

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1878

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. XLVIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 19, 1913.

No. 1082

## EDITORIAL.

The yelping dog lowers the milk pail.

The two-horse corn cultivator is a great labor saver.

Alfalfa, like corn, stands drouth better than excessive wet.

In Western Ontario, and even farther east, corn is about our surest crop. Even though weather conditions prove unfavorable, one can do much by cultivation to promote its growth.

For some unknown reason an attractive backyard is very much more attractive than a beautiful lawn in front of the house, observes an American writer, who pleads for a back porch overlooking the backyard and garden.

If a man is rich and asks a government for millions to assist enterprises designed to make him still richer, he is called a subsidy hunter. If he is starving and asks a fellow man for bread-money he is called a beggar.

The Kansas plague of grasshoppers is being destroyed by a fungus, according to newspaper reports. Thus does Nature raise up friends to fight our battles for us. Among our greatest friends are insectivorous birds—which we allow sportsmen (?) to shoot.

Reversal of prospects is a common experience in farming. The crop which looks best in spring may disappoint sadly before harvest, while the crop whose early chances appeared slim may compensate. As a rule, the husbandman who does his own part well and awaits the issue with calm faith comes out all right in the end.

If you have held some silage over for summer feeding, take a look into the silo to see whether rats have found their way into it. They may be burrowing down through the decaying surface layer to get at the sound corn underneath. This will let the air in, and greatly increase the amount of spoilage. If they are working, close the silo doors and set a trap or two inside. We would hardly feel safe in recommending poison, for fear of it being carried down and subsequently mixed with sound silage fed to stock. If the rats have not yet gained access, close the doors and keep them out.

In a message vetoing a farcical direct-primaries bill passed by the State Assembly at Albany, N. Y., William Sulzer, Governor of New York, used this trenchant paragraph:

"Every intelligent citizen is aware that those who subvert the government to their personal advantage have found their greatest opportunities to do so through the adroit and skilful manipulation of our system of party caucuses and political conventions. We have been given leadership dishonorable to the various political parties of the State, and we have been given party tickets which reflect this dishonorable leadership in disgraceful secret alliances between big business interests and crooked and corrupt politics. It must cease, or our free institutions are doomed."

## Economy in Fencing.

With the progress of invention, capital becomes increasingly necessary on the farm. Each decade the farm is equipped with less of what labor directly achieves, and more of what requires capital to purchase. There are not a few hundred-acre dairy farms in Ontario to-day representing an investment of ten, fifteen or twenty thousand dollars in buildings, fencing, tile-drainage, implements, vehicles, tools and live stock, over and above the value of the land itself. The demands for more outlay steadily increase. Experience proves that it pays to purchase good stock, good implements, and good equipment, as well as good land. Poor stuff soon plays out. It is usually economy to buy the best, but it certainly does run into a lot of money. And there seem so few chances for economy where economy will not prove short-sighted.

It behooves us, therefore, to be on the alert to save where expedient. One of the best opportunities lies in reducing the amount of fencing. There is a wise and well marked tendency to do away with many of the superfluous cross fences which cut properties up into small fields that are expensive to cultivate, waste land in fence bottoms, and add not only to the farmer's capital outlay, but correspondingly to his interest and depreciation charges.

Consider the cost of fencing. To erect a good nine-strand woven-wire fence with 20-cent cedar posts set a rod and a half apart, will cost in the neighborhood of sixty cents a rod. This includes labor of digging the post holes, setting posts (including anchor and brace posts) stretching and stapling the wire.

A typical "inside" hundred-acre farm 200 x 80 rods will have 240 rods (a half share) of line fence, 80 rods of front fence, and with a lane through the centre, about 400 rods of lane fence or a total of 720 rods, exclusive of cross fences. This, if all erected new, well built, would cost about \$430. To cut this up into ten-acre fields would require another 320 rods of somewhat cheaper fence, costing, perhaps, \$150.00, maybe somewhat less if old posts could be utilized. On this 320 rods of cross fencing there will be annual depreciation to the extent of eight or ten dollars and interest eight dollars more or say fifteen dollars, besides the obstruction to cultivation, the waste of land and the harboring of weeds.

Part of the outlay and expense of cross fencing might be dispensed with by having a couple forty-rod stretches of woven wire to be stretched across from time to time where it may be desired to pasture stock. A couple brace posts, a few dozen sharpened heavy stakes, an odd line post or so planted for stiffening, are all that is needed to put up such a fence. Two or three men can drive the stakes, plant the brace posts and stretch and staple the wire for a forty-foot span in half a day at a cost of two or three dollars. It can be placed where needed, and shifted when it comes time to plow across the line. It saves capital and reduces expense. What fence you buy, buy the best, but do not purchase more than you need.

## In Business for Oneself.

Experience shows that the man who works always for salary, even though it be a good one, has a poor chance of becoming well off. It is astonishing how hard it is to save much out of a fixed weekly or monthly wage. Easy come easy go. The tendency is to live up to one's income, sometimes a little beyond. Expensive habits of living are unconsciously formed, and the income leaves a very small margin to save out of. Years pass, family increases, the scale of weekly expenditure advances, but the savings account remains pitifully small, quite inadequate, it seems, to furnish capital for a business that would maintain the family on anything like the standard of living to which they have become accustomed, and from which it would be a severe wrench to break away. By and by the hope of branching out for oneself is relinquished to the distant or improbable future, and one finds himself permanently bound to the wage or salary class. The effect on character is subtle. Bit by bit the wage earner loses that masterful self reliance developed in the man who is carving out a future for himself, and in its stead comes a pliant dependence upon the employer who issues the pay check. Vocational slavery is hardly too severe a term to describe the psychological condition of such a person. Contrast him with the man who, thrown upon his own resources, forced to battle with life, struggling for a means of keeping his head above water, finds some niche into which he can fit and gets into a business of his own. Humble though it may be, it has in it the seeds of a future. It will become what he makes it, and what he makes it will depend upon his own capacity and character. It becomes a child of his ambition, an urgent repository for thrifty savings, and a field for self-expressive effort. It is a great thing to be working up a business of one's own. It is at once the surest way of getting ahead financially, and a first-class means of strengthening character and developing mental capacity. Every farmer has just such a chance. As compared with the city wage earner or salaried employee, his lot is one to be envied. Farming is a good business, a clean, straight, wholesome, self-reliant, self-developing business, such as any king might envy. Do we realize when we are well off?

## A New Brunswicker for Truro.

Prof. J. M. Trueman, head of the Dairy Division at Storrs Agricultural College, Connecticut, U. S. A., has accepted the position of Professor of Agriculture and Farm Superintendent at Nova Scotia Agricultural College. This is one of the strongest appointments yet made at this Eastern institution. Prof. Trueman was born in New Brunswick and some twenty years ago graduated from the School of Agriculture, Truro, N. S. In 1895 he received his degree of B. S. A. from the Cornell Agricultural College. Since that time he has had nearly twenty years' experience in agricultural college work, and in the management of private farms in the United States. He is regarded as one of the strongest men in his subject in America, and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College is to be congratulated on having added to its staff a man familiar from birth with Maritime Province conditions, who has had such an extended experience in the leading institutions of the United States and who stands so high, especially in dairy husbandry in America.