

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Dry weather is a good time to kill weeds.

Cultivate the cleared fields as soon as possible.

The important question—"Have you seen the army worm"?

The place to influence the youth for good is in the home.

This get-rich-quick idea has a great grip on human nature.

Money is tight, but Western oil has loosened up a good deal of it.

If oats are scarce try the work horses with an oat sheaf. Start gradually.

Plan a holiday for your nearest large fair, and also for your county show.

It is just as necessary to cultivate roots as it is to work the corn frequently.

The hum of the thresher is again with us. Take good care of the straw.

Calves should be fed well at this season. Try a little rolled oats after the sweet skim milk.

How would you like to have a small summer silo, Mr. Dairyman, to keep the cows from drying off at this season?

According to reports there is little need of extra men to harvest the Western crop this year. The man who has work had better stay East.

Help the boy put the finishing touches on the calf or colt which he intends exhibiting. Encouragement goes a long way towards success.

The best way to make a big corn crop is to cultivate it as long as possible. Do not stop the cultivator until the size of the corn drives you out.

Dry summers are said to be generally followed by wet harvests. The rain will have to come soon in some sections or it will not catch even the oats in the fields.

Reports state that in some of the counties hardest hit by the drouth the milk flow has fallen off 30 per cent. Provision for summer feed would surely have been profitable.

Canada is playing a peculiar role in Mexican affairs. Our country was chosen as a suitable place to "mediate," and now the deposed Huerta and others of the fallen are coming here to plan a new insurrection.

We never appreciate the importance of "the balance of Nature" until something comes along and upsets her equilibrium and crops suffer. If it were not for such occurrences we doubt whether half as much of her doings would be understood, as is the case to-day. Truly, it is a wonderful world.

## The Man, the Land or the Fertilizer.

Not long ago we had a call from one of our valued Quebec subscribers who emphasized very strongly the advantages offered by cheap land to the man commencing on the farm. There is no doubt but that the high cost of making a start is what is driving many country young men to the cities and deterring others from "committing matrimony," as we have heard it termed, and starting farming "on their own hook." It takes considerable money to buy and equip a farm. The difference in the good land and the poor land is great, both as regards prices and crops, but a good man on the poor land may do a great deal better than an indifferent farmer on the best of soil. Here is a case our friend cited. In a certain section a farm may be bought for \$10,000, while in another section, not far distant, the same sized farm could be purchased for \$2,000. At five per cent. interest there is \$400 difference between the annual interest payments on these investments. Now, our correspondent claims that if this amount is spent in fertilizers for the poor farm it will outyield the good land without fertilizer, and give larger net returns one year with another, and save the purchaser from the worry of a heavy debt.

Four hundred dollars will buy a lot of fertilizer, and a good farmer can soon bring comparatively poor land up to profitable production. Just how much difference there would be in these instances we are not prepared to state, but this we know, that our Quebec friend has taken a farm upon which it was said nothing could be grown, and which was purchased for almost nothing and he is getting crops. Of course, there is wind and weather and other things over which man has no control to contend with, and some years crops are light on the best of land worked in the most up-to-date manner, but one year with another it does seem that it is the man more than the land that is to blame for failures.

## Home Life and the Youth.

It is characteristic of Western communities, as of radical spirits in older lands, to break away from conventions and cut new and more direct paths to desired ends. The tomorrow of humanity has always been wrapped up in the youth of to-day. Over nineteen centuries ago the world's Great Teacher set a child in the midst as the ideal and the criterion. The world learns its greatest lessons slowly and often with halting steps, but the movement for better child nurture is forward. The present day is full of hope and more or less promise in all lands. In our anxiety for success on the purely material side of farm life, however necessary this may be, there is always the risk that we become over-absorbed in the crops of the field, or the herds and flocks in comparison with the vastly more significant human crop of the household, which is not infrequently left to grow up after a go-as-you-please fashion. Children have a right, not only to be born well but to have a fair start by such an up-bringing as will enable them to steer safely past what have by common consent come to be known as the rocks and shoals of early life. This is far more essential than any financial endowment. Educational systems are relating themselves more and more seriously to the younger periods of school life. This line of thought is suggested by the last

in a trio of books ("Farm Boys and Girls," "Training the Boy," and "Training the Girl"), by Prof. Wm. A. McKeever, of Kansas University. Most people when they think of that great State are likely to associate with it such things as wheat, corn, alfalfa and live stock. It has had a most aggressive Department of Agriculture, but the people and the authorities are to be congratulated upon the profound and practical wisdom that has been to the front in their university program, a department of "Child Welfare" which ought to prove an incalculable boon to the future of the State. In this very direct way they are seeking to make their educational system supply one of the recognized needs of the times. On all sides people should awaken to the responsibilities of home-making and home life, and realize that they cannot without grave peril dodge their duties and shift them wholly upon the church, the public school, or the boy scout movement. Some of the big city newspapers carry a daily column headed "Where to go to-night," and in vain you scan its list of thrilling recreations for any suggestion that there is such a place as "Home" to go to. If we let the purely material side of farming or business or so-called recreation crowd a wholesome home life off our social program it will be an ill day for the family and an ill day for the country.

## Prevention Better Than Salve.

The universal law of treating undesirable conditions is with prevention rather than cure, but the new world has grown so speedily that our governing bodies have been busy curing rather than preventing outcroppings of disease and corruption. When the governor of American machinery becomes steady and equilibrium is established, it is to be hoped that a preventive rather than a remedial policy will be adopted to preclude future disturbances, economical, social or political. For many years the malarial mosquito spread disease far and wide in the tropics, preventing construction work and making its cost enormous financially and in the toll of human life. The breeding grounds of these insects were attacked, and the mosquito itself was prevented from coming in contact with the human individual. This method was found more effective than treating malarial fever after it became established in the human system. The Cottony Cushion Scale threatened to destroy the orange industry of California. Did the people of that State prune and spray and burn to rid themselves of it? No! They introduced the lady bird beetle, a natural enemy of the scale, and nature herself took the work in hand with satisfactory results. The farmer cools his milk to prevent the reproduction of germs that cause a bad flavor, while the herdsman and shepherd rotate their pasture fields to prevent insects and disease attacking their herds and flocks. In all this world-wide economic system there is a lesson to be learned. For the struggle for titles, the acquisition of wealth and power, the control of the people's industries for the aggrandizement of the exploiter, and the increased taxation of 82 per cent. per capita in the townships, 73 per cent. in towns and villages, and 40 per cent. in the cities of Ontario from 1900 to 1912, are conclusive evidence that some undesirable germs have developed that are sure to give conditions a nasty complexion. The seed of inflated values and unwarranted progress are now bearing fruit in Canada, with the result that Canadian securities have