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EDITORIAL

Making More Millions.

In the area over which this paper circulates there are ten million acres in cultivated crops. The amount of land that might be brought under crop or a system of forestry to produce a revenue we need not discuss here. These cultivated crop acres yield a revenue of an average of about ten dollars an acre or \$100,000,000, and that is far short of what they are capable of producing. By the more general application of two practices, namely, plant breeding and selection, and as good cultivation on all land as is given on the best, the revenue from the land now under cultivation will yield fully twenty-five per cent. more, and that at an expenditure of not more than five per cent. of an increase in energy and time. In that fact lies a cure for the man whose farm is not paying a living profit and a suggestion to every farmer how to get a larger revenue for the work he does. If all the crops in the country were grown from the best seed and upon land, the cultivation of which could not be improved upon, then the potential increase of twenty-five per cent. would be made up and every one would have to look for an increase in revenue in an increased area of cultivation. But that stage is not yet reached and probably never shall be. We have had a lot to say lately upon this phase of production largely on account of the fact that we have heard more this season about farming not paying than for some time, and because there must be some explanation in addition to the unfavorable weather for the patchiness of the crops all over and particularly in the older settled parts. We want that extra twenty-five million and while we can get it by breaking up more prairie we can get it easiest and best by the plan suggested above.

Raising Geese and Golden Eggs.

Our seed grain special and the dairy special trains were movements in the right direction toward assisting in the spread of agricultural information. In a newly settled country like ours there is a natural tendency to look to the railway companies to assist in the solution of all large problems. The railway companies are held responsible, so to speak, in many cases for the presence of settlers and are naturally asked what they "are going to do about it." The special trains have done good work in Canada and the States, but across the line the railway companies are carrying the dissimulation of agricultural information still farther.

A recent investigation by the Farmers' Institute specialist into what the railroad companies of the United States are doing in aid of agriculture, discloses the fact that with few exceptions they are coming as never before to appreciate this source of traffic, and quite a number of companies have already begun the organization of departments for the aid and encouragement of this industry. One company has three expert specialists and two assistants who devote their entire time to instructing and otherwise aiding the farmers. This company also publishes a monthly magazine giving information with respect to farm lands and methods of culture. Another company has been instrumental in organizing fruit growers' and truckers' associations at different points along its road, and issues printed circulars and bulletins of information respecting the agricultural advantages of the several localities through which the road passes. This company also employs experts to teach the farmer and farmer to oversee and assist him in his work. Some of those experts have

had training in the agricultural colleges and experiment stations of the country, and others are commercial men of years of experience, who aid in marketing produce and assist by teaching the fruit growers and truckers how to grade, pack and prepare their products so as to suit the peculiar demands of the various cities. This road has a soliciting freight agent in every northern city of any magnitude. The agent informs the fruit growers' association and individual growers daily, and oftener if required, as to the exact condition of the market in the city where he is located. He advises of the arrival of the cars, the condition of the contents, and often gives the prices which were obtained for the consignment before the consignee reports the arrival of the car.

Another company has distributed along its lines 800 pure-bred bulls and 6,000 pure-bred pigs for breeding purposes, and it also offers prizes for the best-managed farms in the several districts through which it runs.

A western company has organized thirty-five farmers' institutes and truck-growers' associations. Another reports eighteen such organizations in its territory. In Texas the railroads have associated for the development of the industries of the State, and are encouraging and aiding the introduction of diversified crops, the improvement of the rural schools, and the construction of substantial highways in the country districts. The industrial agent of an important road in the Southwest, in reporting upon the methods adopted by that road in the encouragement of agriculture, states, "I have tried to use methods in promoting the success of the various farmers along our line in diversified farming, the same as if they were tenants on a big plantation, and I its manager responsible for their success."

Shipping Rules.

In every post office throughout the grain belt there will be seen some time during the fall a notice prepared by the chief warehouse commissioner, containing information upon the procedure in connection with the shipment of grain. The notice is distributed widely with the object of lessening the misunderstandings and losses that arise in the shipment of grain. That there is need for such a notice, every day's mail to the commissioner's office and to the government shipping agent bears evidence. The shipping of a car must necessarily require the performance of a few clerical duties in order that business may be done systematically and economically, and although these are not difficult, intricate or exceptional, the number of errors and omissions that occur is surprising. By all means read the directions to shippers and storers and so insure against trouble and loss.

A Splendid Example.

In old Ontario the cities and towns are so close together that practically every farm in the province receives its quota of urban youth, beauty, age and middle-age for a few weeks' recreation in the hot months or summer. These visits are enjoyed with equal zest by hosts and guests. Something of the sophistication of the town is spread into the country and the wholesomeness of the country is acquired for the delectation of the city. Later at "Exhibition Time" which has come to be the fifth season, the office of host and guest is reversed.

Canada's National Exhibition, as the Toronto fair has come to be called, is the outstanding monument to Ontario's achievements in agriculture and industrial pursuits. Just as the province is the peer of any other in the Dominion and of any state in the union in resources, steady substantial development, and in the sobriety and industry of her people so the annual exhibition at the provincial capital stands out superior

to all other similar events. It is an object lesson in exposition or provincial or state fairs. Intuitively its management have determined its policy upon lines that vividly reflect the thought, the actions and the ambitions of the people of the province. Every phase of industrial and commercial activity is represented by a display. Farmers are familiarized with manufacturing processes and commercial schemes and the urban population is brought intimately in contact with the production of animals, cereals and various food products.

The example of national exhibition in furnishing buildings for agricultural and horticultural products, machinery, manufactured goods, process displays, art work, etc., etc., is one that other exhibition officials might well keep before them, and the relationship between the various elements of the population, one that might well be perpetuated.

Values Finding Bottom.

However much we may deplore the uncertain and much reduced crop this year as compared with that of 1906, the conviction still clings that it is not an unmixed evil. Upon the certainty of the crop being short the first effect was to force up the prices of grain still held, and this rise came so early in the season that a large percentage of the old crop realized more than could have been got for it last fall before the storage charges were incurred.

The second effect and the one that is probably most far reaching and significant is the steadying of dealing in farm lands. The crops of 1902, '04, '05 and '06 were so increasingly large that people began to move the normal crop yields up and as a natural consequence farm values took a higher level. With average crop yields it is well to fix a high ideal of attainment, for a man benefits himself in trying to attain it, but with land values there is nothing gained to humanity as a whole and only to the owner in a prospective way in raising their level. In one season the price of land was advanced fully twenty-five per cent. all over the country, yet very few had any more means of buying the necessities and comforts of life, unless it was those unfortunates who were able to negotiate a larger loan upon their farms. But taxes increased and the consciousness of increased values although there was little tangible evidence of it, tended to more liberal if not extravagant expenditures. The small crop this year has arrested the tendency to consider enhanced values as so much cash. We are more conscious now of the fact that the raising of crops upon the land is the one source of wealth and that the raising of values out of line of normal advances is largely a matter of bluffing ourselves that we are becoming rich. Too much of our land was given a value based upon what the owners could induce others to pay for it and not upon what it was actually worth for wealth production. The difference between these two is a fictitious value, and a season of short crops is the most effective means of removing the fictitious from the real. In the hard and fast business of land dealing there is no room for unrealities.

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It is doubtful if Ontario farmers have ever harvested a shorter crop than they have in the season just closed. The shortage affects nearly every line of agriculture, and if the statement of President McEwing of the Farmers' Association of that province is correct, the farmers of Ontario will have \$80,000,000 less to spend this year than they had last. The business depression produced by a curtailment of their spending powers to such an extent as this, will reflect itself all over the Dominion. It is doubtful, however, if the shortage is as large as reported.