

# The Farmer's Advocate

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### EDITORIAL.

Happiness is the by-product of an unselfish life.

The farm is a first-class place to work and live—none better—if you make it so. It may be made otherwise, and often is. From a dull, dead-spirited, unprogressive agriculture, deliver us! No wonder the boys leave it.

Just as the railroads are of indispensable value in serving as a rapid, easy means of communication from one center to another, so are the public roads leading from the producing sections to these centers. The demand for good country roads is not a cry for a class favor; good roads will benefit the tradesmen and the consumers of every degree and condition in all towns simultaneously as they benefit farmers. They are a national need, and will produce national good. After the construction of the railroads, good public highways stand high as factors in national development.

Some of our correspondents approach the Flavelle-Duff letter rather gingerly, as though the discussion were hedged about with extraordinary restrictions. The fact is, the conditions laid down by us to rule this argument are only such reasonable ones as should be observed in any respectable journal. While agreeing with much that Mr. Flavelle has written, we have recognized that there is considerable to be said on the other side. Some of it we said ourselves. Some of it our correspondents have treated. On the whole, we are pleased with the spirit manifested by practically all who have yet taken a hand.

The evasion by the few discommodates the many. If the order providing for the muzzling of dogs throughout the quarantine area in Western Ontario were conformed to by every dog-owner, the malady would have by this time, in all probability, been eradicated. But, because a few attempt to evade the law, the trouble is likely to continue for a considerable time. The story is ever the same. One man is too indifferent to combat his weeds, and so the entire community becomes polluted. One man fails to scald his milk cans or to cool his milk, and the whole factory suffers in a deteriorated cheese product. One man keeps too many cur dogs, so no man in the community can keep sheep. Verily am I my brother's keeper.

When a wide-awake contractor or manufacturer figures on a job, as to whether he can afford to take it, or not, he estimates every item carefully, from material, interest and risk, to labor, adding on top of all this a margin to represent his expected profit. This margin is supposed to be ample to include the value of his own services as manager, if he has not already itemized this factor separately. Under this plan, unless he has erred badly in his calculations, or encounters some extraordinary mishap, you don't find him working for nothing. When every department of farm work is handled on that exact business principle, the labor applied to our fields and stables will be better repaid than it is. Unprofitable departments will be made profitable or cut out; time will be economized, and the whole occupation placed upon a more paying basis. We realize well enough the difficulty of reducing farm management to any such basis, but, perceiving the need, we realize quite as strongly the need of making the attempt.

"There is no calling under the sun so imposed upon, or so much at the mercy of unscrupulous money-grabbers and politicians as that of agriculture," remarks a Nova Scotia correspondent. If he is not right, we fail to call to mind the exceptions.

If seven hundred and thirty farmers find it profitable to record the produce of their cows individually, enabling them to eradicate, with judgment, the unprofitable members of the herd, why will it not pay you? The most skilled men are freest to admit the impossibility of accurately telling from the look of a cow how much or how rich milk she will give. Do you know how much milk each of your cows gives? Do you know how much fat each produces? Do you know what it costs to feed each? If not, step into the ranks of progressive dairymen; get scales, arrange for the Government tests, and find out these things which you should know.

We have many industries at the present time which are more important than sheep and wool production. Time was when this was not so; time will be when sheep will again take a foremost rank in our live-stock productions. Wool is an essential for our people in all stations of life, and, as population multiplies, the demand will create anew the industry, if not in the old hands, then in places where sheep have not been known before. This is one of our industries which demands encouragement—not artificial forcing, but good basic, sound, lasting encouragement. J. P. Murray, of Toronto, makes some suggestions along such lines which are worth thinking over.

A large percentage of cheese factories entirely disregard the test in their management. The milk is pooled, and each patron is paid in proportion to the number of pounds of milk delivered, regardless of its quality. Such a system puts a premium upon low-testing milk, tends to prevent the improvement of herds, and ultimately must produce a cheese of lower quality, due to a deficiency of fat in its make-up. In cheese production, not only is a large flow of milk desirable, but also a good percentage of butter-fat. If our cheese factories generally established payment upon the butter-fat basis (or butter-fat, plus two per cent.), there would be a marked increase in the quality of the cheese output, a decrease in the number of pounds of milk required to make a pound of cheese, a juster distribution of returns, and a new era in the improvement of dairy herds and herd management.

Patronize the lightning-rod agent if you wish to pay two or three prices for a job you can do yourself. But, by following directions given from ten to twenty times in "The Farmer's Advocate," and briefly repeated on page 1208 of our issue of July 28th, you can, at a total cost for material and labor not exceeding five cents a foot, make and erect as good lightning-rods as any you can buy. Nine strands of No. 9 galvanized fence wire, or about double the number of strands of the better-galvanized but smaller telephone wire, will make as good rods as any you can buy, and better ones than quite a few that are sold by agents for anywhere from six to twenty cents a foot. Do not believe agents who would have you believe that copper wire is necessary. The twisted cables of galvanized-iron wire are, if anything, preferable to the single, smaller copper cable, so long as they last, and they should last quite a long time, particularly if the telephone wire is used. We have gone into this subject, and speak with knowledge and conviction.

### The Search of the Education Commission.

The Royal Commission on Technical Education for Canada appropriately began its enquiry under favorable auspices in Nova Scotia, where educational institutions for the promotion of skilled industry and agriculture are making rapid and substantial strides. The men of the Maritime Provinces have always been in the van of intellectual progress, and their place will be secure in the annals of the Dominion. But educational ideas and methods must be readjusted to meet changing needs and conditions. The educational foresight of Nova Scotia was quick to take in the situation. To be by the sea and on the world's highways of commerce was an immense natural vantage, and the agricultural and industrial opportunities are unsurpassed. Perceiving at hand the beginning of the ebb of the Western and American booms, and a revival of faith in the solid security of Eastern Canada, leading men began to lay deep their plans for the future in education, a more secure foundation for the people than speculating in Western land or gambling in stocks. In part, the cue was taken from Germany, and to-day Nova Scotia is a leader in schools for training the eye, the hand and the brain of workers. If the competition of progressive industries in other countries compels the employment of more systematically-educated artisans in Canada, in relation to the operations of the farm there is a corresponding situation, the needs of which are even more urgent. Foreign governments and agricultural leaders of the brightest calibre are everywhere bending all their energies and devoting resources without stint to push various branches of the industry to the front. The go-as-you-please methods of the past will not answer now. We cannot longer sponge upon nature or trust to luck. It is recognized by thinking farmers very generally that farming is a complicated business, requiring scientific knowledge, good judgment, business skill and manual dexterity rather than mere muscle. It is an acknowledged fact that the public-school system of the country has failed in cognizance of these important considerations, and the farm is paying the penalty. The little white schoolhouse on the line is not what it ought to be, and it is not doing what it might for the furtherance of agriculture or the interests of the farm home. Infinitely more than upon the factories of the town the future security and well-being of Canada is in its soil and the men and women of the soil. The Commission, we submit, have no more important duty than to enquire what the school systems of Quebec, Ontario and Provinces westward are doing to relate themselves to agriculture and its interests. To what extent, if any, are the text-books, normal training, curricula and inspection co-ordinated with the farm and farm home for their betterment and progress, and what are the essential items in the programme of reform for which the occasion calls? Time is passing, and the Commission is on the move. The agricultural authorities and others concerned in these Provinces, if on the alert, will be preparing to have the situation adequately laid before its members, so that ultimately Parliament and Government will be apprised of the truth and be put in a position to deal out even-handed justice to agriculture. The men of the farm are awakening to the seriousness of the situation, and in the reorganization or extension of our schemes of public education to stop short at the town limits and industries will just mean to impose further handicaps and burdens, of which the agriculturist cannot be expected to approve. Briefly, the plan of the Commission's enquiry is: 1st. What are