

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. 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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tained a declaration from the King permitting free trade in grain; but in declaring against the system, he ran counter to deep-seated agricultural prejudice. Every province insisted that when Heaven had given it a good crop, it should enjoy the main benefit of that crop, and, whether crops were good or bad, the only safety from famine lay in the existing system of internal protection. He was ridiculed, and even mobbed, but in time the whole vicious system was broken up, with the result that famines disappeared from France forever.

Recuperative Year in Denmark.

Nowadays nations do not make hermits of themselves. They are all on the public street of the world, trying to learn and do business with others. If any particular country does well or ill, consuls, commercial agents and journalists lose no time in digging out the how and the why of it for the benefit of those whose interests they represent. Little Denmark has long been in the eye of the world because of its agricultural progress and the success of its co-operative organizations for the sale and purchase of products. But it has been passing through a financial crisis, and 1910 is set down as a year of recuperation. "Farmer's Advocate" readers will, therefore, be interested in a few notes on the report of the British Consul, L. C. Liddell, who attributes improvement, in part, to more favorable yields of crops, good grazing conditions, and better prices for meats. As in all European states during the past 30 years, there has been a general abandonment of wheat-growing in favor of producing bacon and other meats, eggs, butter, cheese, cream, etc. Mr. Liddell points out that a remedy for the wheat decline was not sought by the imposition of high protective duties.

For Danish pig-breeding, 1910 was a particularly favorable year. The pig was the best paying animal of the season, feedstuffs being cheap and bacon dear. Still, the number of swine did not greatly increase. Farmers thought the high

prices would not continue, and sent many young sows to the slaughter-houses; but the quality of breeding animals has improved. The Danish farmer continues to display his usual sagacity in keeping up quality, keeping down the cost of production, and not rushing to extremes. About 98 per cent. of Danish eggs go to Great Britain, but she is beginning to ship to Germany, which, it is worthy to note, has become the largest importer of poultry and eggs in the world, having usurped the position of Britain in that respect. The quality of Danish butter was the subject of a great deal of criticism in 1910, partly because the dairies ran short of ice, but the old standard of excellence has been restored, and an improvement in business is expected from the adoption of a new system of quoting prices, whereby but one figure will be published as the quotation for the week. Danish butter has not now the cream of the British market all to itself, as once, for other countries have made enormous strides, and competition is keen. Exports of Danish milk fell off, but cream increased, and of dairy products as a whole, there was an increase. Milking machines met with favor, but much increase in their use is not anticipated, as it appears, after the first enthusiasm created by their appearance wore off, they did not give unlimited satisfaction.

Co-operation, which began in a small way in Denmark, now numbers 3,640 organizations, and 454,480 members. It is worthy of note that the number of fowls kept in Denmark has nearly doubled in recent years. During 1910 there was a considerable emigration (15,836) from Denmark, more than double what it was in 1909, probably due, it is said, to lack of employment at home, and the attractive prospects in Canada and the United States, where the bulk of them went.

The Social Side of Farm Life. 10

Address delivered by Geo. E. Fisher, of Chatham, at the New Brunswick Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, in March, 1911.

Webster defines "Sociability" as "readiness to unite in a general interest, free or ready to converse, friendly, familiar fellowship," and it occurs to me that this definition is very applicable to this present Farmers' and Dairymen's Convention, particularly in the definition, "ready to unite in a general interest," and, as applied to agriculture, it might mean co-operation.

We are here to unite in general interest.

I am going to divide my remarks under three headings, Sociability in the Home, Sociability in the Dairy Stable and with the Animals, and Sociability with our Neighbors.

SOCIABILITY IN THE HOME.

Sociability and Hospitality are so closely related in connection with farm life, that what may be lacking in sociability is more than accounted for by the real, the genuine hospitality that we find in our rural homes. Who is there among our city friends and relations that do not look forward to that visit to the country—to enjoy nature, the green fields and the babbling brooks, and the gathering around the open fireplace to listen to the stories of the good olden time that our grandfathers and grandmothers loved to tell us about—the "wood frolics," the "barn raising," the "corn-husking parties," etc.? To many of us in this meeting these pleasant gatherings are fresh in our memories.

But a newer day is surely coming in—a day full of new domestic arts. We are not going to adopt city ways; we have no need in the country for three changes of dress in a day, afternoon bridge, or five-o'clock tea. We want to enjoy the simple life. Refinement will mark the coming home, not style and show, but that spirit of order and enlightenment which comes from the right sort of culture. The education along domestic and other lines that we give our boys and girls at our consolidated schools should be a strong factor in bringing about this social idea in our coming homes. Would to heaven we had such a school established in every county in New Brunswick. I believe it would largely tend to place agriculture on a better footing in our fair Province, for I believe the future agricultural prosperity of our Province depends on the consolidated school. Our farm boys and girls are not developing as fast as

they should in the little old (in some cases dilapidated) "red schoolhouse on the hill," and when we look back at the long list of eminent professors, lawyers, doctors, politicians, etc., that were born and brought up on the farms and have gone out from the farm home and made their mark, surely, in this modern age, we should be more earnest in securing the better opportunities to be afforded by the consolidated school.

Cecil Rhodes, in writing of education, and the softening influence of learning, coupled with religious education, says: "In the education of our people lies our only hope of killing race differences."

The old farmhouse has its interesting memories, but in some ways the new country home is more interesting. It will have its bath-room, water running into the kitchen, good drainage, a library, a piano or organ, and a telephone. The first aim of the household is to secure health. We shall live out of doors, and we shall know how to gather about us more liberally what nature and art offer to make life sweet and wholesome.

Perhaps I am wandering a little from my real subject, but the beautifying of our homes, the flower garden, well-kept hedges, the cultivation of ornamental trees, etc., all form a very strong part of our social life. A magazine writer says: "Forestry also comes within the circuit of the homemaker's work. Wind-breaks will be made more of as the wilderness is swept away. Let Nature have a free hand along her lines, and plant defences against the storms. We may prefer her mixture of evergreens and wild cherries, or we may choose to plant a wall of crab-apples fronted with honeysuckles. Everywhere there is country art, for Nature herself is pre-eminently an artist. You will fail of making a country home if you fail to appreciate the art that is contained in all the life about you. A robin's nest is simplicity itself, but who ever saw a nest full of those blue eggs, so perfect in color and form, without a shout of joy and a thrill of gladness? In their city studios they have no color master like a bed of roses. Jenny Lind could not equal the catbird and the meadowlark. The bees in their hives are able to beat the best architects."

SOCIABILITY IN THE DAIRY STABLE AND WITH THE ANIMALS.

To help to solve a good many problems in connection with our farm life, there is one thing that should appeal to the average farmer and make the work of the farm more pleasant and congenial, and that is the proper care of our farm animals. If we can picture in our minds a real up-to-date dairy farm, with all the modern conveniences, and so laid out that the labor of this work is a pleasure, I think that you will agree with me that it is one of the pleasing features of this branch of our farm work. The labor question on most farms is a serious problem, and gives rise to more discontent than anything else, so to my dairy friend I would like to make an appeal that if we want to lighten and lessen this labor, let us be more systematic in our work. We must admit that if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well; and if we have not time to get sociable with the dairy cow and other farm animals, let us begin now. The same things apply to our field work. The growing of better crops, the planning of our farm work more systematically. All this tends to make the work more agreeable, and will help to solve the question, "How we can keep the boys on the farm." This season of proficiency for our seed fairs suggests sociability. The gathering around the lecture table, with a white cloth covering it, on which is spread the grains, select the large, plump seeds for our seed time—all means that we are aiming at something better. The harvest season brings the selecting of our seeds, the offering of prizes, etc.

SOCIABILITY WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.

The forming of Farmers' Clubs, the exchange of ideas, discussing farm life personally, the formation of agricultural societies in our neighborhood, all these tend to more or less sociability with our neighbors, and where this feeling exists we are sure to find a prosperous and up-to-date lot of farmers.

The profession of agriculture is one of the grandest professions and should we not be possessed of it? And, by the examples we set our boys and girls on the farm, we can hand down to them a better inheritance.