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EDITORIAL.

Lift Your Face Off the Grindstone.

Unremitting toil is no longer necessary to success in agriculture. Farming still requires work, faithful work, and plenty of it. Few farmers but need to be manual laborers themselves. Our business does not lend itself advantageously to an immense scale of operations, high specialization or rapid turnover. It will probably long continue to be carried on chiefly by individual husbandmen, who must themselves perform at least part of the physical exertion.

Our work is changing, nevertheless. Its drudgery is being lessened by machinery. Brains are substituting muscle, or rather substituting horse and mechanical power for human brawn. Effort is being more efficiently applied, energy economized. It must be said, though, that, as a class, we have not begun to realize the possibilities in this direction. Habit holds us to the old routine. And, in the Province of Ontario, for example, conditions have been aggravated through the rural population being far below what it should be to work the farms under cultivation to the best advantage, which has driven some into increasing the area under pasture and others into trying to do an excessive amount of physical work. A conviction persists that farmers must toil early, late, and hard. Here and there a few are breaking away from the self-slavery. Attempt is being made to reduce the hours of labor. Ultimately it works out to be a boon to the employer, who is led to change his own system of work accordingly. He makes more money than when he worked so long that he had no time to think. Surely twentieth-century invention should enable farmers and all other wealth-producers, not merely to exist, but to live, to work moderately, intelligently, and to enjoy the fruits of their labor as they go along. We believe in work. We believe in thrift and industry, but it is possible to have too much, even of good things. We believe in just enough work to sustain the world in a gradually-increasing scale of comfort. Incessant labor is no virtue. The greatest possible results for the least possible labor should be the motto of every farmer. No fear of our not having enough to do for the good of our health. If we haven't, we may help our wives.

Under the lash of necessity and the spur of the demon of toil, the human race has become addicted to the work habit, till severe exertion has come to be regarded as a chronic circumstance. Man has sweat at the plow and the forge till he had not the heart, much less the energy, to study in earnest the question whether less work, better directed, would not achieve better results. To be sure, he has made some effort to improve his condition, and it is encouraging that the more he better it, the more advance he finds possible. Herein lies a grand principle. The more leisure we employ judiciously in thinking and in travel, rest and recreation—which fits us to think the more intelligently—the less we find it necessary to toil. Which farmers in a neighborhood get ahead faster, as a rule, the ones who slave hardest, or those who work moderately with their hands, but plan wisely? The diligent workers, so long as their strength lasts, may accumulate money by sheer penuriousness, but what a life they live! Frugality is a virtue in those who must practice it to live within their means; in others it is a crime. It leads to narrowness and stultification. There are slave-drivers who by stinginess have sent their children from home. They cheese-pare and skimp, and perhaps cheat, all for a little pile of miserable lucre. The broad-gauge, intelligent

men, who adopt improved methods, who make every stroke count, who build up their farms, and perform generously their duty to their families and the communities, getting the good out of life as they go along—they are the really successful men, and they are seldom drudges. Mental energy is rarely compatible with physical exhaustion. The farmer who would work to the best advantage must have some time for reading, conversation and reflection. Step out of the rut now and then to take a look around. How can a man select the best track who is sunk so deep in the slough that he cannot survey the field? Take a day off to travel about and see things. Attend agricultural meetings when you get a chance. Read the agricultural press. No man in this generation can hope to excel his forbears by working longer hours. Shorter hours, better methods, better work, better health, a fuller life—these are the things to seek.

On one of the best-managed farms we ever saw—a dairy farm, at that—the men rose at 5 a. m., and the chores were supposed to be finished by 6 p. m. They accomplished more per man, taking the year through, than any other farm laborers we have ever seen. The men worked with a will while they did work, and the manager economized their labor. Needless to say, the business paid.

On some farms nowadays things are run the wrong way. The hired help works a limited time at the regular farm operations, besides a few chores, while the employer dogs at it early and late. He fancies it is necessary, never dreaming that, while saving at the spigot, he is wasting at the bung. The farmer's hours should be shorter, not longer, than those of his help. The former, who supplies the capital and takes the risks, works with head and hands. That his brain may be bright and clear for managing, his hands should not be too constantly employed, even in the rush of crop-saving, in haying and harvest, when hard-and-fast rules as to hours of labor are not usually observed. At this busy season, let there be breathing spells. On the other hand, the "help" may do much to make things "go," by taking a personal interest in the success of the operations of the farm, whether the farmer is on hand or not. In short, let there be a manifestation of the good old gospel of mutual helpfulness.

Lift your face from the grindstone now and then. Keep posted about your business. Take a broad outlook on life. Study the farm, and you will take a new interest in the work. Life will be better worth living. You will live more years, more days to the year, and more hours to the day. Your wife and children will find something attractive in the farm, and in the long run you will be money ahead of the neighbor who cannot see the economy of brains over muscle.

Sanitary Floors.

The Chicago packing-house revelations fasten attention upon the sanitation of all institutions where human food is prepared. While Governments and boards of health are devising ways and means for inspection and regulation, testing, tagging and branding, we are satisfied, from our own observations, that no other proviso will accomplish so much for the maintenance of cleanliness in slaughter-houses and abattoirs as the cement floor, coupled with efficient drainage. The fibrous nature of wood and the cracks and crevices of wooden floors provide a perpetual harbor for decaying animal or vegetable substances dissolved in steam and water, no matter how often or how thoroughly washed, a fact to which the oppressive effluvia of even our most scrupulously-cared-for abattoirs bear witness. The hard, im-

pervious surface of the cement floor, on the other hand, is proof against this saturation, as wood can never be, and, in the case of "ground floors," being laid on the solid earth, there is no filth-breeding space below to harbor the germs of disease and death. Cement floors and proper drainage are two conditions that municipal Boards of Health should imperatively require in all slaughter-houses. Their introduction in cheese-factory and creamery make-rooms is solving the problem of the sanitation of these institutions, and will no doubt be very generally insisted upon by the new Ontario dairy inspectors. The substitution of cement-concrete for the walls and particularly for the floors of the cattle stables of this country, was the first really efficient step taken for the improvement of their sanitary condition, to say nothing of saving the almost illimitable waste of fertility which the old system involved. When Mr. Isaac Usher started up and down the country as a pioneer missionary, preaching the gospel of cement-concrete in the construction of farm buildings, he rendered agriculture a very substantial service, forestalling, to a great extent, the "man with the muck rake" in our midst. That individual very often will have an important and necessary work to do, but nothing else will do so much to put him out of business as the cement floor.

Ontario Agricultural College Courses.

A subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate" propounds the following query, which doubtless frames the thought of quite a few intelligent farmers' sons, and is an appropriate topic for discussion at this season:

1. Is the B. S. A. course at the O. A. C. as good as the other professional courses of Toronto University; that is, from a pecuniary standpoint, after graduation?
2. Does the College send a catalogue to enquirers; if not, what are the qualifications, fees, etc., for admission?
3. What course do graduates usually pursue after obtaining their degree? E. F.

Comparing the Agricultural College degree, Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture, with the University degree, Bachelor of Arts, we recognize that the course leading to the former is a special and more or less technical training, whereas the latter is general and in greater or less degree academic. The B. S. A. course turns out men already fitted to engage in some line of life work. The Arts man finds but limited opportunities open to him, unless he takes a further course in medicine, law, or some such branch. This requires several years of expensive preparation in the prime of life before he can enter upon his life-work. Even then he finds the field crowded and the road to success a precarious one. If a doctor, he may buy himself a practice for from one to five thousand dollars, but here is an initial expense which few young Canadians can afford. If he succeeds well, he will, in all probability, make more money per year than if he had taken an Agricultural College course, but money is not everything. A man who thinks so, should choose a business of some kind, not a profession.

We believe the well-trained agricultural scientist is a better all-round practical man than is the average doctor or lawyer, and, if his tastes run at all towards the farm, his occupation will be more interesting. Comparing the intrinsic value of the B. S. A. and the B. A. courses, we should say the former is the better calculated to develop capability, character, and the sum total of the qualities that count for success in life. Its value is not very well known outside the special field of agriculture, but as it becomes better known it will grow in general esteem. It may