

## STIRRING REPLY TO MR. KIPP.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It was with considerable interest that I read Mr. W. H. Kipp's paper on "Rural Public Schools," published in February 28th issue. As one who is engaged in public-school work, and who knows something of the work, I beg leave to make a few remarks in reply to Mr. Kipp.

First of all, he speaks of the expense of sending a child to a high school. He says that it will cost about \$400 for the high-school course! Well, if it is not worth \$400, and many times that sum, for the education he receives to better fit him for life, no matter what his vocation, it is not worth a cent. What use is a man, even a farmer, without an education? Our grandparents, and perhaps parents, could do without a high-school training, but in this great commercial age the educated man is the one who leads and is most respected, and in the future the need will be greater than in the past. So, I say, if at all possible, give the boys and girls a year or two, and more if possible, in the high school. The broad education of such a school exactly meets the requirements of life in its varied aspects.

Next, he speaks of the need of the child being at home during these formative years. To this I would say, that when the high school is from five to six miles from home, the pupil nearly always goes home on Friday night and stays till Monday morning. He is thus about one-third of his time at home during the school months, and all the holidays. Besides this, a great majority of the pupils of the school are from the country, and they are not going to cast aside the country, home and parents as "too slow." Instead of that, they are proud of their homes, and quite frequently take their less-favored town friends out on Friday night to spend Saturday and Sunday with them. Is this not the case? I think our worthy correspondent was stretching his imagination when he said that high-school pupils consider father and mother and home "too slow."

Now, with regard to the remedy he suggests—from his letter I should judge him to be either a bachelor or else a husband without children, for he certainly seldom visits the school. The idea of him suggesting that the rural teacher bring pupils to a standard qualifying them to teach a public school, when the cry is that even high-school trained pupils are often incapable of giving the necessary and all-important guidance needed to train these young lives entrusted to their care, especially when 90 or 95 per cent. of them never get any more schooling! What we want is the very best qualified teachers we can get, and that is why the Government passed the familiar law in 1906, to retain the services of these men and women in the teaching profession, who, on account of their ability considered themselves worth more than from \$275 to \$400 a year. No, no, we don't want public-school pupils teaching in our public schools. Just think what the outcome would be!

Mr. Kipp speaks of high-school pupils "being compelled to waste their time on useless subjects, as Latin, French, and a host of other things." In this connection I may say that before one can properly understand the English grammar and literature which he speaks about, he must have some knowledge of the grammar and literature of other languages, and especially the languages he mentions, since so many of our words come from them. And much more before he can teach the English subjects, he must acquaint himself with the foreign ones. I would like to ask Mr. Kipp, how a child who has had two or three years in a public school after passing the entrance examination, and at the age of fifteen or sixteen, is able to teach bookkeeping, commercial law, mathematics, etc., etc. (these subjects which he suggests)? His suggestion is nonsensical.

And now, in closing, I would like to say that if Mr. Kipp knew anything at all of the work now required of the rural teacher, with all the classes from the first to the entrance class, he would not suggest giving any of this high-school work he mentions. I would suggest that Mr. Kipp take a half holiday once in a while and visit the local school. It would do him ever so much good. "MAC."

Middlesex Co., Ont.

## FIFTY YEARS A THRESHER.

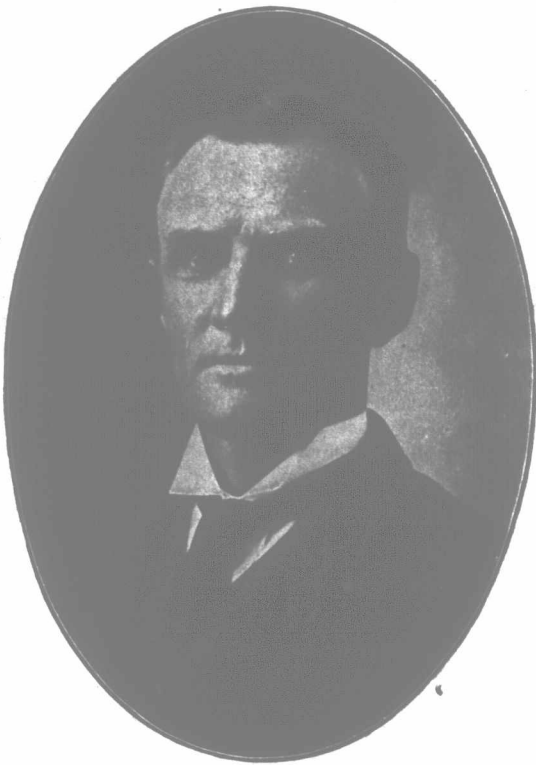
To have served his community in the capacity of thresher for fifty years, without accident to the life or limb of himself or his workmen, and without accident to the property of his patrons, is the splendid record of Charles McMonies, of the Township of East Flamborough, County of Wentworth, Ontario. Mr. McMonies was among the earliest to introduce the steam thresher into the community. Before starting to use the engine he spent considerable time in the shops of the builders learning its construction and the best method of its operation. This, together with his untiring vigilance, enabled him to use one engine for twenty-seven successive seasons, and to put it into winter quarters at the close of last season in as efficient a condition as it was a quarter of a century ago. In everything Mr. McMonies has been very cautious, on the principle that an ounce of foresight is worth a ton of regrets. He was a successful farmer also, and a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" almost since its founding. He has been a man of his word, and punctual in his engagements; accordingly, his patrons honored him by giving him a fine banquet. The one hundred and fifty

guests discussed the spread as only hearty farmers and their wives can. The supper over, Mr. and Mrs. McMonies were presented with an appreciative address and two easy chairs. Mr. McMonies' reply was characteristic of the man, full of true feeling and to the point. "If ever there were any clouds in the threshing business," he said, "I see the silver lining to-night. I have been with you all these years, and I don't believe that I have an enemy in the world." J. A. Wentworth Co., Ont.

## KING'S COUNTY, N. B.

Like our friends in the West, we are having a pretty hard winter. With the exception of about two weeks at Christmas of mild weather, it has been all winter right through, with snow enough for hauling, so that farmers have their wood up and ice stored in good time.

The shortage in last year's crops is now seriously felt. Hay is scarce and high; a good many carloads have been brought in, mostly from Shepody and Westmoreland marshes, and sold from \$11 by the car to \$15 as a retail price for the greater portion of it, and farmers are buying a lot of it; some that have never bought any being required to purchase from 20 to 40 tons rather than sacrifice their stock. Millfeeds are also high, the long haul down from Ontario and the West adding to the price, making middlings \$26, and other feeds in like proportion. Oats are selling at about 50c., and as there was a large shortage a good many will be required for seed as well as feed. Nothing is doing in potatoes. Farmers are getting 30c. per two-gallon can for milk for St. John trade, and butter from 24c. for dairy to 26c. and 28c. for creamery best. Hens are not doing so well as some other years, owing



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no doubt, to the high price of eggs, but are starting in now to do better. Not much is doing in horses at present, more than a general trading, with good ones always in demand. Our Government have decided to import a number of brood mares to improve the stock of the Province, but do not seem to have fully decided on the class of horses to buy as yet. Good beef is now hard to find. Common sells readily at \$7 to \$8 per hundred, with pork at \$9 to \$10.

In closing, some mention of the retirement of Mr. J. D. Frier from the management of the Maritime Dairy Co. may not be out of place. Mr. Frier came here some years ago but a youth, and from the first made a place for himself in dairy work and business circles. He seemed tireless in creating factories where there seemed to be at best but a poor prospect for milk, but John D. went ahead and made money, and woke the farmers up to do better work than they had ever done. More cows were kept, more interest taken in stock, more work done, stock was better cared for, more milk made, and more money too, and farmers realized in many back places that, although their lumber was going or gone, they could make their cows largely take its place, and bought separators, so that to-day there are hundreds and hundreds in use in the territory he covered. As manager of the Maritime Dairy Co. he pushed its business, not only over his own Province, but also Nova Scotia and Newfoundland as well. Mr. Frank Tilley, the new manager, is too well known all over the Province to need any recommendation as to his capability of managing this company.

The Provincial Dairy School is now in session, under Messrs. Mitchell and Daigle. X.

## NEW SCHOOL LAW.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Great discussion and criticism have been called forth by the new school law in the recent amendments to the public school acts. No doubt the amendments are open to improvement. Possibly they may be a trifle arbitrary and drastic in the sudden demand for such expensive equipment and improvements, which some inspectors may unwisely push to an extreme this first year. It would seem fairer that the teachers' salaries should be graded, not solely by the assessment, but also by the attendance, and by the efficiency and qualification of the teacher; but certainly it is a forward step in the right direction, and one that was absolutely necessary to maintain the standard of our schools.

The farmer invests money ungrudgingly in barns and houses, with up-to-date improvements; he knows it will not pay to engage the cheapest untrained workmen to design or build these structures; he has the latest and most expensive agricultural implements to work his farm; surely he should not grudge the few extra dollars revenue required to engage the most efficient teacher to educate and build up the characters and minds of his boys and girls!

If necessity demands it, he pays heavy bills to doctor or druggist, to nurse or dentist; to the teacher or minister who strive to meet the intellectual and spiritual needs of his family, he doles a pittance, while if the teaching and guidance of these two faithful public servants had been carried out, there would have been a wonderful saving in the former bills. But humanity is so short-sighted it values physical comfort and indulgence more than higher development and education; and many prefer to pay from \$1 to \$10 to a doctor to come in and give an opiate to ease suffering, that might have been avoided by a common-sense observance of the laws of hygiene as taught by a wise teacher in our public schools.

In proportion to the cost of education and proper equipment, no profession meets with so little financial return and appreciation as that of the teacher, or the minister of the gospel, and yet what would our country be, or stand for, without our schools or churches?

We cannot expect men and women of culture and ability to stay in a profession at the salary of a day laborer. The cost of living is higher now, and a teacher cannot keep up and meet the demands of his work without books, outside helps, and the wider outlook, gained by conventions, travel and study. As a people we Canadians are too practical, look so closely at the dollars and cents that we lose the beauty and the pleasure that come from the development of the true man. So practical that we are impractical, for those men and women who have done the most for the world, who have best advanced its real interest, have been those who have had the highest ideals, who have patiently pressed on in face of opposition and discouragement to the highest principles of truth and right. May our Canadian people to-day stand firm for the highest interests of the home.

A CANADIAN MOTHER.

## TOO MANY LOOKING TO SCHOOL TEACHING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Letters lately published in "The Farmer's Advocate" force one to conclude that to some people the teachers' salaries question has been exceedingly interesting. Vox Populi, whether or not he considered himself Vox Die, could not have been so far astray in his attitude toward the law as his opponents imagined, seeing the Government decided to change it considerably. When the wages of any trade or profession are below the natural level, the trouble is that too many have been attracted to the line. When a number get disgusted with the low wages and quit the work for something that "pays better," the wages of that occupation rise as the supply of workers is diminished. Does not "One School Ma'am" support this theory, by her remark that in some places salaries have been raised because teachers could scarcely be procured?

If the Government forced teachers' salaries above their natural level by fixing the amount, too many young people would be tempted to prepare to be teachers by the chance of the prize, while the number of schools would remain the same.

If there is no money in school teaching, and if it costs so much to become a teacher, why do so many men use this means to obtain money to put themselves through University? What is the reason that a number of young men are working in city stores for low wages, when they might earn more at something else? They are paying a big price for the dignity of a white shirt. Many young persons have put a premium on school teaching, and have paid dearly for it, while the demand in some other lines is not nearly supplied.

If it is money you want, go where you get most. Your occupation can make you neither better nor worse than you really are.

Sandy Fraser says he "kens weel that silence is the most effectual way o' disposin' o' a troublesome creetic," but in this case he has not taken the most effectual way, according to his own statement.

Vox Populi's opponents seem to think that school teachers are the only ones who begin on small salaries. I had a friend in Toronto who had a good education and some experience, yet when I first knew him he paid his whole salary out for board, and the Government did not say a word.

I fail to see how the law would have made better