

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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are not to be duplicated in Canada. If there is to be a "new education" for the town, the problem might as well be faced at once, for com- mendent solution, that a "new education" is de- manded for the farm. It may be costly, and it may be difficult, but it cannot be evaded. Seeing his efforts hampered by the public-school sys- tem, and hampered by a burdensome and ill- adjusted system of protection, there is bound to be a rude awakening when the significance of the move for industrial education is realized. Of vital importance in all its bearings, it must be dealt with by the public men, and ought to be a most serious subject for thought and discussion in every farm home in Canada.

The School Problem in the States.

In the United States, a situation somewhat similar to that existing in Canada is developing. It has been brought to issue by the Dooliver-Davis Bill before Congress, which provides for the ap- propriation annually of \$1,000,000 per annum for instruction in agriculture and home economics in district agricultural schools of secondary grade. The bill calls, also, for \$1,000,000 per year for the maintenance of local experiment stations to be administered as part of the State experiment stations now existing, not less than one for each fifteen counties, nor more than one for five coun- ties and fraction of counties. Another appropria- tion of \$5,000,000 is asked for, to be used by High Schools for the maintenance of instruction in trades and industries, and agriculture, in pub- lic schools of secondary grade. These appropria- tions, however, will not be available until July 1st, 1914, but in the meantime \$1,000,000 is asked for to be used by the State Normal Schools for the purpose of training teachers to be avail- able in the secondary industrial schools, when such are established. The amounts appropriated by the Federal Government are to be distributed by the States, and will run as follows: the State of New York, \$1,000,000; California, \$900,000; and 200,000 for each of the other States, in addition to the Federal ap- propriation. The bill also provides that the States are to be held responsible for educational in- struction in agriculture and home economics in the secondary schools, and that the Federal Govern-

Forward Agricultural Policy Needed.

From time to time, lately, rumblings have been heard of discontent with the progress of Canadian, and more especially Ontario, agriculture. Think- ers have realized that, despite our boasted ad- vancement in this, that or the other line, produc- tion has been increasing slowly, or actually falling back. Westward migration has drawn away many of the tillers of the soil, others have gone to the cities, and many of those who remained have shown a disheartening indifference about utilizing the expanding opportunities which unprecedented prices, combined with favorable climate and fer- tile soil, held out to the enterprising husbandman. C. C. James, the alert and far-sighted Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, has been sounding this note in his addresses, and pointing out the urgent need, from a Provincial and na- tional standpoint, of developing our basic indus- try by every effective means available, but public opinion has been slow to grasp the situation. Now comes a thunderbolt from one of our leading business men, J. W. Flavelle, of Toronto, whose open letter to the Provincial Minister of Agricul- ture, published in full in last week's issue, should set some gray matter working.

Mr. Flavelle is no political agitator or dema- gogue. Indeed, his well-known political leanings effectively dispose of any suspicion of attempt to make party capital. It is no matter of politics at all. True, he has an interest, though a very proper one, in certain lines of farm production. But he is a broad gauge business man, who per- ceives the importance of the agricultural industry, has been alarmed at the recent drift of things, and desires to make a contribution which may be of service in calling attention to the "greatest single asset we have in Ontario, namely, the pos- sibility of improved returns from the farms of the Province." That is an admirable motive, and let us state right here that, in the discussion, if any, that follows his communication, we shall re- fuse to print any letter imputing ignoble motives, or any letter that is not evidently inspired by a sincere desire to contribute constructively to the discussion of the question.

Briefly, his contention is that the encouraging progress in agricultural production, shown by of- ficial returns for the last ten, as compared with the previous seventeen years, seems to have been arrested during the latter half of the past decade, this being indicated in pro rata yields, as well as in acreage. While the hay acreage has increased, there has been a general reduction in most lines of production which demand labor and intelligent, discriminating effort. Extensive farming is being adopted, and many farmers, instead of investing their savings in their own farms, are putting them in the bank at three per cent. interest, for enter- prising manufacturers to use, earning handsome returns for their shareholders. Meanwhile, the farmer is content to have undrained land, use run- out seed, keep poor cows, and reduce production of beef cattle and hogs. Underproduction has become a chronic condition, entailing on the con- sumer burdensome prices which restrict consump- tion. Other causes assigned for this underproduc- tion are an excessive westward migration that has not been countered as it should be by an effective publicity campaign in the interest of the East, an unfortunate cityward tendency still exerted by our country schools, and finally, a lack of energetic, capable leadership in the Department of Agricul- ture at Toronto. In certain respects he scarcely does justice to the advancement we are making, notably the improvement of quality in our classes and better sanitation of factories, the production of alfalfa hay, building of silos, and growing of alfalfa and corn. In the main, however, his criticisms are only too well applied.

It is much of Mr. Flavelle's analysis, however, that has not stated the whole case. He has not mentioned certain phases of our agricul- ture that ought to be mentioned. He could not well say that the farmer is content to have undrained land, for the farmer is not content to have undrained land, but he is content to have undrained land, use run-out seed, keep poor cows, and reduce production of beef cattle and hogs. Underproduction has become a chronic condition, entailing on the con- sumer burdensome prices which restrict consump- tion. Other causes assigned for this underproduc- tion are an excessive westward migration that has not been countered as it should be by an effective publicity campaign in the interest of the East, an unfortunate cityward tendency still exerted by our country schools, and finally, a lack of energetic, capable leadership in the Department of Agricul- ture at Toronto. In certain respects he scarcely does justice to the advancement we are making, notably the improvement of quality in our classes and better sanitation of factories, the production of alfalfa hay, building of silos, and growing of alfalfa and corn. In the main, however, his criticisms are only too well applied.

increased cost of production on the farm owing to artificially enhanced cost of living, implements and wages, is bound to have its effect, and has had. A gradual but radical reduction in protective tar-iffs would do much to improve the farmer's eco- nomic position, without imposing any burden on the other classes.

Rather, perhaps, to a desire for brevity and clearness, than to a lack of understanding, must we attribute failure to specify certain of the causes that retard rural enterprise, namely, the isolation of country life, and the fact that agri- culture is managed by the rank and file of those engaged in it, in contrast to manufacturing, which is directed by a few of the brightest minds, with hundreds of others working under them. For this and other reasons we may probably never expect the same average of enterprise and economy in agriculture that we do in manufacturing; and this is said in full recognition of the thrift—ofttimes penurious thrift—manifested in personal habits and purchases. Investment is often the true economy. The above allowances it is only just to make.

Mr. Flavelle would also seem to have over- looked the fact that the condition of under-produc- tion and high prices is by no means confined to Ontario, but is as wide as the civilized world. Here, of course, comes in the effect of expanded gold coinage in cheapening dollars and inversely increasing the nominal value of things purchased with dollars. Rapid increase in consumption of choice food products, such as meats, has also had a marked effect. Indeed, in Canada, as well as elsewhere, the rise in prices has been more par- ticularly due to largely increased demand, rather than decreased production. However, whatever the causes, these high prices spell opportunity in large letters to the Canadian farmer, and some- thing is surely asked that we are not responding more promptly and energetically thereto.

The keynote of the solution, so far as solution is possible to the Department of Agriculture, is struck in the demand for widespread local demon- stration. Research work in agriculture has been by no means exhausted, only the fringe has been touched in fact; but we know enough to do far better than we are doing. What is needed is more demonstration both locally and at our public ex- periment stations. Some departments of these are doing good work, others are taking it easy, and letting the old ship drift. This is true, by the way, in both Federal and Provincial insti- tutions. Experimental and demonstration work in foreign stations must be duplicated in Canada. Old experiments must be repeated in the light of changed conditions. The economy of improved seed, better stock, close selection of stock, more economical feeding, the value of manure, the value of extra labor applied to fields and orchards, com- parison of rotation and cultural methods, these and a hundred other things we must keep experi- menting away upon, and demonstrating with the irresistible logic of results. Some excellent work is being accomplished at Guelph, but some of the departments are in need of a vigorous shaking-up.

Then we must carry this demonstration work out into every county and township, repeating it where it will do the most good. And, by the way, what about the outcome of the horse invest- ment which was expected to result in some system of stallion enrollment? Is the Govern- ment afraid to take action, for fear of incurring unpopularity?

Close to this, of it, what forward movement in this consequence has been launched by the De- partment of Agriculture since the present Minister assumed office? The late Mr. Bryden led the De- partment, and led it capably. Mr. Montebello, his successor, was diligent and earnest, but the present system of dairy instruc- tion has been neglected and taken over by the Department of Education, other good lines of work have been neglected, inaugurated. The Department of Agriculture manifested that it was not going to bring him down at all. It is a pity to think of a man whose de- sires to be a respectable character, and who is politically strong in the