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EDITORIAL.

Produce the quality and demand the price.

Here is an argument for diversified farming in the Southern States: If it takes eighteen bales of cotton to buy a mule, would it not be better to raise the mule?

We call to mind no other business in which there is so much estimation and guesswork as in farming. Profit and pleasure come from getting at the facts. Get things down in black and white.

Half a dollar a pound for butter in Chicago and New York, with sixty cents expected! Looks as if it would pay to hang on to the cows. Of course, mill feed is high, but silage corn was a good crop, and pasture is coming.

Twenty-six dollars a ton for wheat bran! What would be thought of that by the old-time millers who dumped a better article into rivers to be rid of it? Makes us glad we sowed a field to alfalfa last summer. May spring frosts be merciful.

The difficulty between Toronto abattoirs and drovers as to who should bear the brunt of Government inspection losses has been settled by an agreement to the effect that all cattle sold to the abattoirs will be taxed a flat rate of 15 cents per head from January to July each year, and 20 cents a head from July to January, year after year, until such time as the Government takes up the matter. An honorable compromise.

The report of the Dominion Sheep Commission, quoted from at some length in our Live-stock Department this week, is specially valuable for the information concerning production and marketing of wool. The rest of the report is also good, though most of the points are already familiar to well-informed readers. Still, the report, as a whole, is a most excellent contribution to sheep-husbandry literature. The Commissioners did their work well.

An essential feature of every bookkeeping system is the periodical inventory. This is preferably taken in the slackest period of the year, or when stocks are lowest. Now is the time to take inventory on the farm. Even though one's bookkeeping year ends in March or April, the inventory may be practically completed in February, any necessary revisions being subsequently made to cover alterations in value of feed and live stock. Get busy and get down to facts. When all is counted up, you will probably be surprised to find how much you are worth.

Iowa is enjoying something new and refreshing in the campaign for State Governor. Farmers and business men of the State, generally, irrespective of factions, "stand-patters," or "progressives" in the Republican party, have apparently united in a call to Prof. G. P. Holden, head of the Extension Department of the Iowa College of Agriculture, to become a candidate, and he has accepted, not because he wants office, but because he believes he can serve the people better in that way than in any other capacity, and more than a thousand unsolicited letters have told him so. His platform is a "Greater Iowa," by the upbuilding of the State agriculturally, industrially, socially and educationally.

Improving One's Circumstances.

A Perth County friend confided to us the other day some of the problems he was up against. He owns a good hundred-acre farm, needing, however, considerable improvements to bring it up to date. True, the place is not unencumbered, but the proprietor's equity is sufficient to place him in a secure position. He felt discouraged, however, at the formidable task and financial responsibility before him in the way of making the improvements necessary to operate his farm to best advantage. He had also had difficulty in keeping efficient hired help. He was inclined to think that if he had the running of a large farm either for himself or some one else, with unlimited capital to draw upon, he would have a much easier lot. It is scarcely necessary to say that we could not agree with him. Running a large farm is certainly no easier than conducting a small one. The responsibility is heavier, the problems more complex, and the difficulties increase at least in proportion to the extent of the business—often faster. The man with a small proposition does most of the work himself, and can do it to suit himself. He can be always on the job superintending not only the general features, but the equally important details. Indeed, we are not sure but that the details are more important than the general plans. Where hired help is largely utilized, it cannot be so closely supervised, and, no matter how efficient or willing an employee may be, he will not, being an individual human being, see or do all things exactly as one would see or do them himself. Extensive farming, therefore, makes heavy demands upon tact, leadership and direction. Even at the best, results in some respects are liable to fall short of the maximum. This is one handicap of extensive farming.

Our friend thinks it would be fine to have unlimited capital, but is he sure that he could employ it to advantage, so as to make every dollar earn interest and eventually recoup itself? Any one can spend money, but it is another matter to spend it all wisely. There is nothing much easier than squandering capital when resources lie ready to hand. Abundance leads easily into waste, as almost every farmer knows who has entered a winter with all kinds of feed on hand. Reckless expenditure piles up capital cost and accumulates interest, maintenance and sinking-fund charges which it presently taxes the best management to meet. Probably no one else makes improvements so economically as the thrifty farmer who knows how he has earned every dollar he invests. Sometimes he overdoes thrift, and practices penury, but he at least sees that he keeps expenditure down and gets value for money expended. By making the improvements gradually, he converts much spare or waste time into capital, thus creating while the shiftless neighbor idles.

It is not, after all, necessary to have a farm equipped with all modern improvements in order to make it pay. Success largely depends upon the use one makes of the opportunities he has. A silo is not necessary, nor underdrainage, nor even a barn, though all these things contribute largely to swell profits, if one can possibly afford them. If beyond his means, he can make shift without them.

So that, after all is said and done, one cannot be sure that he would be better off if his circumstances were changed, and certainly he can make nothing by wasting time in vain wishes. To our way of thinking, if there is one man more fortunately placed than another, it is the wide-awake,

intelligent farmer securely placed upon a fifty or hundred-acre farm of his own, where he can work out his financial future according to his own strength and purpose. It is by no means necessary to have everything up-to-date, for then what would there be left to achieve? Rather let him rejoice that he has problems to solve, difficulties to surmount, for that develops strength and resourcefulness. If we had a farm such as described at the outset of this discussion, we would first of all consider carefully what were the best lines of production for the time being, and then what we wanted to work into. This decided, we would go to work cheerfully to provide the most urgent improvements, silo, underdrainage, stabling, implement storage, or whatever it was. Even if it took three years to make one small improvement, we would do that well, so that when accomplished it would be a clear asset. Then go on to the next, and the next, one after another. There is immense satisfaction and fair profit in thus building up a farm, which eventually becomes a creation of one's hands and mind, verily his own. Don't change your circumstances; improve them.

Manitoba Importing Milk.

Development of dairying in Manitoba is not keeping pace with growth of population, and milk is being imported to supply the home trade. Two winters ago the Province could supply its city trade. Last winter a small quantity of milk was imported, and now, since September, the creameries have been getting milk from United States points to the tune of 15,000 pounds a day. An article in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg states that Manitoba dairymen are receiving 20 cents a gallon, and as high as 22 cents. On milk imported from St. Paul, the duty of 17½ per cent., plus freight, 50 cents per 8-gallon can, plus allowance for difference in measure between the Imperial and wine gallon, all conspire to make the cost of imported milk 34 to 38 cents per gallon, laid down at Winnipeg. This is 14 cents per gallon above the price paid for Manitoba milk.

The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, calculates that the United States cannot have gained by immigration much over four hundred thousand in 1911, against better than eight hundred thousand in 1910. It contrasts with this condition Canada's immigration of two hundred and sixty-five thousand aliens during the seven months ending October 31st, and, allowing for the fact that ninety-three thousand of these hailed from the United States, remarks that it looks as though Canada's immigration was larger than their own, although there is a considerable return flow to be reckoned with. For some time, adds the Post, Canada has pursued a consistent and intelligent immigration policy, seeking to attract immigrants of the sort she has most need of, and distribute them to the best advantage. It would not be surprising if Canada presently supplanted the Republic as the chief goal of North American immigration.

Anyone who missed Prof. Harcourt's article on rural well water, on page 86 of our January 18th issue, would do well to go back and read it carefully. Because one has never experienced sickness from a poorly-protected well is no guarantee that he may not have an outbreak of typhoid this summer. "Lock the stable" in time.