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## EDITORIAL.

Eastern Canada needs and merits advertising, both provincial and local.

With the cool, moist weather of late July and early August, oats should fill almost as well as they do in the Old Country.

A good many patches of timothy have been left for seed this year. Nine-dollar timothy seed gave us all kind of a wrench last spring. We would rather sell than buy much at that price.

Live stock is essential to a true rotation of crops, and a true rotation of crops is essential on a mixed farm, and, the owning and operating of a first-class mixed farm should be the aim of the majority of the rural population.

Do not pasture new seeded alfalfa and never pasture any alfalfa close in the autumn unless you wish to kill it. One of the best helps towards carrying a new stand through the winter is a good growth covering the ground when freezing weather comes in the fall.

A top price of \$10.40 per cwt. for corn-fed beef on the hoof in Chicago, early last week, with ten dollars for distillery cattle and nine for range steers, is the cheering report for feeders with fat cattle on hand. Following a top price of \$10.25 the previous week, these figures spell "beef scarcity" in capital letters.

A flock of fifty sparrows requires daily the equivalent of a quart of wheat, says Ned Dearborn, of the United States Biological Survey. Mr. Dearborn recommends trapping and using them as food, keeping them alive in outdoor cages until wanted for the table. It is unprofitable, however, to keep them long, as the quantity of grain or other food required daily amounts to half their own weight.

"Corn can't beat half a crop," is the way one correspondent phrases a pretty general situation. Barring the chance of a most extraordinary late summer and fall, much of the corn is bound to be immature, as well as thin and short. The man with the silo is fortunate in being able, at least, to make the most of a scanty crop.

"I look upon wheat as the backbone of Canadian prosperity," says A. W. Smithers, Chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Possibly, but, with a little less attention to wheat and a little more to live stock, the prosperity of the West would be placed on a more solid footing, Western soil would be more fertile, Western fields cleaner, and Eastern agriculture less acutely discommoded by the annual Macedonian cry for help.

It is always stimulating and instructive to know what other men are doing in one's own line, whether it be far or near. It is specially helpful to a man with stable judgment, considerable personal experience and a thorough grasp of scientific principles. Lacking these means of ballast, he may be unduly carried away for a time by newfound enthusiasm and ill-considered ideas. Breadth of information confers opportunity, but the use of the opportunity depends upon the man. We need to keep our thought digesters working full time.

## The Problem of Rural Finance.

In the opinion of David Lupin, the wealthy American, who was instrumental in founding the International Institute of Agriculture, and also in the judgment of the Southern States Commercial Congress, held at Nashville, Tenn., in May, problems of rural finance lie at the basis of every attempt to improve United States rural conditions. Only through the possibilities of credit, freely obtainable, declares the Congress, can the latent wealth of the farmer, based on his character and assets, become active wealth. The question, primarily, is not so much one of "cheap money" as of money in its most effective form, money not only for the use of individual farmers, but for the use of co-operative groups of farmers. It is believed by many that in the rural co-operative credit systems of Europe there are principles and plans adapted to the needs of American farmers, and at the Congress in question it was decided to thoroughly investigate the Raiffeisen, Schultze-Delitzsch and German Landschaften systems. Some idea of their significance may be gathered from the fact that the three systems named in a year do a total business of over \$5,000,000,000; and, further, that the corporations or trusts so numerous controlling farm products in America are said practically to be unknown in Europe. The keen struggle for subsistence and the great cost of government, largely as a result of militarism, have impelled the farmer there to force a settlement of these problems, and emancipated him from the claws of corporations through the agency of co-operative banking. The decision of the Congress will result in a large, special committee, representing every State in the Union going to Europe at the time of the next International Institute meeting at Rome, Italy, in May, 1913, to master the rural co-operative credit systems, as used by European farmers, and determine to what extent they may be adapted to conditions in America.

## "Syndicalism."

The "man in the street" who has sufficiently overcome his horror of socialism to distinguish it clearly from anarchy, has a new thrill coming to him in the form of "syndicalism," a French invention, whose name is derived from "syndicat," the French term for a trade union. Literally it means unionism, but as pointed out by an article in the English Review, and quoted in the Review of Reviews, it has become the term for a revolutionary economic movement which contends that social revolution must come through the direct action of the labor unions. Socialists and Syndicalists alike look forward to the abolition of the present capitalist system, which involves private control of land and other means of production, but while Socialists seek to bring the change about by political action through parliamentary measures accumulating reforms, Syndicalists believe the best and simplest way of creating a new social order is by the various organizations preparing for taking over their industries, and carrying them on for the benefit of what they are now calling the collectivity. As the greatest practical experiment in Syndicalism the article cites the Industrial Union of the Bottle Blowers, of Italy, where a factory was started by the Union to employ certain striking comrades, and from this has gone forward adding one plant after another until at present the co-operative factories employ 2,500 out of the 3,500 members

of the Union. Every member of the Union is said to be a shareholder, even those working in the factories of the Trust. Even agriculture threatens to be directly affected by the new movement, for we read that 200,000 acres of land in Italy have passed into the hands of the farm laborers organized into Unions and Co-operative Societies.

The Syndicalists' plans are so far-reaching and involve such momentous social changes, that society as a whole is affected. It has therefore been asked, "What does Syndicalism offer to those classes of society not engaged in manual labor?" The Syndicalists have solved the question by extending the meaning of labor so as to include all productive work. Teachers, doctors, artists, clerks, and the like have been organized into syndicates and have joined the army of organized workers. The Syndicalists propose to organize in the same way all those who do some useful work for society, or, as they express it, "syndicalize" society. Their idea is to transform society into a federation of self-governing productive groups working together for the benefit of all with instruments belonging to society as a whole and under the supreme control of the community.

What defects of practice the future may reveal remains of course to be seen, but as a phase of co-operative effort the movement is at least worth watching.

## Progress of Agricultural High Schools.

Agricultural high schools are steadily coming to the front in the United States. As distinguished from State colleges of agriculture, such schools are now maintained in at least seventeen States. They vary greatly in work, equipment, income and size of district served, but have one point in common, as differing from public high schools which simply maintain courses in agriculture, viz.: that while the latter offer general in college preparatory secondary courses, the special agricultural high schools confine their work to technical courses in agriculture, mechanics and home economics, supplemented by such work in mathematics, English, and the natural sciences, as are needed to round out the technical work with a fairly good vocational course for young men and women who do not intend to pursue a college course. The territory served by these schools vary from a single county to areas covering one-third, one-half or a whole state. Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota and Wisconsin have adopted the county unit; Alabama and Georgia, the congressional district; while California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont have large indeterminate areas.

Wisconsin was the first State to establish county agricultural schools. In 1911 that state had five such schools in operation, Maryland 2, Michigan 2, Mississippi 23 and North Carolina 4. Alabama was the first to have a complete system of congressional district agricultural schools, 9 in number; Georgia has 11; Oklahoma has 5 judicial district agricultural schools and one special district school. California has 2, Colorado 2, Minnesota 2, New York 3, and Massachusetts, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Vermont one each. The annual cost of these schools for maintenance alone is about three quarters of a