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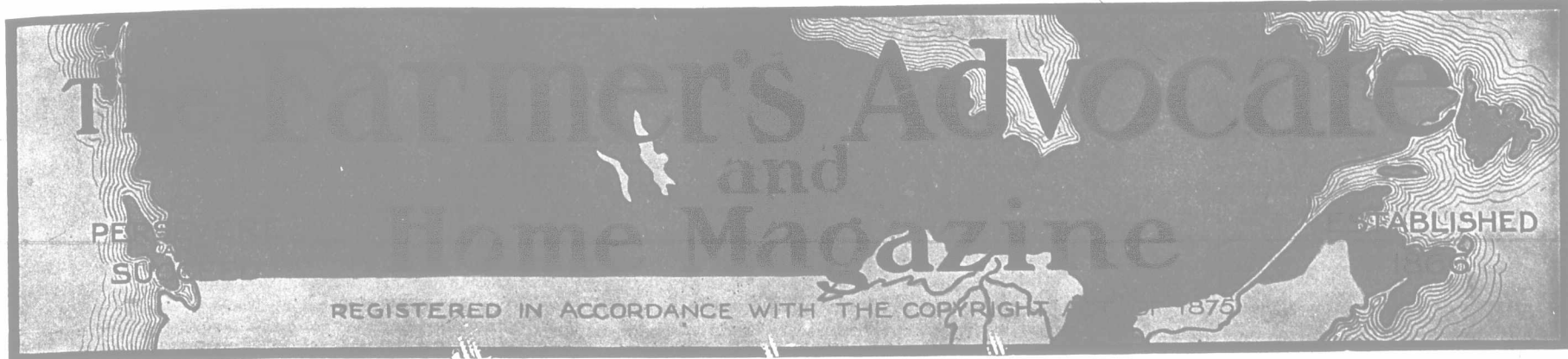
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No. 959

## EDITORIAL.

Deep-based, rugged patriotism, such as ours, need not fear the test of reciprocal trade.

Not "good methods," but "the very best methods possible," should be every farmer's motto to-day.

In his message to Congress, relating to reciprocity, President Taft breathed the spirit of the statesman.

How about the manure pile? Some of us are accumulating in our barnyards a nice big job for the busy days of spring.

After all, the Americans could have free lumber, irrespective of reciprocal arrangements, by the simple expedient of throwing off their own duties.

The report of the Superintendent of County Farmers' Associations, presented to the recent convention of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, in Windsor, showed an increase in societies and membership, with a larger average attendance than in any previous year.

At a great farmers' gathering in Spokane, Washington, a leading speaker pointed out that, not only is there inequality in education as it relates to the farm, but almost everywhere the farm receives little recognition. The daily papers, said he, devote columns to baseball and football and the possibilities of the white race winning back the slugging championship; exploit in bold headlines murder, divorce and scandal; give columns to social and political events, but scant paragraphs to the farmer and his interests.

"It was fine and dry when we put that wagon there," remarked a farmer, as one protested that a good wagon should not be allowed to stand in a pond all winter. While the rejoinder was intended humorously, how pathetically it illustrates the frequent lack of foresight. Even if it does cost as much to put up a shed for the tools as it does to replace them—which is not the case—there should be that satisfaction in having things right which should cause a man to have them so. If slovenliness in farming made the angels weep, heaven would be one vast vale of tears.

The conflict of experience is never-ending. Which is to say, the APPARENT conflict of experience, for, when we get down to the underlying principle involved, we find explanations for the seeming discrepancies. But sometimes it is difficult to arrive at the explanations, and no sooner do we solve one problem than another presents itself. We have lately been inviting experience and views on the amount of silage per day it is safe to feed a cow. In our issue of February 2nd appeared two letters from experienced farmers, one writer deprecating the idea of forty pounds per day, and stating that he seldom fed more than twenty-five pounds; the other stating that he had often fed as high as sixty. What is the explanation of this?

## Quick Returns.

There is nothing more persistently presented to our agricultural population of late than the necessity of placing farming on the same business basis as all other commercial enterprises—unless it is the advantages and disadvantages of the tariff. Farmers are exhorted to establish thorough systems of bookkeeping; to study the feeds, produce, and live-stock markets; to carefully count the cost, and, as far as possible, calculate the net returns, before venturing upon any particular line of undertaking; in short, the size, color and genuine ring of the specie which they are about to receive must be thoroughly tested before plans are executed whereby it is to be attained. These doctrines are all tenable, and the presentation of them is to be commended. Yet there is, as business stands to-day, one essential difference between rural and urban pursuits, which places the former in an entirely different sphere of activities to mercantile occupations.

Commercial enterprises are conducted for the purpose of accumulating wealth. Though one may be able to find merchant princes who are prodigal in their liberality, it is usually with the accumulations from their store or shop, and seldom in the transactions of the day, that they show their altruism. Dry-goods houses, clothing emporiums or grocery stands are rarely looked upon as monuments to the spirit of generosity or Christian kindness which may have characterized their owners; the reputation of the owners for liberality was not often established in these places by the excellence of their wares, the narrow margin of profit extracted, or the liberal terms of settlement. Business is run for the money there is in it, and the more money and the quicker the returns, the greater the satisfaction of the proprietor. While, with more or less of the Shylock spirit, he may enjoy driving his bargains, buying cheaply and selling at large profits, the favorite pleasures of the business man's life lie outside of business hours—unless he has become a Midas. He goes to the club; he enjoys social evenings at home or at the homes of his friends; he takes frequent holidays and as long ones as his financial standing will permit; and business, if it is possible, is forgotten from the time the doors are closed at night until they are opened the next morning. In such an occupation there is but one goal, i. e., the dollar; it faces all directions, and, like the city set on a hill, it is never hid; no matter from what corner of the business you look up, or down, it dazzles the eye, until all hardware handled seems to have the ring of pure gold, and the ground color of all cloth is yellow. Those lines are handled, preferably, which give a quick turnover; money must not be long invested without good profits accruing. The gospel of "Quick Returns" is the doctrine of business life.

In these very respects farming is essentially different. While the dollar has to be respected, because it holds such wide and powerful sway, yet it is not the "be-all" nor the "end-all" of farming. Farming is more than a business. Not only are the dollars accumulated whereby expenses of living are met, but the keenest pleasures of the life of the family are intimately associated with the practice of farming. The pleasure which comes from the raising, breeding, developing, showing and handling of live stock is a part of the farming business; the very picnics and outings are a part of rural life. The shop-doors of the farm are never shut, nor the shutters put up. Some of the keenest pleasures of the evening come from the achievements of the day and the discovery of new things in the world of farming.

Farming is more than a business; it is a profession. Men choose to follow it not simply for the dollars it may bring, but because in it they may rear up sons and daughters with an appreciation of the finer, subdued colors in life's web, which will come out ever stronger and brighter with the bleaching of the years. It is the place to develop solidity, physical strength, moral strength. Its pleasures are purer, more wholesome, and there is no tang of regret as years accumulate their memories.

For such a life, the refrain of "Quick Returns" must be played in a minor key. Not quickness, but permanency, is wanted. "This is not my farm, but my family's farm. This house, this barn, these fences, these ditches, are being put here not for me alone, but for my children and my children's children. I am not farming here to accumulate as many dollars as I can in as short a time as I can, that I may retire to that abominable little village to eke out my existence, but am getting the most I can in knowledge and experience, and building myself and this farm so that those coming after me may build greater characters, be of greater service, get more out of life, and put more into life because I am building as I am.

Where does the watchword of Quick Returns belong in such ideals?

## Reciprocity from the Farmer's Standpoint.

While the proposed reciprocity agreement must commend itself strongly to those who recognize the value of broadening the base of the nation's prosperity by enlarging the output and increasing the prices for Canadian farm products, the fact must be faced that it has aroused a certain degree of apprehension in the minds of some among us who are pursuing special lines of intensive agriculture, such as the raising of tender fruits and the production of vegetables under glass. Likewise, the prospect of any reduction in tariff protection disturbs many manufacturers out of proportion to the real effect it will have upon their trade. We are convinced, with Mr. Fielding, that a fair trial of the bargain will dispel these ominous forebodings, and prove that freer trade with the neighboring Republic will be proportionately as beneficial to Ontario as to Michigan, to New Brunswick as to Maine.

Take, for instance, the fruit industry of the Niagara District. Are not the conditions here as favorable for the production of fruit as in the neighboring State of New York? Yet, one of our editors, sojourning in that State last fall, noticed that fruitmen had the finest homes, and were evidently the most flourishing class of farmers in the community. Surely the fruit-growers of the Niagara District might be content to share opportunities with these men. But our growers complain that, while the protection on their products has been removed, the duties on their implements and supplies are scarcely affected. If anything, this is an argument for extension of reciprocity. As a matter of fact, the fruit-growers get their tools and implements almost, if not quite, as cheaply as the dairyman, the grain-grower, and the stockman, get theirs; and, while general farm lands rule well below a hundred dollars an acre in price, fruit-growers are complaining for fear they may not be able to make interest on real estate purchased at eight hundred or a thousand dollars an acre. If fruit lands were twenty thousand dollars per acre, the protest against any reduction of profits by free competition would be every whit as strong.

That is one great trouble with protection. It