

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

Mr. Foster eschewed the standard oil tactics "refused to answer."

There is a bounty on bears in New Ontario; why shouldn't there be one in the wheat markets?

These are the days and evenings that recall to those of our population who are natives of Eastern provinces and states, the cider mill, the pumpkin in the corn, and the coon hunt in the neighboring woods.

There has not been an exhibition of any proportions in any part of the continent but what reports enormous increased attendance. Prosperity and population must be on the increase.

"Bob, Son of Battle," our new serial, begins in this issue. It is a story of great originality and human interest. Read it, and commend it to your neighbor.

Western bachelors are, we believe, rarely so by choice, but of necessity. Many of them claim that the present day girl is not satisfied to help build a home and help make the pile, but that the pile and home must be "ready and made."

Bachelors are not the only selfish ones in the matter of education, some childless couples are just as detrimental to a community; others again are ministering angels, assuaging suffering as far as possible.

The bachelors are charged with being retrogressive in school matters and holding back the cause of education. The same old remedy must be prescribed, "place a pretty schoolmarm in the district," and the poor trustees will soon need to call out—"next!"

Two extremes are noted nowadays in the social structure, either the wife is overworked, or she is a parasite. The older, happier and more beneficial order of things, when the couple were partners in a going concern is unhappily far too rare.

The growth of manufacturing in Canada is a source of pride to Canadians, not alone for the magnitude of the operations but for the improvement in the quality of the articles turned out. Implements for the farmer, tools for the artisan, and clothing for the clerk, are all to be had of good quality and made in Canada.

"Too many people do not want to work for a fortune; they want to speculate. Possibly this may account for the scarcity of labor. Never before in my recollection have I known laborers of all classes to be so freely employed and so highly paid as at present."—JAS. J. HILL.

An Old Country contemporary states that Argentina threatens to shut down on the purchase of British Shorthorns, if Great Britain opens her ports to Canadian stores. Argentina must be getting foolish, such a message is the wrong one to give John Bull, "you can lead him but not drive him!"

Probably 'twould be a good thing if Argentina did what is threatened. British herds need a little time to recuperate, and by that time some other body will want British cattle.

The *Live Stock World* says; "Nobody can remember when cattle exporters were willing to admit that they were making money."

### Counsel or Prophecy.

If the newspaper reports are correct which quoted the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, as disparaging the practise of stock farming in the country about Kinistino, we must admit surprise. Probably it is a laudable ambition of the government of Saskatchewan to see that province the greatest wheat producer in confederation and that is but a natural circumstance in view of the vast extent of its wheat lands, but exclusive wheat growing as it has been practised in Saskatchewan can scarcely be considered exemplary farming. Most people are of the opinion that exclusive wheat growing is but a transitory stage in the agriculture of the Canadian West, and that, as settlement becomes thicker and land consequently higher priced, a greater diversity would necessarily be introduced into farming practice. In the country referred to, stock raising and mixed farming has been followed for the past twenty-five years, probably more from necessity than choice, but now that the railroad is penetrating the district the people will be at greater liberty to choose the method of farming which best suits their tastes. If they should decide to curtail the production of stock and engage extensively in wheat growing they may reap a temporary advantage and share the success of wheat growers in other parts of the province, but eventually they will have to resort to the methods they have been following for years. If they make the change they probably will make more money when crops are good, but they incur greater risks. Their farms will become more deplete of fertility and polluted with weeds, their families and hired help lose the instinct for stock raising and the attention to detail which such a system develops.

Possibly the Honorable Minister's suggestions were misunderstood. It may have been his intention to point out that the district was capable of producing a greater amount of wheat without detracting from the production of meat and that when he said as he was quoted that "stock raising would soon be a thing of the past" he meant that it would be secondary to wheat growing. If so, his remarks should be considered more as prophetic than as advisory. Greater diversity of practice will positively be the ultimate system of farming practised over the whole West and those who are farthest advanced in that direction now are to be commended.

### A Trust Nucleus.

A few of the owners of local flour mills throughout the country have been imbibing the doctrines of John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, the McCormacks, Deerings, etc., and have decided that the old adage "competition is the life of trade" is a sad delusion. Accordingly they have organized a sort of a trust, though it is not to be known as such and will probably never reach the gigantic proportions of the popular conception of a trust. This new organization is more of a flour miller's clearing house to assist in the marketing of flour made at country mills. The movement is of no material significance to the producer of wheat, for in one respect methods of trust makers can be depended upon to prevail, namely, the increased profits which arise from the elimination of competition and the concentration of marketing facilities must go to the manufacturer. And why should we expect anything else? Is the fact that a municipality gives a flour mill a bonus and exemption from taxation sufficient reason for the miller to allow the public to share in the profits which arise from the exercise of his business ability? The man who would say it is would not be considered a wise business man. Consequently if the initial efforts of the dozen or so millers who have formed the combination are successful, we may see all the small mills gathered into the ring. It will be a good thing for the

millers and probably indirectly for the community, for if the millers are prosperous it is more than probable they will improve the facilities of their mills and then there is that other incidental advantage of which every local centre of population likes to boast, "our successful rich."

### What's the Matter with England?

This summer, on one of the Atlantic Liners running between Liverpool and Montreal, an alert German-American, who had been abroad, might have been observed with a book in his hand, bearing the ominous title, "The Decline and Fall of the British Empire." Though published in Old London, it purported to be a textbook, written about a century hence, for use in the public schools of Japan, as a warning to the rising generation of that empire against the perils that had undone her old-time ally and the "Mistress of the Seas." It recorded the fulfillment of the Macaulay prophecy, whose New Zealander would stand on a broken arch of London Bridge and view the ruins of St. Paul; and traced the reasons for national wreck, as in the case of Rome, to the decay of agriculture, the love of pageantry and pleasure, self-indulgence, the crowding of population into the cities, the wane of industry, the deterioration of manhood, and other disintegrating causes.

Despite the buoyancy of trade and growth of population, there is an uneasy feeling abroad that something is wrong with this beautiful Old Land. By this book, and in many other significant ways, it is finding expression. What is it? According to Joseph Chamberlain, industrial stagnation, needing protection from foreign competition. But his propaganda was stillborn. The toiling masses, to whom the loaf of bread means everything, will have none of it as yet, and British business men do not take his panacea seriously.

There is a prevalent notion that it is due to conservation in her methods, but England probably gains as much as she loses on that score. It is also ascribed to national bumptiousness, expressed in the chest-swelling words: "This is a great and mighty England, on whose domain the sun never sets. She's all right!" But this is not a general characteristic of England at all, particularly of the dominant middle classes. Her statesmen, professional and business men are abroad in the world, and know what is going on. They are not asleep. Canada might well go to Old London to learn the rudiments of transportation and civic government, and England can grow some crops yet that put old Canada to shame.

But the roots of England's danger are real, and go deeper down. The evidences are visible in physical and moral degeneracy, and in poverty. One of the distressing sights of the streets there are the beggars, even opposite the very domain of Royalty—hungry men, women and children. In England and Wales, on Jan. 1st, 1905 (exclusive of private charity, or the multitudes that suffered and made no complaint), 932,267 persons, of whom 148,013 lived in London, were in receipt of poor-law relief. This is appalling! Surgeon-General Evat, of the British Army—a hard-headed military officer—in a public address this summer, in the writer's hearing, stated that, out of 11,000 recruits for the Army, 8,000 were rejected as unfit. He was advocating measures that would stay the rising tide of fallow, stoop-shouldered, hollow-chested youths, of grovelling ideals, and give the country a race of men. His remarks were based on an experience and observation of 30 years in all parts of the Empire. He branded the canteen as the graveyard of the British Army, heartily commending the United States in its abolition, and ascribed the deterioration of the British youth to the curse of conditions that drove the people from the land and massed 80 per cent. of them in cities and towns where vice and ignorance thrive.

The truth is that great masses of the lower strata of laborers in England are impoverished,