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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE  
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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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 coincident solution, that a "new education" is demanded for the farm. It may be costly, and it may be difficult, but it cannot be evaded. Seeing his efforts handicapped by the public-school system, 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.

In the United States, a situation somewhat similar to that existing in Canada is developing. It has been brought to issue by the Doolittle Davis Bill before Congress, which provides for the appropriation annually of \$4,000,000 per annum for instruction in agriculture and home economies 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 counties and fraction of counties. Another appropriation of \$5,000,000 is asked for, to be used in High Schools for the maintenance of instruction in trades and industries, and agriculture, in public schools of secondary grade. These appropriations, however, will not be available till July 1st, 1913, 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 available for the secondary industrial school, which is proposed. The amounts appropriated by the Federal Government are to be distributed by the State Government, and it will, as is possible, the State Normal Schools, the State Agricultural High School, and four trade schools, in addition to the industrial schools, and the agricultural schools. The Federal Government is, in respect to education, not only the largest contributor, but the poorest, and the poorest contributor to the education of the people.

From time to time, lately, rumblings have been heard of discontent with the progress of Canadian, and more especially Ontario, agriculture. Thinkers have realized that, despite our boasted advancement in this, that or the other line, production 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 fertile 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 national standpoint, of developing our basic industry 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 Agriculture, published in full in last week's issue, should set some gray matter working.

Mr. Flavelle is no political agitator or demagogue. Indeed, his well-known political leanings effectually 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 perceives 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 possibility 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 refuse 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 official 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 enterprising 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 consumer burdensome prices which restrict consumption. Other causes assigned for this underproduction are an excessive Westward migration that has not been countered as it should be by an energetic 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 Agriculture at Toronto. In certain respects he scarcely does justice to the advancement we are making, notably the improvement of quality in our cheese and better sanitation of factories, the procuring of underdrainage, building of silos, and growing of alfalfa and corn. In the main, however, his picture is only too well applied.

On the 20th of March Mr. Lavelle, and his colleagues, have not stated the whole of the alleged asserted untrue phrases, except what is in the charge. He could not well avoid this, as it is the only part that the court has heard of, and it is the only paper that has been produced. He might have produced a paper, or other, which would have shown that the charge was untrue, but he has not done so.

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 tariffs would do much to improve the farmer's economic 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 agriculture 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 or 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 truest economy. The above allowances it is only just to make.

Mr. Flavelle would also seem to have overlooked the fact that the condition of underproduction 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 particularly 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 something 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 demonstration. 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 experiment 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 institutions. 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, comparison of rotation and cultural methods, these and a hundred other things we must keep experimenting 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.

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 investigation which was expected to result in some sort of stallion enrollment? Is the Government afraid to take action, for fear of inciting the people to tax?

There to think of it, what forward movement of the consequence has been launched by the Department of Agriculture since the present Minister assumed office? The late Mr. Dryden led the best of the way, and led it capably. Mr. Montebello, I must say, was diligent and earnest, but he was the worst system of dairy instruction that has ever been developed and taken over by the Government, and among other good lines of work, the dairy industry, inaugurated. He was not the constituency manifested to a man, and he was putting him down at the time of the election, that Sir James Wilson was the best of a man whose character was a respectable character, and who was a man of a noble and noble stream, and