

Farm Life and Character.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Have read with interest the comments on "Farm vs. Railroad Life," probably two of the most important industries in Canada, and it is a question, no doubt, in the minds of a great many young men as to which line or work would be best to follow. Of course, it is a problem each one has to solve for himself. Very few are surrounded by like circumstances, and, then, it should be considered how we are gifted to do our best work, as to whether it should be on railroad or farm. To some, the hustle-bustle noise of the railroad is like music on their ears, whereas the quiet sound of the plow turning a smooth, straight furrow is music to others.

The wages and money should be a secondary consideration, I think. If a fellow takes no pleasure out of his work, but does it just for the money that is in it, it becomes drudgery. Of course, I understand "Farmer's Son" is comparing the wages of farm and railroad life. Supposing he earns more on the railway, maybe he sells his time cheaper than on the farm, because the average railwayman dies ten years younger than a farmer, barring accidents. But, aside from this, if a fellow feels called to the work on the railroad, that is where he ought to go. It ought to be the ambition of every young man to find the work for which he is adapted. There have been numbers of men who had farms given to them when young, and were no farther ahead and perhaps in debt at fifty, either through mismanagement, or because they had missed their calling; whereas, I think the majority of successful farmers of to-day have paid for their farms themselves. Of course, a good start may be all right, but why couldn't father and son come to an understanding and work together more profitably, if they invested the money that the son would get in wages in farm or farm stock, with the father's experience, than if the son put his wages in the bank?

"Farmer's Son" says that a great many farmers' sons have nothing at the age of twenty-five. Probably he forgets that he has had the chance of building a clean, strong character, infinitely more valuable than a farm or bank account without it. And I maintain that the farm is a better place to keep such a character than the railroad, especially for young men from eighteen to twenty years of age. Of course, there are a lot of fine fellows on the railroad, but these are the ones who have the stability of character to keep on the clear track. PLUS ULTRA.

Huron Co., Ont.

The June-beetle Plague.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am in receipt of your letter in reference to the occurrence of June bugs in some sections of Middlesex County. In view of the great abundance of the larvae of this insect, the White Grubs, in the region mentioned, this plague of adult beetles is not surprising. Such swarms of June, or May, bugs are well known in severely-infested localities in Europe. Their great abundance will certainly result in the laying of enormous numbers of eggs on grass and other land, and the necessity of farmers employing measures to combat the resulting white grubs is apparent. On account of its prolonged life-history, which usually extends over three seasons, it is a most difficult insect to attack, and any measures that are employed must be repeated for at least two seasons. The only measures which have so far given satisfactory results are methods of cultivation and a system of short rotation of crops. Deep plowing in the fall will bring up large numbers of hibernating grubs. Pigs and poultry may be turned in, and will feed on the exposed grubs. This should be repeated a second year. Where the infestation is severe, cross-plowing is to be recommended. Clover appears to be more immune than most crops, and it may be sown on the land, and then plowed under in the following fall. Two fall-plowings, therefore, with an intermediate crop of clover, will result in the destruction of a very large number of the grubs. Where the adult June beetles occur in large numbers, every effort should be made to destroy them. In Europe, the trees are sprayed with arsenical sprays, and, where orchards have been thoroughly sprayed before the emergence of the beetles, as will be the case if a system of spraying were in vogue, large numbers of beetles would be killed, and the foliage saved to a very great extent. This is one of the most serious insects we have to combat, as it is injurious in both stages of its life-history. As a white grub it destroys pasture crops, and as a June bug it defoliates trees wholesale.

I should be grateful if those of your readers in the infested section, who have suffered from this plague, would send me particulars as to time of emergence, the trees that are attacked, and any notes as to its previous occurrence, as all these facts are of use to us in investigating this insect.

C. GORDON HEWITT,
Dominion Entomologist.

A Water System for a Dairy Barn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There are a great many different systems adopted in our dairy barns to-day for the watering of our dairy cows, but the one which I will endeavor to describe is among the cheapest and simplest I have yet seen. The individual basin plan is objected to by some because of being too expensive; also the elevated trough running in front of the cows, for being too cumbersome, and accumulating too much dirt. The old plan of pumping water by hand, although the cheapest, is entirely too slow, and takes too much time, which to the farmer means money.

Most of the modern stable floors are now being built of cement, it being the easiest kept clean, and standing much longer than a plank floor. When putting in a cement floor, a good water system can be put in at the same time by building a cement trough in front of the manger, and below the slope where the feed runs. This trough can be made any desired size, and can be



Walter S. Stith Standing on the Right.

Has ten children to feed and clothe. He is a great hunter, as well as a great farmer in New Ontario.

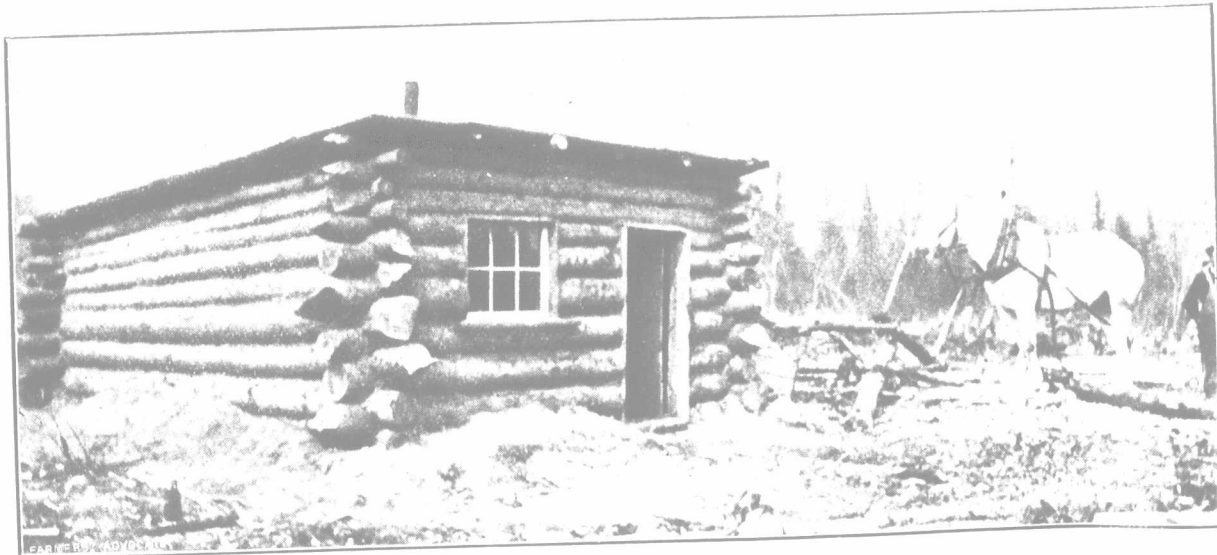
kept filled with fresh water fed from a tank at one end of the stable, the water being pumped into this tank by windmill, or, where practicable, coming directly from a spring, which is on a higher level than the barn. If there are two rows of stalls in the stable, the water can be made to come in at the head of one row of cattle and flow down to the other end; then, by means of piping, or by cement trough, cross over to head of cattle on the other side, flow down in opposite direction to the same end of stable, and at other side of barn from which it came in, an outlet can be made.

In making the feed slide to manger, instead of having boards run lengthwise, have boards cut of matched lumber the desired length, placed at an angle of about fifty degrees, and nailed to scantling at bottom and top of slide. If stalls are single, have one board (if double, two) left unnailed, and made so that it will slide up and down freely. It takes but a few minutes time thrice daily, or before feeding, to go along each row of cattle and pull up those boards, let the cattle drink what water they want, then go around and slide them down again. Small buttons may be put at top of each board to keep cows from shoving boards up themselves. Care must be taken to build those troughs entirely level, so that water will not run too freely; also, inlets and outlets must be the same size; and provision made to keep dirt out of them. This system can be made to supply water to any number of cattle in any size of barn.

J. H. STARK.

Peterboro Co., Ont.

Minnesota has sent out eight agricultural trains this spring which have succeeded in awakening the interest of all classes of business throughout that State.



Just Starting.

Has 400 acres free, wife and family. Now has a horse. Starting without money in New Ontario.

Agriculture in New Ontario.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In discussing "Agriculture in New Ontario," I shall have special reference to Thunder Bay and Rainy River Districts, of which I have had twelve years' experience. Port Arthur is the judicial capital of Thunder Bay District. Kenora is the judicial capital of Rainy River District. These two districts are noted in many respects. They cover about 90,000 square miles of territory, extending from Fort Arthur and Port William to the Manitoba boundary, and from the Minnesota boundary to Hudson's Bay. There are about 73,800,000 acres of land; this includes the numerous lakes found within this territory.

There are several ways of going to these districts from the east. First, the Canadian Pacific Railway, from Toronto, Hamilton, London, and Ottawa. A home-seeker's rate can be obtained from Windsor for United States settlers for the small sum of \$13.00. Second, people destined for these districts can come via Northern Navigation Company S. S. from Sarnia, or via Canadian Pacific S. S. from Owen Sound. This is a delightful trip. Then, people who wish to come to these districts from the United States, may come by boat from Duluth, the Northern Navigation Co. and the Booth Line boats. This is a delightful trip along the north shore of Lake Superior. Americans can also come in now by two railway lines to Fort Frances, which is located at the head of the celebrated Rainy River. In this Rainy River Valley we have a most remarkable stretch of valuable agricultural land. It extends from Fort Frances to Rainy River town, a distance of eighty miles, and the good land extends back from the Rainy River for from ten to forty miles. We have numerous people coming into this portion of New Ontario from North and South Dakota. They can come in via the Canadian Northern Railway.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

The soil is almost exclusively alluvial clay, light-brown. Beds of gravel are rare, and never deep. Outcroppings of rock seldom occur, but they occur more frequently in the townships next to the Height of Land. The rivers flow in deep channels, with banks 20 feet to 60 feet high. So easily is the clay dissolved in water that the banks are changing yearly. Receding from the river, a flat of one-half to one mile is found. After that comes a rise of 30 to 60 feet; and, lastly, is found the table-land, which comprises perhaps 80 per cent. of the total area. There is no table-land in the Rainy River Valley. As stated above, this is a wide valley, extending back ten to forty miles, rising gently all the way. In fact, it is about as level as prairie. All of our valley soil is a rich deposit. I have seen the soil taken from a depth of fifty feet and placed on the surface, and after exposure to the sun and air for a year or so, was found to be just as productive as the soil on the surface.

I had the pleasure of exploring the Slate River Valley ten years ago, also the White Fish River Valley. My first impression of this valley was not favorable. Leaving the water-edge, the flat extended on either side from a half to a mile in width. The bluffs did not impress me. This river valley was soon filled with settlers. We then went back on the plateau, which extended back about two miles. It was not long until we were on the table-land, where to-day our finest farms are found. One settler, in order to cut his new crop of hay, purchased a double-action mower. No finer land can be found for agricultural purposes.

COVERED WITH FOREST.

The whole district, in its untouched state, is covered with thick forest. The trees prevail in the following order: Spruce, balsam, poplar, Balm of Gilead, tamarack, white birch, pine and cedar. The undergrowth consists of swamp alder, moose maple, mountain ash, ground hemlock, raspberries. The timber is large near the