

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

September 2, 1908

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Vol. XLIV. No. 832

EDITORIAL

The Cause of Trusts

The signs seem to point to a general election this fall. In the States it is a certainty. Our neighbors have started to discuss what should be done with the trusts and oppressive commercial organizations. At present there is no particular indication that the subject will be dealt with in Canada. Trusts should be attacked. But not after the manner inaugurated by President Roosevelt.

Residents of a trust ridden country should recognize that the trusts are the legitimate children of certain parent conditions. There is a definite cause of trusts and that cause is the "protective tariff." Countries that have no protective tariffs have no trusts. The evil is, therefore diagnosed, the remedy should be: first to remove the cause.

We need not discuss whether or not the protective tariff has been a benefit to Canada. Farmers are as a class positive that it has been a greater expense than benefit to them, but it will never be reduced until a very great bulk of public opinion demands the reduction. And then the electorate will have to be on the guard against left handed feeding of the "infant industries" by way of bounties. Complaint is loud enough against trusts and combines, and if the electorate does not wish to longer tolerate them they must remember that the price of commercial liberty is the dearly beloved tariff.

On Concentration of Colleges

Among the members of the board of university governors for the new university of Saskatchewan, there appears to be an inclination to include the agricultural college as one of the integral elements of the university proper, to so arrange matters that the president of the university will be directly in charge of the educational work at the college. The prospect from a superficial examination is alluring, but in practise such an arrangement has never been found to work out satisfactorily.

Some elements do not blend, will not harmonize nor mix. Of these are the students whose tastes lead them into academic professions, and those whose inclinations are toward the practical spheres. Medical and theological students can and will mix socially, without any particular derogatory effects upon either class, but students of agriculture have never been successfully associated with students of other colleges. The experiment has been tried in many states and the results are obvious. It is hard to say why it should be so, but the effects are there nevertheless, either the study of agriculture is made subservient to the more academic pursuits, and as a consequence the course in agriculture falls into disrepute, or agriculture becomes, through the stronger personalities of those in charge of the course, the chief end and object of the university, in which case the interests of the other professions are neglected.

In the communal life of colleges, upon the one campus, we have the most striking example of

the unsuitability of communal life to the temperaments of the average man as he is now constituted. The atmosphere of communal life, even where colleges are the units, at once dwarfs the individual independence, and destroys confidence in personal resources. The assembling of colleges under one head is the very antithesis, socially speaking, of those old baronial conditions which developed such rugged personalities and such sturdy independence that in past ages have characterized the British race. And while we could not, for economic reasons, return to those romantic conditions, we can at least, endeavor to avoid some of the environments that are exactly opposite.

Nor should it be expected of a president of a university that he should direct so many varied studies in the most modern channels. The principalship of an agricultural college in a province charged with the intellectual and economic wealth that is Saskatchewan's, demands of the most capable, most thoroughly equipped man his every effort and his whole attention. The same remarks, we might say, will apply with equal force to educational conditions in Alberta, should the concentration of colleges idea be entertained in that province.

Imperialism and Harvesters

Upwards of twenty thousand young Canadians have within the last month travelled over from sixteen hundred to two thousand miles of their native land. The migration of the harvest hands is of more than local significance. To get away from home, and to catch a glimpse of the size and grandeur of our country is inspiring, elevating, and does more to stimulate the spirit of loyalty than any other exercise in which youth partakes. Eastern Canadians are frequently accused of being narrow and lacking in that sweep of imagination that gives to life a broader, fuller meaning. It is also observed that when the Easterner travels his mind is most susceptible to broadening influences—finishing a man of affairs, the peer of any in the world. No one can estimate, then, the value to the nation of these harvest excursions. By conducting them the C. P. R., and this year the C. N. R., and G. T. R., have taken a hand in the educational affairs of the nation and have taught big lessons. As a result the national and imperialistic idea grows. The railways discharge a function at once ethical, educational and economic.

To Improve Conditions of Country Life

With a view to bringing about better social and economic conditions on American farms, President Roosevelt has asked five eminent American publicists to serve upon a commission, to report to him upon the present conditions of country life, upon what means are now available for supplying the deficiencies which exist, and upon the best methods of organized permanent effort in investigation and actual work looking to their improvement. He anticipates that the commission will doubtless find it necessary to suggest means for bringing about the re-direction or better adaptation of rural schools to the training of children for life on the farm. The National and State Agricultural Departments must ultimately join

with the various farmers' and agricultural organizations to secure greater efficiency and attractiveness in country life, for, as he once more emphatically affirms, "No nation has ever achieved permanent greatness unless this greatness was based on the well-being of the great farmer class, the men who live on the soil."

The immediate purpose in appointing the commission is to secure from it such information and advice as will enable him to make recommendations to Congress upon the matter, and for this reason he asks to have the report before the end of next December.

The men who have been asked to act as an investigating committee are Prof. L. H. Bailey, of the New York College of Agriculture; Henry Wallace, of *Wallace's Farmer*, Des Moines, Iowa; President Kenyon L. Butterfield, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; Gifford Pinchot, of the United States Forest Reserve; and Walter H. Page, editor of *The World's Work*, New York. In a letter to Prof. Bailey, asking him to accept the chairmanship of the commission, the President outlines his desires in the direction of improvements on the farms. At the outset he notes that, while the United States is making great progress in the development of the agricultural resources, the social and economic conditions of the country are not keeping pace with the development of the nation as a whole. The farmer of to-day is, as a rule, better off than his forbears, but his increase in well-being is not in keeping with the general advance. In portions of the South, for instance, there is much unnecessary suffering and needless loss of efficiency on the farm. A physician who is a careful student of farm life in the South, writing about the enormous percentage of preventable deaths of children, due to the insanitary conditions of certain Southern farms, remarked that he would prefer to see his nine-year-old daughter work in a cotton mill than have her live as a tenant on the average Southern tenant one-horse farm.

In the past, Governmental attention has been concentrated on better farming, which was all right as a beginning, for the farmer must first grow good crops in order to support himself and family, but the effort for better farming should be accompanied by the effort for better business and better living on the farm. The great rural interests are human interests, and good crops are of little value to the farmer unless they open the way to a good kind of life on the farm. It is especially important that whatever will serve to prepare country children for farm life, and whatever will brighten home life in the country, and make it richer and more attractive for the mothers, wives and daughters of farmers, should be done promptly, thoroughly and gladly.

The resolution which the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce will submit to the autumnal meeting of the Associated Chambers in reference to the admission of Canadian cattle is already assured of strong support from several of the great trading centres. It will lay stress on the scarcity of native and foreign animals for slaughter, and the diminished supplies of meat and by-products of newly-killed animals, owing to the stringency of the regulations affecting the landing of foreign cattle. The resolution will further suggest that the time is opportune for the removal of the embargo on Canadian cattle, and that a committee of the House of Commons should be appointed to inquire into the whole matter.