

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

The land should be made to produce live stock, and the crops to feed them. There is no better method of insuring a full crop from the soil than by feeding animals on that soil. Are you going to sell your feed this winter, or will you feed it on your farm? Feed prices are high, but robbing the soil is poor economy.

There can be no doubt that the stock farmer must look for his profit to the manure heap. In a year like the present, much larger cash return could be obtained from the sale of grain and hay than from the conversion of these into milk at a cent and a quarter a pound, or meat at six cents. But the inevitable fact stares one in the face, that such a policy must eventuate in diminished yields and unprofitable cropping. The difference between profitable and unprofitable cropping represents the value of manure. That value, calculated on a ton basis, must be high. Under ordinary Eastern conditions, manure at a dollar a ton in the field is reckoned too low.

An esteemed correspondent, in a letter incidentally commending the suggestions of the article in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," regarding the regeneration of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, favors the gradual employment of more specialists on the staff of the Experimental Farms in connection with the work of crop and cultural methods. The advantage of specializing on some one grain, he points out, is illustrated by the success of Dr. Chas. E. Saunders in producing the Marquis spring wheat, "which," he adds, "is worth more to Canada than all the salary he will ever receive," accomplished by concentrating his efforts on the improvement of wheat for Canadian soil and climate. The wheat in question is a beardless variety, very much like Red Fife, but earlier in ripening, producing flour of the same excellent quality, and producing large crops. The kernels are smaller than Red Fife. It is the result of a cross of a wheat procured from India and Red Fife.

It is said that there never was a time when Canada's agriculture was so progressive and on such a firm basis as it is at present. It is true, however, that there never was a time when other enterprises were more progressive than during the first decade of the twentieth century. Is agriculture keeping pace with the vast strides being made by commercial enterprises? Are all things being done which might be done to further the calling in which the major portion of our population is engaged? There never was a time in the history of the world when larger returns could be made from the farms of the country than at the present. There never was a time when honest endeavor, coupled with a scientific and practical knowledge of the business, causing intelligent application of approved principles, yielded more handsome returns than at the present. Agriculture is not dead—far from it. Yet, there are many places in which much work could be done to promote the interests of farming communities. Our Governments should realize that, in furthering the interests of the agriculturists, they are doing good to the most people, and at the same time to the people who form the backbone of our country.

## Greater Agricultural Advancement Possible.

WHY NOT A DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE IN EVERY COUNTY IN ONTARIO?

There are at the present time, in eighteen of the counties of the Province of Ontario, District Offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and during the summer months some three or four of the northern districts were favored with the services of a Representative. The men in charge of these offices are all graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, and men who, previous to their scientific training, have had a more or less wide experience in practical agriculture. These men are, as Dr. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College very aptly terms them, real "Doctors of Agriculture." They, with their assistants, who also are scientifically trained, practical men, are prepared to render first aid and permanent cures in some of the prevalent ills from which agriculture suffers. Dr. Creelman also compares the changing of the heads of these offices with the changing of the family physician. Everyone knows that a medical man is helped very materially in his diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of an illness if he has an intimate acquaintance with the condition of the vital organs of the body of his patient, such an acquaintance resulting from years of the practice of his profession in the family of the ailing subject. Just so with the Agricultural Representative. He opens an office in a small town in the country. He is in the best position to study the condition of everything which pertains to agriculture in that county. He is on the spot, and should know what is needed. He grows up with the work and teaches the application of science in practice. He aids in curing sour and wet soils by inducing the owners to underdrain. He can make himself a strong factor in successfully combating the various insects and diseases of the different fruit trees by advocating thorough spraying, which restores the trees to health and vigor, and the fruit borne by them is free from blemishes. He can advance up-to-date methods of weed eradication of much worry and labor. He is a recognized authority on the best methods in all agriculture, and instills into the youth of his district a love for farm work and a desire to obtain all the scientific information they can, in order that they may get the most out of life financially and, better yet, out of life itself. It is, therefore, important that a man, after becoming thoroughly conversant with a district, understanding its needs and knowing the people, should be retained in that district, even though a little more salary be required to hold him.

The Agricultural Representative may be ever so ready to help those engaged in agriculture in his district, but his work will achieve little if he does not secure the co-operation of the people. The real work is, after all, done by the men on the farms, but, in aiding in the education of these men, the Agricultural Representative will in time see the results of his labors, provided the people make the best use of their opportunity and act upon the useful suggestions which he is in a position to throw out from time to time. To make a success of the work, the Representative must be a live, energetic man, not afraid of work, one who believes in agriculture, and one who is ready to devote his life to it.

There are in our fair Province nearly fifty counties, every one of which is of great agricultural importance to the Province and to the Dominion.

When we look at the good work being done in the counties already boasting of an Agricultural Representative, and when we know that they form only a trifle over a third of the counties in the Province, we wonder why the work is not extended more rapidly. There is no reason why each and every county and district which goes to make up this great agricultural Province should not have one, aye, even more than one of these men, for the work is a great work, and a work which demands the attention of the best of our agricultural brains.

Education is one great need of humanity, and the rural population is just as deserving of attention in this direction as are the urban business men. The one best method of educating is by practical demonstration. These men do that. Every county is in need of the information which these men can distribute. It will cost a little to carry on the work, but the cost is not large compared with the increased returns from the farms which will be the ultimate outcome of sound agricultural education. Anything of real value cannot be had for nothing. The best horse, the best machine, in fact the best article of any description, is usually the most economical in the long run, even if its initial cost is high. These men are the best graduates of the best agricultural college, and they will do the best work in the interests of the communities in which they are placed that can be hoped to be done. Let us hope, then, that the time will soon come when every county in Ontario will be able to say, "We have a scientific agriculturist in our county town who is doing great work in the advancement of our cause. He is filled with a contagious enthusiasm, and by his untiring efforts is proving a boon to the county's agriculture."

## The Terror of Dust.

That "The Farmer's Advocate" was well within the mark some time ago in commenting upon the annoyance and injury arising from automobile dust in the summer season, is forcibly brought to mind by a recent article in the New York Independent. As the speed of the cars increases, the road filth is ground and caught up, till the dust-laden air is not only disagreeable to breathe, but positively dangerous, being flung over roadsides, gardens, and into houses. "One who has no personal knowledge of the danger," says the Independent, "will be astonished at an exhibition of common road dust through spectroscopic analysis. Mineral and vegetable poisons rival each other. The dust-laden air, at five feet above the roadway, in a dust storm, contains, we are told, 200,000 micro-organisms to every ten liters. One thousand horses, in every working day of eight hours, deposit ten tons of manure and five hundred gallons of urine. These substances constitute only a fraction of the poisonous fouling of highway dust, a considerable part of which is picked up by the flying wheels and scattered over the gardens and door-yards. It is estimated that, taking one hundred dry days in a year, 50,000,000 tons of material are thus swept out of the streets and placed where most of it is not wanted."

So bad has the nuisance become that, if some effective measures are not taken for the making of dustless roads or the abatement of the automobile evil, householders will be forced to build further back from the roads and streets and cultivate the growth of lofty, dust-proof hedges to protect their homes.