the best things that ever happened England.

Rural Telephones.

That rural telephones are extending rapidly, is very evident to anyone who travels the country roads. Poles and wires are, in some rather remote sections of the country, to be seen on every concession line, and where lines converge to a switchboard in some village, quite a city aspect is given to the place by the array of wires which meet there. Going into one of the homes having connection on the circuit, the ring of the different calls is heard, especially at the noon hour, or in the evening. Men are notified to come to threshings, buying and selling is done, orders are given to grocers, bakers and butchers, and friendly gossip and chat are indulged in over the telephone, where, only a few years ago, the speediest communication was by mail (slow at that), or by driving or going on foot. The isolation of the farm has been for many completely broken up, and farmers themselves have acquired a confident tone in regard to what is taking place in the neighborhood, and in the world outside, which is new and refreshing. Scarcely anything, among all the things new and strange that have been coming in of late, has made such a difference in the farmer's outlook, and to the feeling with which life on the farm is regarded, as has the rural telephone. The rapidity with which lines

are being extended shows that a felt want is being supplied.

Country medical doctors appear to have been the first to recognize the advantage of the country telephone, and many short rural lines were erected at their own private expense. These lines, cheaply constructed as many of them were, served their purpose, and were a standing object lesson of the possibilities of the future. Anyone who had occasion to send off a hurried call for the doctor, would ever afterwards be a convert to the new idea. New ideas develop slowly, however, and it was long before there were more than an isolated company here and there throughout the country. But, within the last three or four years a wonderful development has taken place. This movement has not been confined to one Province, or one section of a Province, it is general throughout the country. Among the letters from secretaries of independent telephone companies, which we publish on another page, is one from Sherbrooke County, Quebec, where a strong independent company, having 365 miles of poles, and connection with four other independent companies, is in operation, with rapidly-extending business. The other letters are from Ontario, and refer to smaller organizations, more purely rural. From these latter, we learn that a farmers' telephone company is usually formally organized at a public meeting called for the purpose of discussing the question, after its having been agitated privately for a time. The starting of one local company is often the signal for the formation of another in an adjoining district, and thus the fire has spread. It is estimated that there are about 300 independent rural-telephone companies operating in Ontario, and that they represent over 20,000 rural telephones. In the Province of Quebec there are approximately 100 companies, with some 7,000 telephones in use. The older companies are continually and rapidly adding to the number of their patrons, and new companies are springing up everywhere. From the number of inquiries being received by electrical supplies companies, from those who are thinking of starting new telephone lines, and wish information as to materials needed, and prices, it is estimated that a 50-per-cent. increase may be looked for in a year or two.

After a telephone company has been in operation for a while, the advantages of connection or amalgamation with other like concerns becomes evident, and there is a strong trend in that direction at present. In the Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Ont., a union of seven or eight of the companies operating there was lately formed for the purpose of facilitating the handling of business between the different companies. Coming to another section of the Province, there is a chain of independent telephone companies, reaching from East Toronto to within a few miles of the town of Lindsay. So it is everywhere. Connections are being made not only between neighboring companies, but in many instances with the Bell Telephone Company as well. The whole country is fast becoming a network of wires, and the time appears not far distant when from every settled district it will be possible to call up and speak with any other part of the country, or any town or city, within reach by long-distance telephone.

There are some companies organized on a purely mutual system, each subscriber for a telephone being obliged to become a shareholder of the company, total shares being sufficient to build and maintain all lines. In such a case the annual charge may be purely nominal, all that is needed being sufficient to pay for a switch opera-