

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearages must be made as required by law.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch of printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent to us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

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situated, a farm in poorer condition with which to work. However, the one we have will serve admirably the main purpose, which is to apply, under our own supervision, the methods recommended through "The Farmer's Advocate," keeping strict account of every item of expenditure and income, so as to determine as closely as possible not only what things pay, but how well they pay; what ones pay best, and by what means the largest profit can be derived from each particular branch. When it is stated that the cost of this place is \$11,500, which a new house and other improvements will raise to \$14,000 or \$15,000, and that the experiment will not be considered a success unless interest and taxes is made over and above current expenditure, practical farmers will realize the task we are setting ourselves—a task which, as has been pointed out before, is a greater one than if the manager were employing his own time upon the place, being thereby in a position to keep closer watch on details.

Educate for the Farm and the Home.

For several years "The Farmer's Advocate" has thrown its best energies into the campaign for rural-school improvement. To effect real and substantial reform, one must begin at the heart of things, and put that right. For the trouble is not so much with our fields and buildings as with ourselves; and if we rectify our ideals, purposes and plans, we shall soon realize that neither our fields nor our homes are exhausted of richness, and that the school will become an ally in the upbuilding of a farm community, not a mere feeder for town offices and factories. The business of the rural school is not just to make people thrifty, but intellectual and moral, and able to realize what good there is in the very life about them. The New York Independent is doing good work in puncturing the old school system of the States which educated away from country and home life. The hopelessly mistaken conception of it has been simply this: As soon as the lads or lasses "graduate" or "get through," or "pass," they must start off somewhere to "make

something of themselves," blissfully oblivious of the needs and opportunities pressing all about them.

A remarkable evolution in education is going on at Menomonie and Winneconne, Wisconsin, where schools, established on an industrial and agricultural basis, broadly combine the two thoughts of culture and utility. Examinations in the usual school accomplishments are passed, but the farm and farm life is preserved as the central idea. That concept is clear and distinct. It is to fit pupils for building up their homes and to engage in those industries which need them to make the community and State what it ought to be. The courses and the teaching invest the home and farm life with knowledge and enthusiasm. How could it be other than that, under such a system, the boys and girls become enthusiasts for country life? The old people get relaxation when the time comes that they need it, and no more is heard, so we are assured, of the drift to congested cities and of the loss of the best blood of the farm into the factories. Industries are kept balanced, while agriculture suffers not for lack of help. Menomonie has graduated nearly one thousand pupils, and thus far only two are known to have turned to any other pursuit than that of the farm. Happy Menomonie!

The Business Man and the Consumer.

The reciprocity question is an important one, and it is only fair that everyone should be heard. We commend the frankness of those men who, independent of party affiliations, have spoken out on the subject, and recommend that our readers give every man's utterances due consideration. At the same time, it is proper to examine whether such utterances are in all cases free from unconscious bias—to inquire, in short, what men, and what classes of men, are in the best position to form sound opinions.

It might be presumed that leading financiers, with large interests in the country, would be qualified to estimate the advantage or disadvantage of tariff changes. As a matter of fact, they are, of all classes, among the least qualified to judge such matters fairly and wisely. To them the consumer is an impersonal being, to be canvassed for business. A manufacturer of binders would usually welcome an opportunity to supply 25,000 farmers at a price five dollars above what he could get under conditions of unrestricted foreign competition, but who could imagine him deploring the fact that 25,000 farmers had to pay from \$125,000 to \$250,000 more for their binders than they would have had to pay if purchasing in the most convenient market? As a rule, the seller of a commodity looks only at one side of the question, and not always at the whole of that one side. Nor does this imply that our prominent business men are more than ordinarily human. Many of them are fine characters, generous in their impulses, and philanthropic in their aims. No man with an element of selfishness in his composition can be trusted to form a wholly unbiased opinion on any matter wherein it is possible for him to have a selfish interest. So it comes that many of our business men unwittingly take a narrow view of the tariff question, ignoring the welfare of the consumer, and failing to grasp the broader ultimate interest of the country at large. The well-informed, disinterested man who stands apart from the channels of commerce can most fairly and fully size up, without suspicion of unconscious bias, this great tariff subject, about which the average man is so completely at sea.

Farmers are the one great class in Canada who see through this subject most clearly, not because they are less human, but because from their position as consumers who bear the burden of protection, and as producers who cannot be very effectively protected, they are in a better position to appreciate the effect of tariffs than any other large class. Just as soon as conditions come to pass under which Canadian farmers can be benefited by a protective tariff, just so soon will they be subject to the same bias that has for many years colored the view of our manufacturing class. We already have an illustration of this in the atti-

tude of our tender-fruit growers, who want to keep the price of early peaches up to a dollar a basket, in order to earn dividends on lands valued at a thousand dollars an acre, and ever rising. But the great body of Canadian farmers, who say little, though thinking much—the men, we repeat, who are in the best position to judge this matter fairly—are in favor of lowering the tariff walls, especially when accomplished by an agreement that opens to them a convenient market among ninety million people.

Express Companies' Profits.

The good work of the Dominion Railway Commission in ferreting out cleverly-concealed facts in reference to the Canadian Express Companies, was pointed out editorially in our issue of Jan. 11th last. The Board of Railway Commissioners, after a fairly exhaustive inquiry, found that the actual assets of the Dominion Express Company, operating on the C. P. R., and the Canadian Express Company, on the G. T. R., amounted to but \$800,000, yet they are capitalized at \$5,000,000, and paying dividends upon that sum. It was further found out that, unlike the American Express Companies, which are independent corporations, the Canadian express companies exist merely in name. "All the capital stock of each of these companies is held by the parent railway company." The express companies, through able solicitors, put up the strongest plea possible that rates should be left as they were, but the Railway Commission had found out too much, and ordered a general reduction of the rates within three months, with some reductions to be made at once.

In the United States there are thirteen express companies engaged in the pleasant business of carrying parcels at their own rates, and thereby paying large dividends on stock having a percentage of solids about equal to fresh maple sap. Of these thirteen companies, five are comparatively small concerns, the remaining eight doing 93 per cent. of the total express business.

A writer in the Saturday Evening Post says that the charge on a parcel of paper costing \$1, from Chicago to his village, 130 miles, is invariably 40 cents. For 26 cents he could have a package twenty times as heavy and bulky sent the same distance, but by freight, of course, arriving in just as good condition, and not more than 24 hours later. He goes on to say: "I cannot have express matter sent by freight, however. The express companies have contracts with the railroad companies, which forbid it. In England or Germany I could have my box of paper carried about the same distance for about ten cents. It would go by mail there; but the post office here cannot carry express matter any more than the railroads can. The law forbids it. The express business is peculiarly an American institution."

The express business was begun March 4th, 1839, by a Wm. F. Harnden, who went four times a week, both ways, from Boston to New York, carrying parcels that were entrusted to him. For several months he carried his packages in a valise. Presently, however, the business grew so extensive that he used a packing crate. From this modest beginning have developed the express companies of the United States, which handle nearly 300,000,000 parcels a year. In the year ending June 30th, 1909, they received, for doing this work, \$130,130,126. About half of this revenue was turned over to the railways for the exclusive privilege of operating on their respective lines and for the use of cars and stations. After paying all necessary working expenses, the companies enjoyed a net income applicable to dividends of \$15,382,553.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, which, like our own Railway Commission, has been making an investigation into the express business, in a recent report shows that these enormous earnings were obtained by an equipment, the total value of which is but \$9,234,071. That is the value as given by the reports of the companies to the Commission, but on their own books this same equipment stands at only \$7,381,406. About \$5,000,000 of the net income given above was received from various investments representing accumulated surplus profits, but over 100 per cent.