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EDITORIAL.

Manitoba now follows Saskatchewan's example by inaugurating an alfalfa campaign.

"All I know of Canada is that the best people of my constituency are moving there."—[Hon. Champ. Clark, U. S. Congress.]

Last year, the farm fields of Canada produced crops valued at \$507,000,000; but, had all been brought up to the standard of the best, those crops would have represented \$500,000,000 more. By more thorough tillage this spring, will every reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" do his share towards this doubling process?

The lure of wages, observes Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, takes the fourteen-year-old boy out of the public school. Serving no apprenticeship, he gets into a blind alley, and perhaps drifts into town to drive a delivery wagon or be a messenger boy. At eighteen years, he is too big for his job, and graduates on to a street car, and there, ten chances to one, he sticks.

One new business creates another. There are about 350,000 automobiles in use in the United States, and the risks to life, limb and property from motoring are such that four forms of automobile insurance have developed: First, on account of personal injuries; second, property losses to others; third, collision insurance; and fourth, fire and theft. Some car-owners carry all four forms of insurance.

Acknowledging a repeat order for lime-sulphur, one of the two companies advertising this material in "The Farmer's Advocate," regrets that it is unable to catch up with any orders dated April 6th and later, adding this encouraging sentence: "The good work that you have been doing towards educating farmers and fruit-growers has made the demand for spray chemicals this year over four times what it was last year, at least so far as we are concerned."

The tide has turned. Not only is there a large immigration of American farmers into our Western Provinces, but numbers of them are locating in Western Ontario. A few days ago, two of this class, having thoroughly looked over a farm of 225 acres near London, were prepared to offer \$18,000 for it. They had sold their own property in the States for \$35,000. The owner had, however, some time before concluded a deal in regard to the farm. The lawyer who gave us this information said that these gentlemen would in all likelihood purchase in an adjoining township, and he hoped they would, for they were of a fine type.

Hiram Pettit, a brother of Morley Pettit, Provincial Apiarist, O. A. C., Guelph, writing the Belmont (Ont.) Times from his home in California, where he is engaged in growing oranges and grapes, says: "Do you know that Dorchester Township, Ont. (where Mr. Pettit was formerly engaged in farming) is just as good an apple country as the far-famed apple districts of Washington and Oregon? Well, it is; and if I were a younger man, with the knowledge I now have of fruit-growing, I would not be afraid to set out an apple orchard of 50 acres on the 8th concession of South Dorchester, and in fifteen years make a fortune out of it."

The Spring Deluge.

Saturated soils, swimming fields, and transient torrents, sweeping away good surface soil to enrich some distant river bottom, repeat again the lesson of the tile and surface drain. Nature does not weary in her admonitions. If we did not heed last year, she tells us again in the spring of 1911, and will give us another object-lesson in 1912. Almost invariably, the early-sown grain yields by far the best crops. That is conceded, and yet we postpone putting down the tile drain, thus losing probably eight or ten days in getting upon the land, and bushels galore in the harvesting. In a waterlogged condition, the soil is cold and stiff, frustrating our efforts to prepare a proper seed-bed in which the grain will have a chance to germinate and develop. Another pressing reason for attention to drainage is the increasing practice of spreading manure upon the fields in the winter season, in order to save labor and avoid the wastes of barnyard heating and leaching. Even on fairly level fields, it is not reassuring to see the roughage of the stable manure floating about like an ark waiting for the subsidence of the waters. As a rule, those who practice this system wisely avoid spreading the manure where there are natural runways, or on hillsides. It being no uncommon occurrence for a tile drain to pay for itself by the increased crop in one year, surely, with so many other good reasons for doing the work, and adding so much to the comfort of spring operations, and the saving of "wear and tear" to horses and implements—surely 1911 will witness the prosecution of a record campaign in Canadian drainage.

Neglected Opportunities.

Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture in Canada provide for the enterprising agriculturist many valuable services that should be taken advantage of more generally than they are. All one need do to become acquainted with the opportunities open to him is to read the agricultural papers and the official Departmental reports.

Taking the Dominion service first, we have, for example, a chemist at the Central Experimental Farm who will analyze samples of water from farm wells free of charge. The Seed Laboratory will make examination of seeds for purity, and, in case of doubt, will make germination tests, as well. The Dairy Division of the Dominion Department will supply, free of charge, forms for the keeping of individual cow records, a service inaugurated by the Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm. Any farmer who wishes to have his cows tested for tuberculosis will be supplied through his veterinarian with tuberculin from the Veterinary Director-General's Branch, if the owner will agree to the conditions laid down. Coming to the Provincial Department, we note first that the Ontario and Nova Scotia Agricultural Colleges are sending out, at a quite nominal charge, nitro-culture for the treatment of legumes. The Ontario College has also been developing a staff for the free drainage survey of privately owned farms, the only cost to the owner being travelling expenses, at a cent a mile, and board of the surveyor.

In addition to these forms of assistance, all the Provincial Departments, as well as the Federal Department, have considerable staffs of expert teachers and investigators, any of whom will cheerfully answer sensible correspondence, often giving information of the most valuable character.

Every one of the services mentioned should be utilized widely by Canadian farmers. In this, as

in other matters, we practice what we preach. We have obtained from Guelph enough nitro-culture to treat two bushels of alfalfa seed, at a total cost of 50 cents. We have applied to Guelph for a drainage survey of our farm. We are obtaining from the Dairy Commissioner's Branch printed forms for the keeping of milk records. Our grass and clover seed have been purchased after report from Ottawa upon samples obtained and submitted. We are never backward in asking for a bulletin we want, or, if necessary, consulting public servants concerning points in their respective spheres about which we wish information not otherwise obtainable. These services are established to be used. The more widely they are used, the better for Canadian agriculture, and thus, indirectly, for Canadian prosperity in general. No one need feel under any obligation in availing himself of help from such sources. Rather, he may have the consciousness of knowing that, by improving his opportunities as a citizen, he is contributing to the welfare of the whole community. Take cheerfully of the help and information freely on tap.

Bovine Tuberculosis.

This dread disease is among our cattle. There is no sense in shutting our eyes to this; it is a fact. The evil is increasing, rather than declining. Just how prevalent it is, and what measures should be taken in regard to it, are problems that should be faced and solved. The possible menace to public health from the use of tuberculous beef, or the milk from tuberculous cows, while in some quarters overrated, is not to be ignored, and the prevalence of tuberculosis in hogs is caused almost wholly, if not altogether, by following diseased cattle or by being fed their milk. The question of the future of Canada as a producer of stock cattle is also involved.

Too often it has been the case that an animal suspected of having the disease has been treated like the counterfeit money which the good deacon abhorred, and got rid of as quickly as possible. The application of the tuberculin test to animals pronounced diseased by experts has been known to be resisted on one pretext or another—but really for fear of the financial loss that might ensue—until death from tuberculosis has supervened. There is some excuse for such conduct, in view of the fact that the owner himself has to bear all the loss, and it will be repeated so long as that is the case.

But is it not time that many of our more wealthy farmers and stockmen should take up this matter individually. Public spirit shows itself in being ready to sacrifice self-interest for the public good. The International Commission on the Control of Bovine Tuberculosis, whose excellent report can be obtained free from the Veterinary Director-General, Ottawa, say in this report that "The owner's co-operation in this work is a very essential feature of this great task." But they go further, and state that "It is a well-known fact that any voluntary method of suppression by the herd-owners themselves would bring about better and quicker results than when compulsory measures are enforced upon them." Loyalty is often loudly proclaimed; here is a way in which it can be quietly practiced.

A significant inference can be fairly taken from the report to which we have referred. It is to this effect, that, before the importation of well-bred cattle from Europe, for the purpose of improving the native stock of the country, tuberculosis among cattle was unknown here. Following the statement from which the above infer-