

### A Plea for the Farm Boys.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Why do not farmers give their boys a better education? There is the mistaken idea in the mind of too many farmers that the boy who is to remain on the farm requires no more education than the country school can give him. That is why we farmers find ourselves in the social condition we are in to-day. We are being imposed upon by men in other occupations, who are better educated. We have been paying the taxes of the rich combines and money lenders for years. How are we to avoid it? By starting now and giving our boys a better education, for the success of the farmer of the future will depend on the education he receives now as a boy. Every man in this world is to a considerable extent the product of his education. In proportion to what he knows can he deal with other men and their products. And it is in the interest of all other industries that the farmer receive a better education; that he cultivate his land with his brain, as well as with his hands, for he feeds and clothes the multitudes, and when his crops fail, all other industries are affected by it, and it causes a depression throughout the country like the one we have been just passing through, which could be partly avoided by a better knowledge of the elements that go to make up the soil, for a farmer should know how to feed his land, as well as his stock. There are two ways for him to gain knowledge, one by experience, and the other by education; but life is too short for a farmer to gain all his knowledge by experience. There are some things, perhaps, we must learn by experience, and there are some things we have learned by experience that we would gladly forget, if we could but wipe them off from memory's walls.

By giving our boys a better education, we are fitting them to hold the positions they are justly entitled to hold. It enables them to express themselves intelligently before an audience, which few farmers can do; it also awakens the dormant powers that are within that boy, and brings out all that is in him. Only in that way can we see the true man. But we must remember that our first duty towards educating our boys should begin at home. We should instil into their minds a love for the farm, and we should also remember that the foundation for a useful and successful life is moral character. So much depends upon the future life of a child, on whom they associate with while they are yet children, whether their influence is for good or evil. Therefore, we should keep them away from evil companions; teach them to see that they cannot be true men and use either liquor or tobacco, and any farmer that would swear at or in the presence of his children is not worthy of the name. We should encourage our boys to read, but we should see that there is no literature of a light, sensational character kept in our home. Let our aim be to place the farmer of the future on a higher level. Let us educate our boys with that object in view, that they may be both proud and worthy of the name. The girls on the farm should have just as good an education as the boys, and I think any man who will educate his boys will not neglect them.

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### International Tuberculosis Commission.

An International Commission, composed of seven Americans and five Canadians, under the chairmanship of Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Livestock Commissioner and Veterinary Director-General, has been established to consider ways and means for securing the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Canada and the United States. The commission, which will co-operate with the Governments of each country, is the outcome of the annual meeting of the American Veterinary Association in Chicago this month.

Dr. Rutherford is Chairman, and the other members are: Dr. M. R. Molar, Chief Pathologist of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington; Dr. Fred Torrance, Professor in the Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg; Dr. Schroeder, Washington; Dr. Veranus Moore, Dean of the Faculty of Comparative Pathology, Cornell University; Senator W. C. Edwards, Ottawa; ex-Governor Hoard, Wisconsin; Louis Swift, Chicago; J. W. Flavelle, Toronto; Dr. Charles Hodgetts, Toronto, head of the Ontario Health Department; Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Professor of Veterinary Science in the University of Minnesota; and Dr. Leonard Pearson, Pennsylvania, since deceased, whose place is to be filled.

Rain last week, while welcome to the meadows, fall wheat and unharvested root crops, impaired, as rain is bound to do at this season, the success of many Ontario fall fairs. At Galt, for instance, rain nearly all day spoiled the attendance on Wednesday, 22nd, while crowds on Thursday and Friday, the two last days of Woodstock's fair, were sadly reduced by the weeping skies. However, despite the predicament of fair directors, the loss must be accounted as far outweighed by the good.

### The New Dominion Botanist.

The reorganization rendered necessary by the lamented death of Dr. Fletcher has now been effected at the Central Experimental Farm of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Dr. Fletcher occupied the dual position of Botanist and Entomologist, but in these days of increasing scientific specialization, such an arrangement could not with advantage be permanently continued. Accordingly, two separate divisions of Botany and



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Entomology have been established, under the chief direction of Dr. Saunders, the post of Botanist having been conferred upon H. T. Gussow, F. R. M. S., and that of Entomologist upon Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt. Both officers are now engaged in the equipment and organization of their respective departments, with the view of rendering them practically useful to the farmers of Canada.

Particulars of the previous scientific work of Dr. Hewitt have already been published in "The Farmer's Advocate." Similar biographical in-



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formation as to the new Botanist will be read with interest.

Hans T. Gussow is a native of Breslau, Silesia. He received his scientific training at the German Universities of Breslau, Leipsic and Berlin, specializing in applied botany, and subsequently in plant diseases caused by microscopic fungi and bacteria. He proceeded to England in 1901, and in 1903 entered the Botanical Laboratory of Dr. William Carruthers, F. R. S., the eminent British botanist who for 37 years has occupied the position of

Consulting Botanist to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and who was formerly Keeper of Botany in the Natural History Department of the British Museum. As assistant to Dr. Carruthers in this capacity, Mr. Gussow has necessarily been brought into contact with British agriculturists, and has studied carefully the botanical problems with which land-owners and practical farmers are called upon to deal, including such subjects as the destruction of larch forests by the larch disease, clover-sick land, potato diseases, and the effects of poisonous weeds. In this connection, he has done a good deal of original scientific research work in Great Britain, where he made a reputation by his successful cultivation of fungi and bacteria, and the consequent establishment of original records of diseases due to these organisms. Amongst his many contributions to agricultural and scientific literature may be mentioned monographs on clover sickness and injurious fodder and poisonous plants, bacterial rot of potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and cereals.

As an instance of his success in original scientific research, it may be mentioned that, in conjunction with Prof. Maze, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, Mr. Gussow discovered the cause of a new disease affecting cucumbers, this being due to an organism to which he gave the name of *Corynespora Mazei*, by which it is now scientifically known. Mr. Gussow's botanical knowledge has been in wide request in England, where he was frequently required to give expert testimony before courts of law. He was also an active member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. He is a fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, and has served upon its sectional committee for medical bacteriology and histology. He is also a member of the Association of Economic Botany, of the Societe Mycologique de France, and of other learned bodies.

His scientific articles are artistically illustrated with reproductions from his own drawings and photographs. Courteous and obliging in disposition, his friends anticipate for Mr. Gussow an honorable and useful career in Canada.

Farmers and horticulturists throughout the Dominion who have to combat injurious weeds, poisonous plants, and diseases affecting plant-life, should not fail to avail themselves of the resources now placed at their disposal in the new Division of Botany at the Central Experimental Farm, and of the services of the Dominion Botanist, Mr. Gussow, and of his assistant, Herbert Groh, B. S. A.

An extensive field is believed to await the production of alcohol from wood. Alcohol, experts assert, will solve the world's problem of light and fuel. Oil wells may go dry, coal mines may be worked out, but alcohol, being found in every form of plant life, will be available so long as the alchemy of nature makes green things to grow upon the earth's surface. It is a matter of satisfaction in Vancouver, says the World of that city, that a company of business men are devoting time and capital to the solution of the problem of making alcohol from the by-products of the lumber mills.

Attention has been drawn in these columns to the fact that Ontario fruit-growers are succeeding in capturing the markets of the Western Provinces, not only in the line of the later fruits, such as fall and winter apples and pears, but in the early tender perishable fruits as well. Strawberries, raspberries and peaches have been sent west this season at a profit. Profiting by experience and observation, better methods in icing, and also in loading cars, are being followed. Better provision has been made for the circulation of cooled air between the tiers of baskets or boxes piled in the car.

All indications, from crop reports and crop prices, to railroad earnings and building permits, point to rapid renewal of prosperity. A table of building permits for August, representing twenty Canadian cities, show increase of 34.92 per cent. for August, 1909, over the corresponding month of 1908.

Alfalfa, the principal fodder crop of the Argentine Republic, occupied 1,762,000 acres in 1895. Exact figures for 1908 are not available, but the estimated area exceeds 10,000,000 acres.

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Having for weeks strenuously protested that the charter to the Metropolitan Racing Association ought never to have been issued, and, having been issued, ought to be revoked, the Toronto Globe now quite complacently assumes that, since, "in the judgment of the Department of State," that charter ought not to be revoked, "therefore, the point of attack is the statute in the criminal code governing all charters." This is all very well, but many readers are sorry to see the great newspaper back down on the other point. Some politicians and others may be glad.