The

# Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED." ESTABLISHED 1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XL LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., FEBRUARY 23, 1905 No. 648

## EDITORIAL.

### What of the Agricultural High School?

Several correspondents have recently suggested, through the "Farmer's Advocate," the possibility of the agricultural high school taking a place in the Canadian system of education. According to the New York Independent, the agricultural high school has already passed its experimental stage in the United States, and its efforts are meeting with a success, perhaps, unlooked for by those who watched the first venture with incredulity.

The first schools of this kind were established in Minnesota, their object being avowedly to fit farmers' sons and daughters for successful farm life, although, from the first, it was recognized that they would accomplish a secondary and most important result, viz., that of acting as feeders to the agricultural colleges, just as the ordinary high schools act as feeders to the ordinary colleges and universities.

As it was necessary to provide a course of study at once broad enough for culture, and specialized enough to give a thorough training along agricultural lines, there was much revision in regard to the curriculum, which, as finally crystallized in the schools of Minnesota, stands as follows: One-third of the studies are purely academic, another third is devoted to those sciences that underlie agriculture, botany, entomology, etc., and the last deals with all the practical affairs of farm life, land cultivation, live stock, draining, care of farm machinery, dairying, domestic science, etc., etc. In all, the aim is to cause the students to do as much individual investigation as possible, mere book-learning being set aside as often as may be in favor of more vital methods.

So far, the work of the schools seems to be proving of worth. If it be true that imitation is the sincerest compliment, then has the Minnesota venture been complimented, for similar schools have been established in North Dakota, Oklahama, Nebraska and elsewhere, while in other places the work of the consolidated rural schools is being extended to cover the same ground. In all of these places the attendance is said to be very large, and the interest amounting even to enthusiasm. At Winona Lake, Ind., which is taken as typical, ninety-two boys were enrolled the very first session. It is interesting, and decidedly suggestive, to note that, of these, the great majority came from the city.

After finishing the course, the great majority of the students go directly back to the farms. It is estimated that about ten per cent. are likely to go on to the agricultural colleges, where they will be fitted as teachers for other agricultural colleges and schools, as practical foresters, editors of agricultural journals, etc.

It may be a long time before agricultural high schools make their appearance in Canada. At the same time, it does not appear that extension classes, and special classes on agriculture in our high schools, should be beyond the pale of practicability, involving, as they do, little more complicated than the placing of competent teachers of agriculture in schools already existent. Upon many occasions special classes in agriculture would not be necessary, as plant problems of the farm might be easily incorporated with the regular botany lessons, live-stock questions with those in zoology, etc.

At all events, it seems evident that no stone should be left unturned by the people of Canada to provide for a better agricultural education for their sons and daughters. It is necessary to prepare for other professions, why not for that of farming? If it be true, as Prof. Hays has said, that "graduates trained in agricultural high schools will develop all over the State model farms and model rural homes," it would seem that the said agricultural schools, or, at least, classes which shall to some degree embody them, were a "consummation devoutly to be wished."

### The Development of the Danish Egg Industry.

The Danes again, we say. Yes, they captured the British market for butter, and very shortly after their bacon also took the lead there, and from their foremost position in that market in these two products they have never been ousted by any competitor. Such care do they take in the preparation of their products for the market, such a high quality and even grade of goods have they succeeded in producing that the brand "Danish" has come to be accepted by the English people as synonymous with first-class goods and honest grading. And now they have gone into the egg business, and so profitable has it proved, and so rapidly has it increased, that it bids fair soon to equal their butter and bacon trade.

Prof. W. J. Kennedy, of Iowa State Agricultural College, whose letters in the "Farmer's Advocate" last year our readers will remember with pleasure, while on his European tour, made extensive and careful enquiries into the methods pursued by the Danes in the preparation of their goods for export, and the volume of their trade, and from what he says we quote the following from the Kansas State Board of Agriculture report:

"In less than twenty years these people have captured and retained the world's market for the three leading commodities of the breakfast table, namely, butter, bacon and eggs. Co-operation is largely responsible for the premium prices which Danish products are commanding over those of other countries in the British market. If Denmark, during the year 1903, had received the same average price in the English market for her produce as did other foreign countries, she would have been $1,766,000 poorer on her butter, $4,329,000 poorer on her bacon, and $1,071,000 poorer on her eggs.

Formerly, poultry-raising was considered by Danish farmers a necessary evil, which could not be dispensed with. A few hens only were kept on every farm, that were given little or no attention. The eggs were small and not numerous, and the price less than half what is received at present. It was not until 1895, the date of the organization of the Danish Co-operative Egg Export Association, that the Danish egg industry received much attention. At that time, the value of the export of domestic eggs was less than $2,000,000. In 1896, there was a decided increase, and each succeeding year has shown a marked increase in the number of eggs exported, and also in the price obtained for the same, in comparison with those from other countries. During 1903, Denmark exported to Great Britain 38,575,570 dozen of eggs, for which she received $7,995,898 in English gold. Unlike other countries, Denmark gives but little attention to the production of poultry meat. Hens are kept for the sole purpose of egg production. Leghorns, Minorcas and Andalusians are the most popular breeds. The Danish people have discovered that an egg weighing 2.2 ounces is given preference on the English market, and they aim to send eggs of uniform size, clean in appearance, and absolutely fresh. By thus putting upon the market what the consumer wants they now receive 3.3 cents more per dozen than the average price paid to other countries.

The Danish Co-operative Egg Export Association was organized in 1895, and has at the present time a membership of more than 35,000 farmers, divided into some 500 local societies or circles, each circle being an integral part of the central company, and subject to the control and supervision of the central organization. Each circle collects, at its own expense, the eggs produced on the farms of its members, and prepares them for shipment to one of the eight general shipping centers. All eggs are purchased from farmers by weight in bulk, irrespective of size. No circle of less than ten members is admitted to membership in the association, and a fee of 13½c. per member is charged. Each circle is obliged to deliver all eggs collected from its members. All eggs must be delivered within seven days of the time they are laid. Any violation of this rule means a fine of $1.34 for first offence, and double that amount for each succeeding offence. A circle must not keep eggs longer than four days after collection before sending them to the general shipping station of the Company. All eggs must be delivered absolutely clean, and each egg must be stamped plainly, both with the number of the circle and with the number of the member of the circle delivering the eggs. The circles provide their members with stamps and ink for this purpose. Each member of a circle must forward all eggs produced, except those needed for home use and hatching purposes. During hot weather eggs must be gathered from the nests twice each day, and once each day during the cooler seasons. All eggs are shipped from the circles to the central shipping station in ordinary cardboard crates, packed in pine boxes of uniform size.

Upon arrival at central stations, all eggs are graded, tested and packed for shipment to the English market. The grading is done according to weight. There are six recognized classes, ranging from 1.43 to 2 pounds per dozen eggs. After being graded and inspected, the eggs are carefully and snugly packed, side by side, with nothing between them, in four layers, in pine boxes, 22 inches wide by 72 inches long, and 9 inches deep. In the bottom of the box, and between each two layers, and on the top, are placed substantial layers of clean, straight rye straw. After being nailed down, they are marked with the number of eggs, the grade, and the company's trade-mark, and sent to the ship, where they are sold by the pound, f. o. b. The Co-operative Company pays all expenses from the time the eggs leave the circles until placed on board the ship, which amounts to a trifle more than one cent per dozen. The expense of collecting the eggs from the farmers and bringing them to the circle centers is borne by the circles, and is less than half a cent per dozen. Thus the entire cost from the farm to the ship is about one and a half cents per dozen.

The bacon factories also collect eggs from farmers, a considerable business being done in pickling [illegible] Cross-water and other processes.