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# The Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established 1866.

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Vol. XLV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 7, 1910

No. 928

### EDITORIAL.

Gradually-increasing production, developing expanding markets, is the ideal condition from the national standpoint.

The Canadian farmer's outlook has never been brighter than now. His outcome depends upon the enterprise, grit, judgment, business acumen, principle, and trained intelligence he brings to bear upon his work.

Those with alfalfa or clover hay to cut who missed the excellent haying weather that prevailed in Western Ontario during the latter part of June, will have no right to complain if part of their crop is spoiled outright or makes inferior feed. Wise farmers made hay while the sun shone.

A tariff on wool is not needed to make sheep husbandry profitable. It is very profitable already, where well managed. All the same, there is a good bottom in the argument that the present nominal duty of three cents a pound on imported wool should be collected.

Separate roads for motor traffic, specially treated to abate the dust nuisance, are almost as badly needed as separate rights of way for steam and trolley roads. Automobiles on general highways are a danger, an inconvenience, an injury, and a nauseating discomfort. It is time for a change. Pile on the license fees, and apply the funds to the building of separate automobile roads. Otherwise, it would scarcely be too much to make automobile licenses pay for the whole upkeep of every road used by them throughout the country. The injury and inconvenience sustained by rural residents would represent their share of the burden of highway maintenance.

Horse fright, danger to life and limb, smothering clouds of choking dust and stench of gasoline smoke, are included among the pleasures of anyone, nowadays, who takes a drive along country highways which automobiles frequent. Pedestrians likewise enjoy most of those privileges. Incidental effects are injury to the highways and to crops. The tons of dust sifting across our fields must add greatly to the palatability of fodder crops and fruits. Meanwhile, automobilists tour superiorly across the country, without even pitying the poor yokels who built the highways, and now have to use them subject to the curse of motor traffic. Is this justice? How long will the intelligent farmers of Canada stand it?

Departmental work to develop agriculture is in no sense favoritism to a special class. It is not to the selfish interest of Canadian farmers that margins of profit should be pared down by reduced prices consequent upon larger production. While each individual farmer stands to benefit decidedly by increasing his own output, it is not to his advantage to have aggregate production largely augmented. It is, however, greatly to the advantage of consumers and of the country generally. On this ground, almost any amount of money effectively spent in promoting agriculture can be easily justified. It is of the nature of conservation work, like forestry, for example, the object of which is not to make money for lumbermen, but to provide for the continuance of an important industry, and guarantee a future timber supply.

### The Time of the Big Barn.

When men cast about for evidences of the progress and prosperity of farming in the Eastern Provinces of Canada, they point to the fat savings-bank accounts, the big barns, and the new farmhouses, the pig mansions and hen palaces. But size is not everything, and it may not quite realize expectations. With regard to the house which is to bear the honored name of "Home," we are happily nowadays building not so much for outside display and magnitude as for comfort and convenience in domestic economy and social life. Thirty or forty years ago, when the families were larger than at present, there was a period throughout many sections of Ontario when the big brick or stone house was all the vogue, and the bigger the better it seemed to be. Now we are going in, let us hope, for quality in the birth-record page of the old family Bible, and certainly for a more sensible sort of dwelling-place, with handy contrivances for womankind, bathrooms, large, airy verandas, and so on. But how about the barn?

From what one sees in all directions, we are yet in the midst of the big-barn era. But for all this, things are not going right, as witnesseth the Flaville-Duff open letter, which made the hot June spell all the more torrid and destructive of dignified white collars. Big barns are all right, if we have the crops to fill them to bursting, and in winter they are crowded with stock destined for the Toronto and Montreal millionaire slaughterhouses, or afford a fine, airy milking-place in summer. The trouble is that too many of these plants are not kept busy, and the price of animal foods goes higher and higher. So, with all our increasing facilities, we are not turning out the stuff fast enough, it seems. With just as many acres, and a new barn costing anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000, we ought to be producing a great deal more, or else it is a case of bad farm economics, because the township assessor and tax collector will unerringly be upon our trail, and we will have less money to lend at three per cent. to the banks, who turn it over to some big packing-house captain of industry to make 15 per cent. for his stockholders.

Seriously, what are we going to do with these big barns after we get them? Right here is a chance to do some solid thinking; otherwise, the barn will not be the help we expect. It should help us to rear more and better live stock, and grow larger and more profitable crops. Are we planning for that? We heave a sigh of relief when the heavy summer's work of building is over, and fold our arms, thinking all is well. Apart from the capital invested, the barn has absorbed a couple of years' hard work in planning, with perhaps one exception: Most of the basement stables are not ventilated, and, instead of being a benefit, may prove a menace to the herd and its owner. Very often this is the last thing thought of, and we go on trusting to doors and windows and feed chutes for supplies of fresh air, and the cattle and hogs look less thrifty than in the old apartments, and one of these days will be honey-combed with tuberculosis. No, the real problems on \$100-per-acre land are not all solved by stately barns, however serviceable they may be, but: Is every field properly tile-drained? Am I following a short rotation that will help me conquer the weeds that dispute me on the ground. Am I following a regular system of seeding down spring grain to clover. Have I any waste hillside that might be growing two or three crops a season of alfalfa? Have I a nice area of wood-lot fenced in—a thing of growing beauty and a source of future profit for my family. Am I growing the best varieties of corn to fill the crib and the silo?

Am I producing the most money-making crops on this beautiful land, in the form of fancy fruits, poultry and eggs, or cream, that have proved so profitable to others? With practically the same labor, might not the flock of hens be doubled. Have I any non-paying cows in the herd? Have I not room on the farm for a small flock of sheep? In the old orchard a thing of beauty and pleasure, or a happy hunting-ground for the coding moth, the tent caterpillar and spot? Have we a co-operative egg or orchard society or an inspiring Farmers' Club in the neighborhood? Are my boys and girls proud of the farm and the local school? Am I planning to give them a course at the O. A. C. or the Macdonald Institute, and if not, why not?

No, the completion of the new barn, while it adds to the appearance of the farm, and does the enterprise of its owner credit, is not the finish of the problems of the farm, but rather the clearing of the way for still more serious work.

### A Tariff that Drives Capital Out.

Much has been made of the establishment of branch factories in Canada by United States manufacturing firms, involving, according to a recent estimate, the investment, within the last ten years of about one hundred and seventy million dollars of American capital in the Dominion. This has been heralded as the triumph of our protective tariff. Without pausing to dwell upon the fact that the American settlers going into our West last year are estimated to have taken nearly a hundred million dollars' worth of capital, while the increased number entering this year will doubtless take a still larger amount, making a ten-year total brought in by settlers that will cause the hundred and seventy millions invested in manufacturing to look like the proverbial "thirty cents"—without dwelling upon this point, we pass on to suggest that the American branch factories have probably not been drawn to us by our tariff so much as they have been driven to us by their own.

A recent notable example illustrating this principle, is the case of the Oliver Chilled Plow Works, of South Bend, Indiana, which recently bought a large tract of land at Hamilton, Ont., for factory purposes, the first investment for land, dockage, building and machinery being over \$1,000,000, preliminary to an investment of possibly twenty-five times that amount. The reasons why this great firm found it desirable to establish its new plant in Canada, rather than at South Bend, which various good business considerations would naturally dictate, are discussed by the well-known and astute, if somewhat iconoclastic American writer, Elbert Hubbard.

Besides the advantage of catering duty-free to the vast potential Canadian demand, the Olivers evidently consider a Canadian plant better situated to supply their large foreign trade in South America, Europe and the Orient. A United States plant is handicapped in two ways: First, the United States has no merchant marine; secondly, the United States, having barred the products of the world in many instances, finds its products barred in turn, or subjected to heavy tariff handicaps.

Canada's favored position in regard to such natural resources as wood, iron and coal also play a part, while cheaper foodstuffs cheapen labor cost.

"What do you say," he asks his readers, "about American tariff laws that drive capital and enterprise out of our country?"

All of which we commend to our readers, with the comment that, while a low tariff is probably advisable, under present conditions, to counteract