

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. \*

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## EDITORIAL.

Welcome showers in the last two weeks have fallen over many districts in Ontario, doing good service in refreshing the pastures and young clover, as well as giving roots and corn a much-needed stimulus. The harvest is practically over in the greater part of the Province, and has been secured in excellent condition, although the hot and dry weather of the latter days of July hastened the ripening too rapidly, and in consequence the oats and peas are not as well filled as could be wished, but the quality of straw is very fine.

A dairy farmer writes to thank the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for the plan and description, published some issues ago, of the inverted milk pan aerator for airing factory milk. He says he has had no complaints this season about "gassy" milk, and by its use and a little cold water and ice has been able to keep the milk of a large herd perfectly sweet in the hottest July and August weather from Saturday night till Monday morning. Last year he lost milk enough to pay for a dozen aerators.

A leading dairyman advises us that he has been flooded with circulars advertising substances, both in the form of liquid and powder, for which extraordinary claims are being made by a U. S. firm. It is warranted to keep milk and cream sweet and fresh in hot, thundery weather from five to seven days, prevent "ropy" milk, and bring the cream to the surface. We again advise dairymen, as we have scores of times before, to let the substances alone and stick to thorough cleanliness in every step of the dairy process, and the use of abundance of pure water, pure air, and pure food. The British authorities are on the alert to detect any such compounds in importations of butter and other products, and would probably not hesitate to impose another "embargo" for their own protection.

### Mr. Ruddick Remains in Canada.

Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Superintendent of the Kingston (Ont.) Dairy School, who in the absence of Prof. Robertson in Great Britain has been doing some work in the Department of Agriculture and Dairying at Ottawa, not long ago received by cable from the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture an offer of the position of Dairy Commissioner for New Zealand, with more in the matter of remuneration than he is at present receiving. He declined the offer, rightly considering that the Dominion has a greater future in store for it than New Zealand, or, for that matter, any other colony of the British Empire. Canada's star is in the ascendant, and it is gratifying to find the services of the young sons of Canada in demand for positions of practical importance all round the globe, but we cannot spare too many of them just yet.

### Why Educate the Farmer's Son?

We have been asked whether a lad, son of an Ontario farmer, who has a liking for a mercantile life and who expects to have a little leisure next winter, would do better after taking the public school course to go on to the high school or take a short course at a good business college. From what we know of the curriculum and tendencies of the high schools and collegiate institutes in that Province, we should certainly say take advantage of the business training at a commercial college. The very existence of these institutions, of which there are now many excellent ones, shows a serious weakness in the educational system of the country.

The complaint has been made that farmers do not share to the extent that they ought in directing the affairs of the country. Considering that some 40 per cent. or more of our population is engaged in agriculture, which as an industry is the main-

stay of Canada, it is but right that agricultural affairs should have a foremost place in public concern. Politicians admit this. A corresponding parliamentary representation, properly qualified and able to grapple with questions relating to practical agriculture, as well as with such problems as transportation, etc., is therefore necessary. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE does not favor class legislation nor class representation simply as such, but it is the professional classes, which number less than three per cent. of the population, that largely hold the representation. Farmers' sons in large numbers are annually drained to fill the ranks of the city professions, their brain and brawn going to sustain the physical and mental stamina of the latter. Many of them gravitate into positions of eminence and influence. A late example was the selection of Wm. Ogilvie, a Russell (Ont.) Co. farmer's son, to be Administrator of the newly created and fabulously wealthy Yukon Territory. But directly the professional class, such as lawyers, largely mould the country's legislation.

With these considerations in view we would remind Canadian farmers and our readers elsewhere that it is the educated classes who, in the affairs of church and state, control the destinies of countries. They qualify themselves to rule, and they do rule. There is no escaping this conclusion. The moral for the farmer is obvious. It is positively amazing how much effort and money will be expended to equip the farmer's son for law or medicine, and how little on the one who is to carry on the farm. Is he encouraged with a good general education and given a course at some of our agricultural institutions of learning? The dairy schools in our different Provinces should be crowded, and likewise the schools of agriculture and horticulture in Nova Scotia, and the Ontario Agricultural College, with its world-wide celebrity for efficiency in science and practice. It is high time that Western Canada was advancing on these lines. Let no one run away with the idea that by education we mean mere book scholarship such as finds its apex in a B. A. or a Ph. D., which may only represent the temporary passport of a literary lightweight. We mean a fair share of the best useful schooling of the day and such training as will open the eyes and ears of our youths to the delights, advantages and possibilities of country life and lay the foundation of sound agricultural and business principles.

Probably every agricultural neighborhood in the land has its examples of farming made a splendid success and farmers coming to the front. How? Why? Education! EDUCATION! EDUCATION!

These men respect their calling and seek to promote its interests. They make a study of it; they read the best current agricultural literature of the day, as men find necessary in less difficult and complicated occupations; they apply business principles to it—the principles that make any business a success, and without which farming may become a miserable failure. A few days ago the writer was walking about a grand agricultural neighborhood with a friend, who was regretting having sold his farm and gone into a commercial venture that was not paying as expected. "Why," said he, "these men about here with their fine homesteads are like little independent kings." So they were. They were inspired with the true genius of agriculture. They were putting knowledge of nature's laws and thought, as well as the other elements of thrift, into their business; and their success was certain; they never could degenerate into mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. The socialistic demagogue howls against plutocracy and the vast and dangerous encroachments of corporate wealth. How are these tendencies to be met? How is the farmer to hold his own? What is the remedy? The most potent and effective weapon with which the coming farmer can be equipped in this great Dominion is a good practical education with agriculture as its vital constituent.

### Types in Judging.

The nomination of the judges of the different classes of live stock at the leading shows in Canada having been undertaken by the various breeders' associations, and accepted by the fair boards as a rule, there should be less difficulty now than formerly in securing the services of competent men. Where the judges are selected from the list nominated by the breeders the responsibility rests with the breeders, and for that reason, among others, care should be observed in the preparation of their lists. Fortunately, there have been but few cases in recent years when the judges were taken from these lists in which there has been good reason for complaint of their work. In order to be up-to-date as a judge in any class of stock a man must have had experience in breeding and handling good specimens of the breed, or at least have followed the work of good judges as a close observer and one who has taken a live interest in watching and studying the characteristics of the various breeds and the best and most approved types of the breeds. The judges are largely responsible for fixing the standard of type, and for this reason there should be as nearly as possible an agreement among breeders and judges as to what constitutes the ideal type in each breed. Uniformity of type or character is a desirable feature in any class of stock, and if there is a general agreement on the part of the judges appointed from year to year as to what is the standard, breeders, and especially exhibitors, will in all probability aim to conform to that standard. It was for the purpose of fixing the type in some of the newer breeds of sheep in England that at some of the leading shows the same judges were continued in office for a number of years, and it is said with good results. While we would not favor this rule in a general way, believing as we do that among the breeders of most classes of stock there are more than two or three who know the best type and are capable of adjudicating in the class, yet we can readily understand that in special cases it may be a desirable course to follow. Each particular breed has certain peculiar characteristics which distinguish them from all others, and one who has studied these characteristics will be competent to judge with tolerable accuracy as to the purity of an animal's breeding, and yet it is not safe for even the most expert to depend upon his judgment as to this unless supported by the evidence of the pedigree record and the good character of the breeder and the exhibitor, for it is well-known that the grades of some breeds show all the fancy points and peculiarities of the pure-bred, and in the hands of dishonest or unscrupulous men may deceive the very elect.

In judging the beef breeds of cattle and most of the breeds of sheep the work of the judge is comparatively plain sailing, since the dominant type is generally acknowledged and agreed upon, and as a rule, other things being equal, he will hew to the line of the modern ideal; but in these classes, as well as in all other classes of stock, we have no hesitation in saying that a judge is not justified in placing a weak, unthrifty, and, consequently, inferior specimen of the approved type above a thrifty, robust, well-proportioned animal of an older fashioned or less fashionable type. As a rule, judges aim at uniformity in their work, and rightly so, if there is the proper material before them from which to make a uniform list; but if there be not enough good ones of the approved type to fill the prize list, then let them look for the best individual outside of the ideal type and place the prizes there rather than encourage fashionable meanness. We have heard exhibitors complain that a judge did not stick to his type, when in reality the judge had much better cause to complain that there were not enough decent specimens of his type to go round the prize list, and he was quite right in