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The

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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No. 598

### EDITORIAL.

#### To Stop Gambling at Fairs.

One of the worst features at local and larger fairs in Ontario of recent years has been the prevalence of gambling under various guises. Though all gambling or games of chance, such as wheels of fortune, were prohibited by a Provincial Act, and Agricultural Societies were under penalty of losing the Government grant for permitting them on or within half a mile of the fair grounds, still these sharks robbed the people of thousands of dollars every autumn. Indeed, in some cases, we understand fair directors actually allotted the privilege of running such devices for fleecing the unwary for a \$5 or \$10 bill. The Act provided a penalty against the individual of a fine of not less than \$20 or more than \$100. Circulars were sent out from the Provincial Department of Agriculture warning the societies against these abuses, but the evil continued. At the present session of the Ontario Legislature, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. John Dryden, is introducing a bill empowering any constable or peace officer to immediately seize, without warning or notice, any "devices or instruments" used by any person in connection with gambling or games of chance. The constable may also arrest on sight, without a warrant, the person running the same games, and take him before the nearest magistrate having jurisdiction, who may fine or imprison him, and order the destruction of the instruments seized. Any measures instituted to abate the evil in question should have the hearty approval and support of all right-thinking people.

#### Growing Spring Wheat.

While Canada has gained a splendid reputation for the quality of its Western wheat, the production of spring wheat in the Eastern Provinces has greatly fallen off in the last decade. This has been partly due to the low price of wheat, and partly to increased attention being given to stock-raising and dairying. The recent rapid rise in the price of wheat, owing to some extent to the war between Russia and Japan, will naturally lead many farmers in older Canada to think of the possibilities of successfully growing wheat on a somewhat larger scale. But it will probably be wise not to indulge too freely in visions of two-dollar wheat in recollection of the years of the Crimean war, and to rush into wheat sowing on too large a scale, or where the conditions of soil fertility and preparation are not reasonably favorable. It should be remembered, too, that the world's wheat field has grown greatly since the Franco-Russian war; that recent inventions of the machinery of war has tended to shorten the period of combat, and that improved transportation facilities bring the food products of the world within more ready reach of the needy in times of trouble. Nevertheless, there appears no good reason why Ontario and the other Eastern Provinces which have in the past produced profitable crops of spring wheat may not continue to do so. It would seem to be largely a question of sustained or of renewed fertility, of suitable varieties and of careful preparation of the seed-bed.

Wheat is one of the most pleasant of farm crops to handle, and one of the best with which to sow clover and grass seeds to secure a good catch, and when the price is likely to be such as to make its production profitable, it is well to give it a place on the farm to a limited extent,

remembering always that only on a well-prepared field in ordinary seasons may a fairly good yield be expected.

As to varieties, it is, perhaps, safer to sow such as have done fairly well in the district than to take up new sorts, but to those who have not a satisfactory sort within easy reach, and, indeed, to all readers, we commend a consideration of Dr. Saunders' report of new varieties, referred to elsewhere in this issue, remembering that these yields are mostly computed from comparatively small plots, and probably on more than ordinarily well-prepared land.

#### The Library and the Buying of Books.

The ambition to obtain knowledge and culture is not confined to the townsman, and we find nowadays on the farmer's table magazines, papers and other forms of literature dealing with general topics, or the agriculturist's special work, all of which are sedulously coned under the evening lamp.

The bookmakers have risen to the occasion, and by various means bring their wares either in single volumes or in sets to the people's notice.

Unfortunately, the buyer does not stand to profit from the purchases to the extent he thinks he will at the time of making the purchase, and it is a common thing to find in many houses expensive sets of books, the pages of which are never turned.

An exception may be made, perhaps, for a good standard dictionary or encyclopedia. A short time ago the writer fell in with a band of men exploiting the country with a sort of home-doctor book; expensive to buy, and so loaded heavily with technical terms as to render it out of place except in an M. D.'s office. Yet, big sales were being made daily. For the home, a standard work on nursing would be of far greater value to a farmer's wife. The ambition in any person to possess a library is most laudable, yet economy and common sense need to be practiced in book buying as in the purchase of implements.

Farmers, as a rule, do not purchase implements with a view to making a collection. Farm tools are bought to be used, and books should be bought for the same purpose, and bought only when the need or desire is felt. The artificial stimulus of the agent it will be better to overcome. Unless a book or books are bought to meet a need, such will be shelved and practically wasted.

The book agent has been held up to ridicule for years, consequently people have not treated him seriously—a neglect to their own hurt. Books usually handled by the travelling agent are inferior in matter, style, composition and letterpress. Standard authors can be bought at almost any price, consequently are within the reach of all. It is a mistake, usually a costly one, to purchase sets, especially on the credit or time system, such as are advertised in the press. We believe in buying books as some housekeepers buy furniture, piece by piece, instead of complete suites, thus meeting the needs arising from time to time. A single book, such, for instance, as a seventy-five cent Shakespeare, will, if read, give better satisfaction to the owner as he views it on his library shelves than will the twenty-dollar set. The sting from extravagance is bound to be felt at some time, and the number of tomes on a person's shelves is not a fair criterion as to the literary tastes or breadth of vision of the owner.

#### On Canvas for St. Louis.

The correspondence we are receiving indicates that the resolutions of the February Live-stock Association meetings in Toronto do not altogether represent the mind of the individual breeders of the country in regard to exhibiting at the St. Louis World's Fair, though there is no mistaking the opinion entertained in this country of the petty, if not cowardly, United States policy in regard to records and customs restrictions calculated to discourage the improvement of American herds by importations from Canada. However, apart from what may be done by individual breeders, the Dominion Department of Agriculture some time ago hit upon the novel plan of making a strong feature in the Canadian display at St. Louis of large oil paintings, executed by some of our foremost artists, representing typical groups of Canadian pure-bred stock. It was our pleasure recently to view those representing Aberdeen-Angus, Galloway and Holstein cattle, portrayed by Mr. J. P. Hunt, of London, Ont., and they certainly did great credit to the brush of that artist. To what extent these and other paintings, however excellent, will be a substitute for the "real thing," constitutes a fair subject for meditation upon the part of our stockmen.

#### The Veterinary Standard is to be Raised!

The agitation in the columns of the "Farmer's Advocate," editorially and otherwise, for a higher standard of veterinary education in Canada, has borne fruit. The Agricultural Committee of Toronto University drafted recently a curriculum for the approval of the University Senate, which provides for a three years' course leading to a diploma in veterinary science (V. S.).

The holder of the V. S. diploma may after the expiration of one year be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (D. V. S.) on presenting an approved thesis on the result of special research in a scientific laboratory. A significant fact is that all examinations will be conducted by examiners appointed and under the regulations approved by the Senate of the University.

It is now in order for the Veterinary Associations of Ontario and the Northwest Territories to perfect their organization and have legislation enacted similar to that in force in Manitoba, which insists on the licentiate to practice being a graduate from a three-year school. Such legislation in Manitoba has resulted in a better average veterinary service being available to the Canadian stockman and farmer than elsewhere in the Dominion.

#### Forty Years' Experience.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Dear Sir,—I enclose one dollar and fifty cents to renew my subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate," which expired in December, 1903. I have been a reader of the "F. A." for nearly forty years, and it is too valued a friend to try to do without. Faithfully yours,

THOS. A. SHARPE.

Supt. Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C.  
Feb. 10th, 1904.