

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

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- 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.
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to bend to the bare material view of things, the result in the end will be less hard cash rather than more. Nature has a way of revenging herself on short-sighted man. Shoot the birds without compunction and insects multiply. Drive the feathered friends away by depriving them of woodland harboring places and a similar result follows. Because of the money to be got in the meantime, mercilessly sweep the lake waters with cunningly-devised nets and a fish famine follows.

Why do we treasure the family Bible that belonged to our great-grandfather? This elusive sentiment. This emotion of the soul, this clusive feeling that we are half ashamed of, actually has a money value. But value or no value, it makes life worth living. Who does not prefer a house gracefully draped with vines and surrounded with stately trees to one unadorned and bare? What a charm, what a healthful corrective to the humdrum, every-day grind of work there is in a forest left in its natural condition! The solemn, quiet gloom, the great towering trees, the tender undergrowth of sapling and of herb, and the graceful shape and droop and color of everything have an effect on the being beyond calculation. It does seem a pity, that to enjoy such a scene many farmers have to leave their own places and visit city parks or public reserves.

It is perfectly in order to bring sentiment to bear on the question of preserving the wood-lots that yet remain. When one sees the few lingering trees, all that are left on many farms of the old-time magnificent timber crop, and reflects that their days also are few, it is impossible to repress a feeling of regret at the passing away of what will probably never be replaced. The furore over the ordering of a few trees cut on the Rondeau Park means, for one thing, that sentiment still has power with the Canadian people, the sentiment in this case being probably accentuated by stings of conscience over their own ruthless tree slaughtering.

In the case of the forest, prevention is better than cure.

It is much easier to preserve and restore than

to replace. A lifetime is scarcely long enough to bring back a forest once it is cut down. Many farmers would, we believe, have taken steps long ago towards conserving their wood-lots only they did not just know how it could be done, or did not think it worth while. More light is obtainable on the subject now, and to all interested Mr. Macmillan's article on the subject is commended. In very many cases the bush can yet be saved, and it is well worth while.

A Banker's View of the Farm.

The impression is current that politicians and others in describing the farmer as the bone and sinew of the country, and agriculture the foundation of its prosperity, are merely indulging in so much patronizing hifalutin. The tangible evidence of interest may not always be in due proportion to the expression, because the farmer is an individualist rather than a unit in relation to public affairs, but no one can regard the efforts of Federal and Provincial Governments, particularly the latter, without realizing, as statesmen know, that the output and profit of the farm are of paramount concern to this country.

No one would think of bankers spending their time or their rhetoric over the condition and progress of farming, if it were not vital to their functions of lending, borrowing, issuing or caring for money, to the end that their institutions might declare dividends and other profits. Nearly one-half of the comprehensive address, based on reports from local managers, of President B. E. Walker, at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, dealt with various aspects of farming from the Maritime Provinces to British Columbia. The miner, the fisherman, the railway promoter and the lumberman received their share of comment, but the farmer loomed largest by far in the presidential eye. The suggestion might, therefore, not be inappropriate in passing, that the influential persons associated with these monetary institutions will naturally be actively concerned that legislative or other tendencies prejudicial to the interests of the farmer will receive their stern disapprobation and resistance.

Mr. Walker notes the gradual recovery of trade and appreciation of values during the past year in Canada, the land which now represents Opportunity to those who have energy out of proportion to their surroundings. Immigrants are coming in, he considers, as fast as they can be properly settled, and capitalists seeking industrial ventures and securities are coming too, the former largely from the United States, the latter from England. He foreshadows that Canada will in her own way manage her resources, favoring Britain in tariff matters, but making such arrangements as seem best with countries that treat her well. No fear is apprehended regarding our trade with the States. Barring the great coal strike, Nova Scotia did fairly well in 1909, and the activity in agricultural movements of an educational character in the Atlantic Provinces is most encouraging. Ontario and Quebec farmers show their prosperity by the power to buy and to wipe out old obligations, and grow crops that put to shame most other parts of North America. The line of future progress is in the direction of intensive farming, and an output of products that will give greater profit for a given area of land. The opportunity for the apple-grower is especially noted, and a regret expressed that dairy products are not forthcoming for both export and home consumption are not forthcoming. Lack of farm labor is regarded as the one great hindrance to progress, but no solution of the difficulty is offered other than the usual reference to labor-saving machinery. Mr. Walker ventures the opinion that the Ontario farmer is not trying very hard to improve in horse or cattle breeding. The marvellous records of Ontario horses and cattle in international show-rings and elsewhere, and their general good character, do not bear out his observation. It may be true that a good many poorly-finished beef cattle, so-called—really dairy grades—make their appearance on the Toronto market, but the dairy herds and beef herds in appearance and performance rank deservedly high. In importations of superior horses and cattle for breeding purposes, the Province takes easily first place, and her stock is everywhere in demand. What other Province of Canada or State in the American Union can show an equal average in pure-bred importations, in output of high-grade breeding stock or in general excellence? Through nearly every agency

which the Provincial Government can set at work, and the enterprise of private citizens, the work of horse and cattle breeding has been pushed in the direction of improvement for generations, and the splendid results, as they appear at the National Exhibition, Toronto, or the Winter Fair at Guelph, should be an eye-opener to those who say that so little is being done.

Reference is made also to the prosperous crop year in the Western Provinces, but regret is expressed at the hold weeds are getting on the country, and the suggestion offered in support of methods calculated to conserve soil fertility. Some adequate scheme of hail insurance is advised for the West, and some plan worked out by the Provincial authorities there to assure an adequate supply of harvest laborers, which, however, is not likely to be forthcoming until the advent of farming methods that will assure more all-the-year-round employment.

Co-operation in Kent County.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is no doubt but that many pulling in the same direction will accomplish much more than many pulling each in his own peculiar way; and this is very true in regard to co-operation among farmers. By working together the "many-variety" folly may be done away with, and the price of the produce much increased by selling in a co-operative manner.

About seven years ago a combine among the bean buyers of Kent County and adjoining sections, which comprises practically the bean area of Canada, was the means of bringing about the formation of a farmers' company, known as the "Kent Farmers' Produce Company, Ltd." The price of beans for the buyer in the combine was set at a central office, thus doing away with any competition among buyers. But if the farmer is to look after his interest, no fault can be found with him for trying to operate some scheme whereby he can secure the most possible out of what he has to sell. The Kent Farmers' Produce Co., Ltd., was incorporated in 1903 as a joint-stock company, with a capital of \$35,000, divided into 7,000 shares, of \$5 each. About \$18,000 worth of stock has been sold, and about \$15,000 paid in. The plant, consisting of three warehouses, cost \$8,000, but with this accommodation the company now handle not only beans, but wheat, oats, barley, and seeds of all kinds, as well as salt, flour, cement, rope and binder twine, and, in addition to this, operate a first-class feed-grinding outfit.

The turn-over of the various grains named above will average 300,000 bushels a year, and it can be proven that at least four or five cents more per bushel has been received by the farmer than he would have received had not the company been in existence. This means an addition of at least \$12,000.00 to the farmers' income each year, to say nothing of what may be saved by the various other lines handled.

The Farmers' Company is managed by a board of seven directors, appointed at the annual meeting. The manager of the company is appointed by the directors, and we have been fortunate enough to secure a good business man and practical farmer as manager. Since 1903 the company has each year made many dollars for the farmers by increasing the prices of the different grains, and at the same time made improvements to the plant, and made a small profit each year. Co-operation in any particular line has a beneficial effect, in that it increases a spirit of unity among producers, and they are made to see the advantages of working together for a common good.

J. O. L.
Kent Co., Ont.

Best Christmas Number Yet.

I want to congratulate you on the best Christmas Number you have yet issued; in fact, the breadth of subjects treated of universal interest, the mechanical excellence of the illustrations, printing, etc., and the evidence of authority in the articles, all combine to place it at least on a par with the Christmas numbers of such papers as The Globe, Graphic, etc. You are to be congratulated not only on this issue, but the whole volume of 1909. As one interested in getting all out of an orchard possible, I have been greatly interested in the success of your work in "The Farmer's Advocate" demonstration orchard. I hope you will keep your readers in touch with the details of treatment and results as time and work go on.

I would like to know who "Whip" is. I suppose you are not at liberty to divulge his name, but if his excellent articles have done others as much good as they have me, they have saved many times the subscription price of "The Farmer's Advocate." They are always sound, sane and helpful, and I must agree that he is a pretty good judge of a colt-training essay. I hope you may keep him as a contributor.

R. J. MESSENGER.

Annapolis Co., N. S.