

Ten Acres Enough

Andrew McCrimmon, Ontario Co., Ont.

"Ten Acres Enough," is the title of a book that has attained an immense circulation, particularly among city people. It tells a story of the city business man who finds it so comfortable and stable income from a 10-acre farm. I suppose that that book has given thousands of city people dreams of a country life free from worries, and an income sufficient for all necessities and many luxuries. I feel sure that if not, why are they always preaching the little farm well tilled as the cure for the high cost of living and congestion of population in cities? I will not deny that under certain conditions 10 acres may be enough or more than enough. I know of a few poultry farmers who are making a splendid living on 10 acres or less. I have met several market gardeners who considered a two-acre farm quite as much as they could attend to. The field, however, is limited. Suppose that all of the city people who dream of some day living on 10-acre farms, were to realize their dreams what an over-supply of poultry and garden produce there would be.

MOST OF US MUST PRODUCE STAPLES

We cannot get away from the fact that while the small farm may be an attractive enterprise for the few, the most of us who live by tilling the earth must depend on the great staple crops such as wheat, corn, oats, barley, hay and so forth. The majority of us, too, must convert these crops into butter, cheese and live stock. I seriously question the wisdom of advocating the "small farm well tilled," for the general farmer.

The first difficulty that a man with few acres would encounter in general farming is the machinery item. If one is to have a fairly complete outfit of farm implements there would be practically the same investment on the farm of 30 acres as on the farm of 100 acres. For instance, the small farmer would have to invest \$135 or more in a binder that would do the work of a 100-acre farm equally well. Similarly with the manure spreader, the hay loader, the mower, and so on down the list.

Another disadvantage that I believe would trouble the smaller farmer in connection with his machinery would be that he would not be able to use either machinery or men to the best advantage. In these days labor is a big item and the only way to make labor profitable is by having the men work with the largest size of machinery. The 30-acre farmer could not possibly afford to keep enough horses to haul the most up-to-date machinery, and hence his labor would be working at a disadvantage. Even did he keep the horses and the machinery there would not be work enough to keep the men continuously vested, being lying around idle most of the time.

Another drawback that I see to the small farm, which is so much advertised, is that too large a

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percentage of the total capital would be invested in unproductive sources. Farmers nowadays are demanding good homes equipped with bath rooms, furnace heating and so forth. All of this represents an investment for the small farm that would not need to be increased on the such as the barns, the cost for outbuildings, the small farm than on the large.

SMALL FARMS NOT PROFITABLE
I would advise these city editors who are so strong on small farms to study Professor Warren's conclusions. Professor Warren, as I have

already learned from past issues of Farm and Dairy, conducted an investigation of Farnham dairy farms in New York State varying in size. He found that unless devoted to some special branch of small farming the small farm is almost invariably unprofitable. It takes a farm of 100 to 175 acres to enable a profitable investment in necessary equipment.

I agree that the tendency to large farms is a menace to the well being of mankind. I think, however, that the difficulty will be overcome by over-booming the small farm to the ignorant city dweller.

Canadian Farmers Should Unite*

RODERICK MCKENZIE, Secretary, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association

THERE ought to be the closest relationship between the farmers of Ontario and the farmers of western Canada. There are few farmers in Ontario who have not got friends or blood and economic relationship to bind us together.

Your problems are largely our problems. You have to fight the same kind of opposition that we have to meet. All other classes are organized in their boards of trade. The labor men, the railway interests, and all other classes are organized. An organized army can defeat an unorganized mass many times greater in numbers. Unless we farmers unite we are going to be at the mercy of the other organized classes in the community.

In the west we farmers decided to get together and organize on the same basis as the business interests in the towns and cities. Our Grain

in the provincial organizations. The farmers' locals generally meet about twice a month. A meeting is given over largely to the young people to express themselves while on their feet as many of them soon become familiar with the public questions of the day.

THE CAUSE OF OUR TROUBLES

Most of our economic problems arise from the fact that we have not given the study to public issues that we should and other interests have taken advantage of our indifference. It is the business of the steel interests, for instance, to obtain the bonus they are now asking the Government for. It is our business as farmers to prevent them from getting it if we can, because we will be expected to pay most of the bonus. Just as soon as we farmers learn to organize and cooperate the men who are enjoying special privileges at our expense are going to suffer. In the west when we have put up bills in the towns advertising our meetings, men have gone around tearing down our bills to prevent us from getting together if they could.

We need an educational as well as a commercial organization. One is thus able to conduct necessary educational campaigns on matters affecting our interests. The commercial organization is left free to look after purely business matters.

Our success has been due largely to the fact that we have confined our membership to farmers. Men at first opposed our efforts to organize. Failing in this we had men try to get inside our organizations so that they could use them for their own selfish purposes. Watch out for such men.

We would not let any one tell us how we are to run our farms. Why should we let others tell us how we should conduct the selling of our farm products? The wealth producers of Canada are exploited because they allow others to come in between them and the consumers.

The economic freedom of Canada has got to be brought about by the farmers of Canada. To do this we have got to train ourselves in the consideration of public questions.

It is interesting to know that during the comparatively short time that the O.A.C. No. 21 barley has been introduced throughout Ontario in connection with the Experimental Union, it has increased rapidly, that it is now grown quite extensively, and that it is rapidly supplanting even the noted Mandschert barley which was introduced by our College in the spring of 1889. It results at the College and throughout Ontario, probably safe to say that, according to the O.A.C. No. 21 barley is the best variety of six-rowed barley under cultivation in the Province at the present time.—Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph.



A Cold Weather Colt That is Doing Well

The colt seen herewith, owned by C. L. Shaver, Unltr. Sask., was one day old when the photograph was taken. It was born on Dec. 26th; a belated Christmas present, if you please. "Winter colts are all right," says Mr. Shaver.

Growers' Associations are really the same to us as boards of trade are for city business men. We farmers should take our place in the community and we should fit ourselves to do so. The together and talking things do is by meeting together and provincial associations.

In the west we aim to have local associations in every local centre. These are banded together

*Extract from an address delivered at the Farmers' Convention held in Toronto, March 19 and 20.