

multiplicity of duties and number of projects for which he is directly or indirectly responsible.

Results of Six Years' Labor.

Six years ago this coming summer an office was opened in the town of Port Hope and a Representative was assigned to the counties of Northumberland and Durham. He did not know the people, neither did they know him, but the first thing a Representative has to do is to introduce himself and get acquainted. After the preliminaries are over the real work begins. For three years the two counties were served by one man, but in 1913 another appointment was made for the County of Northumberland.

The first six-weeks short course was held in Durham County in 1912 with 22 young men in attendance. Since that, four courses have been held, one each winter, and 158 young men in all have taken the short course and have attended the lectures and demonstrations regularly. Excursions were planned for each group of students in order that they might visit and inspect the herds of leading live-stock breeders and importers, the Stock Yards in Toronto, large abattoirs and meat-packing plants, and up-to-date dairy farms. Public speaking contests were also conducted in order to give the young men confidence in themselves when standing before an audience. Following these series of lectures Junior Farmers' Improvement Associations were organized in the townships where these courses were held. Only those who had taken the lectures were eligible for membership. The object of the Association is to create a deeper and more permanent interest in the agricultural life of the county: By the dissemination of agricultural learning among its members leading to improved farm methods; by affording the opportunity whereby boys may be brought together to discuss ways and methods of improving themselves; by conducting competitions such as the "Acre-Profit Competition", in the production of field crops; the "Feeding-Hogs-for-Profit Competition", and "Baby-Beef Competition", in the production of live stock; arranging for live-stock judging competitions at the local fall fairs; by conducting simple experiments on the farm in cow testing, commercial fertilizers, spraying, pruning and thinning, underdrainage, apiculture, poultry, alfalfa demonstrations, etc.; by the introduction of better varieties of farm crops; aiding and bringing the farms in the county to the highest state of production, efficiency and profit. These are the objects of the Junior Farmers' Improvement Association which follow the short courses held in the different townships.

In 1911 the first school fair including three schools was held in Durham County. This scheme grew each year, until 1915 when six school fairs were held, representing 73 schools. During 1916 every rural school in the county of Durham numbering 98, will participate in the school fall fair scheme. This will probably necessitate eleven different events when the season for the fairs arrives. Each school will average about twenty pupils, so the reader can gather some idea as to the work of distributing seed, eggs, etc., and judging plots throughout the summer, and arranging the exhibits in the fall. Three pupils in each school may take one setting of eggs each for twenty-five cents a dozen, this money going into the funds for prize money. All who do not take eggs may take the seed of some field crop, and five of the girls of the same school may also take sweet peas or aster seeds. In all 324 dozens of eggs were distributed this spring. The plots grown from the seed thus distributed will, if possible, be examined and judged this season and in the fall the product of the plots and of the eggs will be entered by the children at their local fair. Each fair will be managed by a fairs association, the officers for which will be elected from the children of the schools contributing entries to the event.

The prize money is paid by cheque. Sometimes these cheques are taken to the local bank while in other cases a teacher or someone else acts as a bank, cashing the cheques after being endorsed by the children. The District Representative has also been instrumental in organizing three fruit growers' associations. One of these alone, it has been estimated, saved for its members \$10,930.80, in three years over and above what would have been obtained had the fruit been marketed through the ordinary channels. This is 60 cents per barrel additional on the number of barrels distributed in 1911-12-13.

The Northumberland and Durham Apple Growers' Association was also organized to advertise the apples of the two counties and increase the consumption of this fruit. Exhibits were erected annually at Toronto and a book, containing 160 recipes of how apples may be used, was published. Two plowmen's associations were also organized, one of these has held four matches, the other three. Three reg. circles and six Farmers' Clubs may also be added to the list of organizations. In 1911 four demonstration orchards, 2 in each county, were taken in hand, and carried on for a period of

three years, while at the same time demonstrations in pruning and spraying were conducted throughout the county. In addition to these, apiary demonstrations and mustard spraying demonstrations, were held. Two-day courses in stock and seed judging were carried on at which large numbers were present. Special fruit meetings were held every year, under the auspices of the Northumberland and Durham Apple Growers' Association. Educational exhibits were erected and live-stock judging competitions were conducted at the fall fairs.

In addition to what has been previously mentioned, there was much detail work of a more general nature, such as the handling of the correspondence at the office, preparation of addresses for meetings, attending committee meetings, preparing articles for the press, assisting and supervising the Farmer's Clubs in their various activities, aiding the Women's Institutes, and various organizations connected with the rural community, encouraging the growing of alfalfa, identifying weeds, weed seeds, insects, diseases of apples, etc., giving formulae for treatment of smut in oats and wheat, encouraging dairymen to keep records by sending them blank record forms, encouraging cow-testing associations. The office has also been used as a general bureau of information by the farmers of the district, and the board room of the office is used as a meeting place for many of the farmers' organizations.

Even this long list of accomplishments is incomplete. Various activities were engaged in that have not been recorded here, but, considering the time and efforts required to show these results, we believe nothing more is needed in the way of an excuse for a District Representative.

A Broader View.

It would be manifestly unfair to judge the District Representative System, or the Representatives themselves, by the work in one county. Approximately 40 offices have been opened in Ontario, covering territory from the eastern limits of Glengarry to the western confines of the province reaching to Manitoba. Up in the North Country and in Southern Ontario, where farming is well developed, we find these men going to and fro among the rural people. Some counties are harder to "work" than others, and some people are more indifferent than their neighbors in adjoining dis-



The School-Fair Boy and His Plot of Grain.

tricts. The best farming sections usually give the Representative liberal support and aid him in his efforts. There may be counties where more has been accomplished than in Durham, and there may be counties where fewer results can be shown. However, this depends upon the man in charge to some extent, as well as upon the possibilities of the district and the support and assistance rendered by the people. No public move of this nature has shown such a small percentage of failures on the part of those employed to do the actual work. The men have been ambitious, industrious, and conscientious, and to them is due a large share of the credit for the success of the District Representative system.

Things seem to go wrong in Canada just so some new Governmental commission can be appointed. Of course, every commission means less work for Parliament and more expense for the country, but Parliament doesn't like work anyway and the country likes expense, at least, it seems that way from the general course of events.

Throughout the country there is still that persistent complaint that the pestiferous dog renders sheep breeding unprofitable. The time may come when we shall be obliged to choose between this class of live stock and a number of worthless curs. Ontario's Provincial law has been amended in this regard, and we should first give it a trial. If it fails, then let us attack the dogs and the dog law, replacing the former with sheep and the latter with a statute that will ensure their protection.

Are We Better Off Than Our Forefathers?

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I'm sometimes wonderin' how muckle better off we are than oor forefathers that cam' oot tae this country frae auld Scotland a hundred years ago or mair. They had their hard times, sure eneuch, an' mony the story I hae heard o' what they had tae gang through the first few years they pit in in the woods. I wis talkin' tae an auld neebor the ither day an' he wis tellin' me that when his feyther first cam' tae the spot that he had chosen for his hame he had tae juist cut doon a lot o' trees, ane on tap o' the ither, until he had a sort o' shelter where he an' his family could stay until he had time tae build a shanty o' cedar logs for a hame. They were practically turned oot o' Scotland by the landlords that thought they could mak' mair money by keepin' sheep than by rentin' their land tae these small farmers. Sae the men had tae mak' room for the sheep, an' that's how some o' us are in Canada to-day, instead o' bein' in the Highlands or Lowlands o' Scotland. But it wis a guid turn the landlords did them in turnin' them off, I'm thinkin'. They were forced tae get oot intae the world an' begin tae earn an' independent livin' an' dae things on their ain responsibility, instead o' daein what they were tauld by some auld tyrant o' a lord or duke that wad aye k-ep them pullin' off their hats tae him. The freedom o' the life in the woods, even wi' a' its hardships, must hae been next thing tae heaven itself, aifter the slavery an' subjection of the auld land. They showed the value o' the new condections by the character they developed, an' I'm dootin' but the families they raised were as weel trained as the average family o' the present day. Ye wouldna' think they had muckle chance tae educate a family wi' schools sae far apart, an' sae few o' what we call present-day improvements. Automobiles were scarce in those days an' the rural telephones weren't in ilka hame, an' gi' ye were expectin' a letter frae the auld land ye wouldna' find it in a box at yer gate. But I'm no' sure that walkin' didna' dae them mair guid than ridin' in a soft-cushioned car is daein' us; an' as for the telephone I'm juist aboot comin' tae the notion that it's daein' oor country-folk mair harm than any benefit they get frae it is daein' them guid. Ye canna' ring up a neebor or tak' doon the receiver when ye're called, but ye hear some third party comin' on tae the line tae listen tae the conversation between you an' yer friend. Gin there's ony meaner trick on earth than this, I dinna' ken aboot it. I heard a chap say once that it wis as mean as stealin' the milk-bottles oot o' baby-carriages, but I think it's worse. The mon that steals the bottles kens that he rins the chance o' gettin' punished, but the telephone sneak feels sure he willna' be caught or he wouldna' risk pryin' intae his neebor's business. Gin this is a sample o' the code o' honor that is comin' in wi' modern inventions an' condections, I'm thinkin' we would be better livin' the life o' oor ancestors in the backwoods, for they had a guid share o' self-respect wi' a' their drawbacks, an' when it cam' tae choosin' between what wis honorable an' what wis dishonorable they generally chose the former. I've heard them tell o' a drover wha wis buyin' up a boat-load o' cattle one time an' on askin' a certain farmer how much he wanted for a fat coo he had, the farmer said, "twenty-five dollars." "Weel," says the drover, "I'm juist gaein' tae tell ye that she's worth mair than that, I'll gie ye twenty-seven." This story is sworn to for a fact, an' I can weel believe it, but I havena' heard o' anything like it happenin' amang oor drovers an' farmers o' the present day.

Some tell us that oor ancestors are tae blame for a' oor faults an' follies, but I'm thinkin' we'll hae tae gie them credit for settin' us an example in some things that we're no' tryin' vera hard tae follow. They lived what ye might call the "simple life," and on the whole they were healthier and mair contented than maist o' their great grand children are to-day. I hae an auld chap say the ither day that in his feyther's time the bairns were raised on oatmeal porridge an' the Shorter Catechism, but nooadays they brocht them up on cornflakes an' Eaton's catalogue. Gin that's the case I move that we get back tae the auld ways an' mak' a fresh start an' see if maybe we'll get somewhere through time. A wee bit mair discipline an' hardship wouldna' dae the rising generation ony harm, an' as things are gaein' in the world to-day it may be comin' tae them a richt. The Lord isna' gaein' tae let humanity rin tae seed juist yet, I'm thinkin', an' the chance tae develop a strong, moral character that will no' shame oor ancestry may be juist ahead o' us. It's here noo, tae a certain extent, an' mair money a guid chap has taken advantage o' it, but there's need o' a wee bit mair pressure bein' brocht tae bear yet, sae that oor nation as a whole may get the benefit o' a struggle for existence that will build up backbone an' mak' ilka ane o' us men an' women wha can dae oor share o' the world's wark that was sae weel carried on by those wha are gone, an' wha hae left the unfinished task in oor hands. I'm no' thinkin' we'll gae back on it.

SANDY FRASER.

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EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

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