

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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they were lacking in that respect. One comprehensive plan was ruled out because it existed only in conception. Measurements were lacking in some cases, and in one case only the basement plan was given. All these things had weight in determining the decision. Clearness of plan and of description also counted for a good deal. The difference in this regard will not be apparent in the neat engravings reproduced from the artist's redrawings.

The chief difficulty with the nineteen excellent barn plans received was not in discovering those that were worthy of a prize, but in deciding which were the most worthy. "Farmer's Advocate" readers will doubtless be able to get valuable suggestions from the published results of the hard study of practical men which appear in this issue.

Constructive Politics for the Farmer.

The attitude of public men to agriculture is a fair subject for consideration when Federal and Provincial Parliaments are assembled to discharge their legislative functions. In Canada, so peculiarly fitted for agricultural pursuits by nature and the traditions of its people, the relation, speaking broadly, is favorable. At the political picnic, or in the conventional address of welcome, it may become perfunctory, but at periods like the present in the country's development, it is the tangible expression that counts if progressive measures are to be kept in right relation with the comparative importance of the industries concerned. The oldest of the country is yet new, and covers half a mighty continent with almost every possible condition of soil and climate. We are embarked in every branch of agriculture, and must cope with an illimitable array of pests, including weeds and diseases. Our own population, and other peoples looking largely to Canada for supplies, are becoming more exacting as to the condition and quality of their food and raiment. Already, the nation of 80,000,000 people south of us proclaim their approaching inability to feed themselves, and Great Britain will take

more, rather than less. The demands of militarism and industrialism make Germany hungry. To develop and conserve is, therefore, the dual problem of Canada.

Other nations are tremendously alert, and we cannot lag. They are gathering by scores and hundreds our brightest and best-trained young men into their service, as competitors with Canada. Will it not pay this undeveloped Dominion to keep them here, and compensate them adequately, when there is work pressing for the doing in institutions or agencies devoted to agricultural education and research? Some of our good people can hardly be satisfied as to the extent we should go in naval equipment; we are erecting baronial palaces for art and curios, and manning without stint public departments perhaps distantly utilitarian. There can be little doubt, as was pointed out at one of the sessions of the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture, by M. S. Schell, M. P., the chairman, not long ago, that the wealth which comes to the country through agriculture is vastly more than that which comes from the expenditure of millions in other ways that receive popular approval and the approbation of public bodies. Is it not, then, absurd and humiliating that agriculture should have to go begging at times for adequate recognition in the National or Provincial estimates for public service? We cheese-pare over a few thousands, and hand out millions with alacrity. The time has come for a regenerated public sentiment on this question.

By way of illustration: The Province of Ontario has specially qualified men, graduates of the Agricultural College, representing the Department of Agriculture in less than a dozen counties out of nearly half a hundred, and the work of some of these men has already been a stimulus to agricultural education, and of much value to their districts, and in some cases to the whole Province. Would it not pay Ontario a handsome dividend to have three or four times as many of these men at work promoting promising lines of agriculture in their respective localities, and keeping the Department at Toronto and the Agricultural College in direct touch with the situation? The judging schools, special classes and demonstration work carried on by them is a wholesome incentive, particularly to young men.

Take another case: To protect the health and business interests of the people, we are building up with infinite care and ability, with headquarters at Ottawa, an efficient meat and food inspection and health of animals service, covering all Canada and all packing establishments having an export or interprovincial trade. Disputes or differences of judgment arise locally as to cases of carcasses condemned by inspectors, or regarding coloring matter or other materials used by manufacturers. Portions must be sent for determination to Ottawa. Then, again, great quantities of serum, in specific doses, ready for injection, are made and distributed to detect and combat tuberculosis and anthrax in cattle, or glanders in horses, and so on. For a work of such vast importance, there is, by the Central Exp. Farm, at Ottawa, a modest little laboratory doing splendid work with the means at hand. But will our readers credit the statement that the staff consists of one man, an assistant, and the caretaker? They are already crowded for space, and the analytical work is sent over to the Chemist of the Experimental Farm, who has his hands full of other problems. Additional cases might be cited where work is already pressing for the services of experts, and avenues of fresh endeavor open for the promotion of agriculture. We believe that the public sense will sustain the Minister of Agriculture and his chiefs in a well-considered and decidedly aggressive policy.

In the House of Commons and Senate there is a substantial—and, by the way, there should be more of them—body of men associated in their private capacity directly with farming. At every available opportunity, these men, together with those of other professions representing almost purely agricultural constituencies, do well to make themselves felt solidly on behalf of these interests. The game of politics is engrossing, and sparring for party advantage is betimes entertaining, but on Parliament Hill, to the cursory observer, agriculture does not receive the unprejudiced attention

of the rank and file of M. P.'s that it should. Disinterested observers are thinking that much precious time is spent by men figuring as debating leaders in the doubtful political game of simply discrediting each other. We trust that such cases will grow more exceptional as they are frowned down on both within and without Parliament, and that we shall see a steadily-growing body of fearless, independent sentiment in support of constructive measures in the interests of agriculture, such as the Search for Information, Conservation, Demonstration, Transportation and Marketing.

City vs. Country Life.

BY ONE WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE OF BOTH.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

You ask for observations regarding city vs. country life, and the outlook for men of energy, etc., on the farms and orchards of Ontario.

The question is being asked just now seriously. What are the causes of the increased prices of all farm products? The principal causes are the general poor results of unscientific farming, and the desire to live in cities and towns. This desire applies to all classes.

One can say we can understand why the rich gravitate to the city, with its varied advantages of social life, pleasure, education, and the ostentatious display and rivalry of wealth, but cannot understand why the poorest class, the laborer, the artisan, the farm hand, do; but human nature is pretty much the same in all classes. They desire more social life and pleasure than is obtained in the country.

It is almost incomprehensible to understand the discontent, or, rather, the desire of the poor to live in villages, town or cities. A mill-owner in the country north of Toronto, offering a big wage for a night watchman, told the writer he never could retain one for any length of time. Their repeated statement was, "It was too lonely; they would rather starve in Toronto than keep the position." A large manufacturer, just outside of Toronto, informed the writer that he had great difficulty in obtaining labor, and had always to pay higher wages than in the city. The writer has difficulty in getting labor from a nearby village.

How to change this desire for urban life is a problem. Probably it can be slowly accomplished by such papers as "The Farmer's Advocate" and others proving that, for the greater majority of young men who do not inherit fortune by the accident of birth, a competency for old age can be more easily obtained in the cultivation of the land, and with less mental strain, than in city life. It will also be necessary to instill into the rural community a higher ideal of living and social life. It is evident that in the cities, with the concentration of labor and immense capital in large manufacturing plants and large departmental stores, with their thousands of employees in one concern, there is no future for the great majority of the employees. With the disappearance of small factories and small independent storekeepers, the day has disappeared for a moderate competency for the many. It is the day for large fortunes for the very few, and the treadmill for life for the many in the cities.

In business, the management is always seeking to reduce cost, and increase profits by every economy and improvement of profit, but in Canadian farming there is much waste—waste of manure in the barnyard, left for months to be leached by rain and weather; waste of time when necessary draining could be done, increasing the profit of the farm in greater yields of crops and value of the farm. The net profit could be further increased in farming and orcharding by the judicious application of more labor and turning under of clovers.

In comparison: In business, even if one has capital, there is no assured success, but without it, it is almost impossible. Cash discounts, ranging from 12 to 20 per cent. interest per annum for the cash buyer, almost precludes success to those buying on time. Whereas, in agriculture, if one has a little capital, supplemented with certain virtues, as common sense, industry, sobriety and economy, every one should be able to succeed, and gain a competency for the "glorious purpose of being independent."

If a young man has extra ability, and a predilection for business or the professions, let him try it. There is a greater goal for a few, no doubt.

In the country, the social life could be improved by the farmer building a house on his place for a married hired man; this would be more agreeable and satisfactory to the employee, as well as to the employer, and his family. The farmer's house could always, at but little expense, be made more comfortable, by having a bathroom, etc., with hot-water attachment to boiler on kitchen stove. The future house should be built near the main road, with