

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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easier to get a builder to construct a silo than to get a hired man to hoe the turnips or mangels necessary where no silo is in use, and once a silo has been tried it will never be done without.

### Pork, a Luxury.

When pigs go up to anywhere from \$10 to \$12 per hundredweight, alive, pork becomes almost a luxury on the consumer's table, and the producer, if he is a good feeder, and especially if he can utilize some by-product such as skim-milk, has a chance to make a profit on his pork. Apparently pigs are none too plentiful in this country. As a general thing a period of depression follows one of high prices in any line of stock, due largely to the fact that a large number of producers jump into production of any particular line just when that line is high in price, and consequently, in time, the market is overstocked. Canada has a fine opportunity at present to make a name and to establish a larger market for her bacon in the Old Land. We would again caution against attempting to increase the production of pork by the use of anything but an improved type of bacon hog. The British market pays a premium for choice bacon, and when the time comes, as it surely will, that the market is well supplied with hogs, Canada should have established an outlet for all the surplus pork produced here, in the Old Land. It can be done if producers are careful to adhere more closely to the bacon type and not to produce anything which is "just pig." Packing-house buyers should put a premium, when buying hogs in the country, on the hog which best suits their requirements. This would have more effect than anything else that could be done in establishing a uniform type of pigs in this country.

May the tribe of Peter McArthur's red cow increase! Fenceviewer I, thou art a noble brute! Thou hast been the subject of articles in Canada's leading daily papers, as well as in Canada's oldest and best farm paper. Thou hast had thy virtues extolled from public lecture platforms, from Glenoe to fashionable Ottawa. Books have been written of thy greatness. And now thou art the mother of twins! What'll Peter say of thee now? Oh Fenceviewer, thou art the source of much wealth and the cause of much mirth!

### Making a Real School Out of the Rural School.

\* It is now thoroughly established in the minds of those who have been studying the rural problems in this country that one of the strongest factors causing these problems, is the rural school, and that it must be made one of the most potent factors in solving the trouble. In fact, the whole farm problem as we see it is a matter of education, and the school should, if it is to fulfil its work, fit the child for rural leadership and rural progress. If it is to do these things a reorganization is necessary. The old school must go, and a larger and more thoroughly equipped structure must take its place.

As pointed out in an article which was published in these columns last week, we believe that consolidation is the best means of overcoming some of the difficulties in connection with rural education in Ontario. Under the present system there is little in the school work or about the school itself to encourage the farm boy or girl to remain in the country. What they get at the little school house on the hill simply prepares them for the flit to the town or city where they are to complete their education, and where most remain the rest of their days. An inspector of rural schools speaking of the difficulties in connection with the small, isolated school, as we know it in Ontario, recently, said: "Teachers shift as often as ever. The curriculum is apparently too comprehensive for thoroughness and too bookish for practical rural education. Many teachers overlook the duty of supervising the conduct and the play of the pupil outside of class hours. There is a general lack of life in schools where few pupils attend, and lack of supervision is one of the greatest weaknesses in the conducting of our rural schools."

Consolidation would get over many of these difficulties. In Ontario, where the Educational Department moves slowly, we do not believe that there will be much done toward consolidation or to remedying the present condition of public school affairs until the people of this Province demand a change toward a more progressive rural educational policy. We believe that a start could be made toward consolidation very soon if public sentiment would only make it known that the rank and file of the people living in the rural districts are dissatisfied with the present system. In other words, if the people will show the Educational Department that they want it, and that they are ready to support it, they will get it. It is said of the movement toward consolidation in Manitoba that the most noticeable feature regarding the inception and progress of the work of consolidation was the fact that the people themselves took the lead and worked out the consolidation in each and every case, aided by the Department of Education where the request was made. The movement started in Manitoba in 1906, and has spread rapidly over that Province from that time up to the present, and invariably the trustees and the people whose children attend the school are strong in their praise of consolidation, and would not go back to the old system of small schools poorly attended, or to what they call the one institution that has been merely marking time or marching with leaden footsteps—the old-fashioned rural school.

The greatest difficulty in a Province like Ontario, settled and conservative in its ways, is to create a public opinion in favor of any change, which on the face of it, gives any evidence of increased outlay or of the doing away with old institutions giving place to new. The fact is we dislike to spend the money, and we are loath to give up the old school which was good enough for father and which he thinks is good enough for Johnny and Mary. In regard to this financial side, which looms so large in the eyes of many people, we may say that the actual cost of consolidated schools in Manitoba, in a great many cases, has not been found to be much greater than that of the old one-roomed, rural school, and if value received for money spent is to be the test, as it certainly should be, consolidated schools have proved to be much cheaper. It is generally considered in Manitoba that the cost may be from one-fourth to one-third higher under consolidation. But what is this when the following advantages outlined in a Manitoba bulletin on consolidated schools are considered?

Reduces tardiness.  
Better equipment.  
Better salaries paid.  
Eliminates truancy.  
Secures larger schools.

Teachers retained longer.  
Attendance more regular.  
Secures graded conditions.  
More time for recitations.  
Insures better attendance.  
Ensures regular attendance.  
Better class of work is done.  
Keeps the boys on the farm.  
Petty jealousies interfere less.  
Better management is secured.  
Better returns for money spent.  
Enhances the value of real estate.  
Special teachers may be employed.  
Gives greatly increased attendance.  
Classes larger and more interesting.  
Buildings better heated and ventilated.  
Number of classes per teacher decreased.  
It preserves a balanced course of study.  
Keeps older boys and girls longer in school.  
It is a school of some character and dignity.  
It eliminates waste of time, energy and capital.  
School becomes social center in the community.  
Better and more experienced teachers employed.  
Makes the farm the ideal place to bring up children.  
Enables inspector not only to inspect but to supervise.

Greater results in work accomplished in the same time.

Popular with people, teachers and pupils where tried.

It is a more attractive school for both pupils and teachers.

Healthy rivalry awakened through inspiration in numbers.

Principal can prevent errors from inexperience in assistants.

Courses of study enlarged and enriched by special subjects.

Morals of pupils protected going from and coming to school.

Health of pupils better preserved on account of transportation.

It unites and centers the interests of a larger section of people.

It adds tone and dignity to education and to the farm community.

Children of the farm have equal opportunities with those of the town.

Better school officials secured by having larger districts to select from.

Those at a distance have equal advantages with those near at hand.

Evokes pride, interest and support on part of the people interested in the school.

Saves cost of sending children away to school, and in moving to town to educate.

It is the only method of securing and holding trained teachers for country schools.

It makes possible the taking up of any special work of advantage to the community.

The rich and the poor have equal advantages in securing high-school education.

Every child in the farm community is reached by it. All children attend; not a favored few.

School games are made possible on account of larger numbers, thus adding to the attractiveness of school.

Consolidation is the only known method of providing a true country school with home high-school privileges for farm children.

It is at the door of the farm houses, and is more available on account of transportation facilities than the present one-teacher school.

It is the only way of insuring an enrolment large enough to provide the social and cultural contact with companionable associates necessary to the best development of every child.

It is the only method where it is possible to make a division of labor by graded classes whereby teachers may have sufficient time to do good work and choose grades or special subjects for which they are best fitted.

And to these we might add—it makes it possible for Mary to study Domestic Science, and Johnny to study Agriculture, Farm Mechanics, etc., with capable, specially trained instructors, and gives the country boy and girl a fair chance.

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### Studies in Political Economy—IX.

Last week I submitted certain official figures, together with estimates based on them, to show the actual economic discrimination against agriculture. I propose now to submit other official evidence to show how our present system of Federal taxation in large measure affects this discrimination; and I refer only to the indirect taxation by means of custom duties.

The average amount of duties collected per annum for the 5 years, 1911 to 1915, was about \$92,000,000 (Canada Year Book, 1914—p. 260). Of the total imports about two-thirds were dutiable and one-third free. The average rate of duty on total imports was about 16 per cent. The rate upon dutiable goods was therefore approximately 25 per cent. For the most part the free goods consist of things not manufactured in Canada. After making due allowance for those manufactures which are unprotected by the tariff, the average protection afforded protected manufactures therefore approaches 25 per cent. So far I have been unable to discover the proportion of Canadian manufactures which is unprotected. It is impossible, also, to determine accurately just what enhancement of price is due to the tariff. I shall assume,

however, that prices of 20 per cent are factored in assumption, but in it is inaccurate.

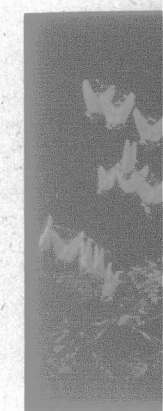


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