

\$3,500. After the deal was completed, one of the parties to the bargain suggested that with such a horse they must have a groom that understood handling him. It was therefore agreed to engage a first-class man, and, after some search, a satisfactory groom was secured, at \$75 a month and board.

Some of these same progressive farmers were members of the trustee board of the rural school to which children of the neighborhood went for instruction. They had a teacher engaged at \$30 a month, she to pay her board.

Model School Training.

I have read with much interest the excellent editorial article in your issue of February 8th on "The Training of Rural School Teachers," at the conclusion of which you invite discussion of the question whether it is better to abolish the county Model Schools or restore them under the County Boards, with the improvements that 25 years' experience of them has suggested; and, as the only article in reply I have seen was written by a teacher, I will try to contribute a few thoughts on the subject from the standpoint of a farmer.

While I believe the Ontario Government has made an honest effort to improve the educational standing of our rural communities, there are some things which I think it has overlooked, a few of which may be mentioned: First, the abnormal condition of the labor market and the great demand for bookkeepers, stenographers, etc., for which a comparatively small amount of time and money is required to prepare. Also, the great exodus to the West which is taking many of our best teachers, as well as our clergymen, professional men and farmers.

It has been said that if the trustees in Ontario schools will pay the price, the teachers would not go West; but farmers living on the high-priced worn land of Ontario cannot be expected to successfully compete with tillers of the virgin soil of the West, much of which is given to them practically free by the Federal Government. Apart from the question of salary, there seems to be a great attraction for young people in a young country, and when a teacher makes up her mind to "go West," the result is as bad for the teaching profession as if they had concluded to get married. There is no stopping them in either case.

By observing the course of study in public schools and the course required to be taken by candidates for Normal entrance, it will be seen that the public school teachers are required to learn a great deal that they will not have time or opportunity, nor will they be required to teach the pupils in a one-room school, divided, it may be, into half a dozen classes.

It is a fact easily understood that it is more expensive for children living in the country to secure the education necessary for Normal entrance standing than for children living in the city or town. Legislation raising the standard required by public-school teachers above what is absolutely necessary is therefore discriminating in favor of town-raised teachers, as against country-raised teachers, and in favor of rich men's children, as against poor men's children.

Having been a public-school trustee for fourteen years, I have had a good opportunity to observe the results of legislation regarding public schools during recent years, and the programme in this county is about as follows:

Near the close of a school term, Boards of Trustees advertise for teachers. There are about half the number of qualified teachers required; these are soon engaged. Next come the teachers with "Limited" certificates, or "40-per-cent." teachers, as they are called, who have failed to secure Normal-entrance standing, but who have made a mark of 40 per cent. on the examination, and have attended a Model School. After the supply of these is exhausted, teachers whose certificates have expired get them extended, and the opening of the next school term finds a number of schools still vacant. From this time on it is a case of the best available to fill up, and about two weeks after the beginning of the term, and after a lot of red tape has been gone through by the Education Department, the Inspector and the Trustees, we find the most of the schools supplied with teachers varying from second-class Normal-trained to those having no qualification except a year or two at High School. But, with the exception of a few subjects, such as nature study, physiology and drawing, the average of the teachers in our county is very little, if any better than twenty years ago.

There is one paragraph in Prof. McCreedy's letter, in your issue of March 7th, 1912, which gives a wrong impression, when he assumes that, because 225 teachers took the course in Element-

tary Agriculture at Guelph, those teachers are teaching in rural schools in Ontario. I think, if he inquires closely, he will find that many of them are in the Western Provinces, and many who remained in Ontario are teaching in village schools; and this will also apply to all Normal-trained teachers, so that, after all, rural Ontario is not getting the benefit of our "advanced school system."

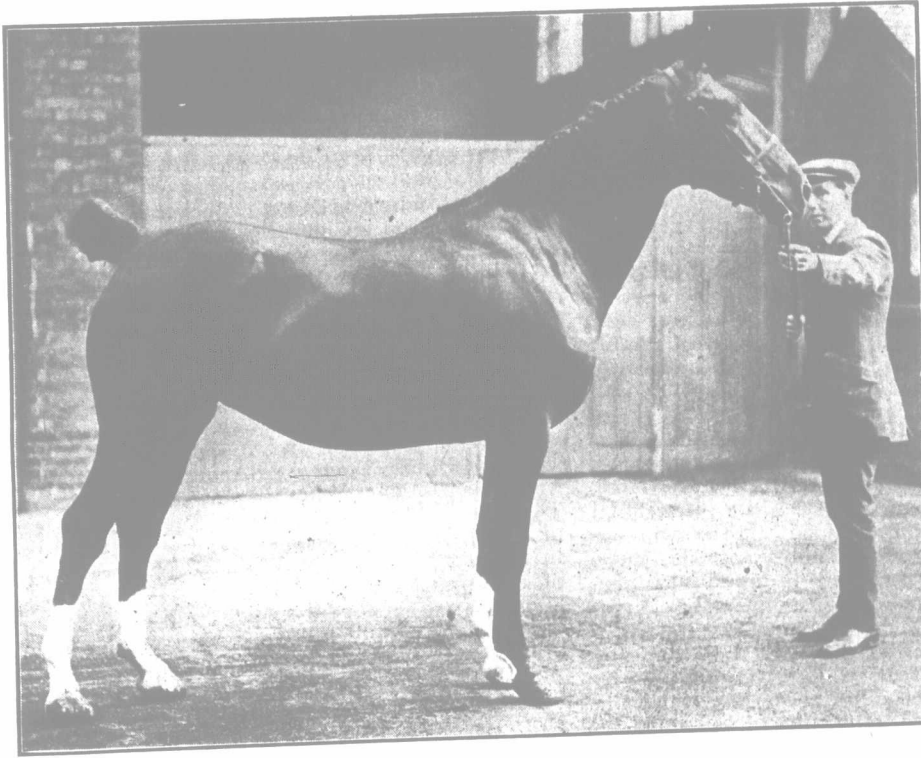
In view of these facts, I would say, in answer to your question, that for a few years, at least, it would be a wise move on the part of the Ontario Government to eliminate all unnecessary frills in the training of rural-school teachers, restore the County Model Schools, and do it quickly, or some person else will. The Model School at Athens, in this County, which was abolished a few years ago, was reopened last year, largely owing to the efforts of A. E. Donovan, M. L. A., and, as a result, twenty-three young teachers received Model training during the last term.

On reading Prof. McCreedy's letter, which deals chiefly with Agricultural Education, I am reminded of a remark made by Prof. Roberts, of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., at a Dairymen's Convention, when, in speaking of the cultivation of the corn crop, he said: "The way to grow corn is to grow CORN." The way to teach agriculture is to teach agriculture. It is too important and complex a subject to be tacked on to any High or Public School curriculum. All that has been done by our Government in the way of agricultural education, through the medium of Farmers' Institutes, County Representatives, Optional Classes in High Schools, School Gardens, etc., is only what we farmers call cobbling or

June, however, it became pronounced and continuous, closing with November and December prices at the highest level of the twelvemonth.

The following statement is of interest: "The year was one of general trade prosperity and industrial expansion in Canada. The heavy immigration movement, the very pronounced activity in railway construction and other building operations, the enlarged outputs of manufacturing establishments, and the increased volume of trade, foreign and domestic—in which fields the returns of the year uniformly indicated a marked advance over those of 1910—all united in causing an exceptionally keen demand for materials, with resultant enhancement in prices. In foodstuffs, at the same time, the unfavorable crop reports of the summer and autumn months worked similar tendencies. Grains advanced sharply, and though there was a decline in live animals and meats, this was attributed to feed shortage, and cannot be regarded as an alleviation in fundamental conditions. Moreover, imported foods, including sugar, were on decidedly high levels. The financial tone was favorable, and the gold production the largest recorded. From a cost-of-living standpoint, therefore, notwithstanding declines in cotton, rubber, and a few important articles, the year must be regarded as having, through this double influence of crop shortage and accelerated consumption, distinctly intensified the situation, which had previously given rise to such widespread comment, though industrially and commercially it constitutes, on the whole, a very favorable record."

Other considerations contributing to the foregoing result should be borne in mind. The figures of the last Canadian Census have shown the abnormal growth of the cities and towns, at the expense of the rural districts and industries, so that the two are out of balance. Farming is handicapped because it is not sufficiently manned, and this adversely affects the output of food products. If people would all live in town, they must pay the price. Then, again, instead of pursuing reliable methods of actual farming, there has been, during recent years, too general a disposition, particularly in the Western Provinces, to acquire wealth speculatively by securing and holding larger tracts of land for advances in price, through the advent of railways, new towns and sudden inflows of settlement. This has affected the country indirectly, at least, East as well as West, diverting attention from the needs of farming as its conditions change.



Lady Beekingham.

Chestnut Hackney mare, five years old. First in class over 15 hands 2 inches, and champion female, London Hackney Show, March, 1912. Sire Beekingham Squire.

tinkering with the subject. If this Province can support one or more High Schools in every county for the training of professional or business men, it can support an institution, equally well equipped, in every group of counties, as may be necessary, for the training of our farmers. If, from the profits from the manufacture and sale of one product of the soil, and that of very doubtful benefit as a luxury, one man can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for agricultural education, surely the people of this Province can erect and maintain such schools as will be necessary for the instruction of the youth of this Province in the science of agriculture.

Leeds Co., Ont.

The Rise of Prices.

A special report, issued by the Department of Labor, at Ottawa, gives particulars of the price fluctuations of some 261 articles selected as representative of the entire field of Canadian production and consumption. The list is subdivided into groups, including grains and fodder, animals and meats, dairy products, fish, fruits and vegetables, miscellaneous groceries, textiles, hides and tables, miscellaneous building material, paints, leather, metals and implements, fuel and lighting, lumber, miscellaneous building materials, furs, etc. The general conclusion arrived at is that wholesale prices in Canada during 1911 reached a high level probably higher than in any previous year with the present generation; certainly the highest since 1884, and possibly since 1873. The upward trend did not develop with strength during the first six months of the year; from the middle of

June, however, it became pronounced and continuous, closing with November and December prices at the highest level of the twelvemonth.

HORSES.

Now is the time to make free use of the curry-comb and brush.

Clean the mud from the horse's limbs during seeding operations, and prevent scratches and mud fever.

Never confuse the horse by hitting him from behind with the whip and at the same time jerking him severely with the lines. He doesn't know what is wished of him, and in the excitement is likely to do damage which under proper treatment he would not do.

Close, hot days come in seeding. Horses are soft and perspire easily. Collars become gummed up and dirty if not regularly and thoroughly cleaned. Never put a collar in the harness-room or on the harness-pin until it is scrupulously free from all dirty material accumulated during the day's work.