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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

### "I Am Resolved What to Do."

It is with a measure of sadness that we bid good-bye to the year 1905. Most of us would gladly have had it linger a little longer. It has been a grand, good year, but with the certainty and swiftness of other years of the past, it is gone, and is now numbered with them. In 1906 we face again the new and unknown, and we may be excused if, at such a time, retrospect, introspect and prospect fill our minds, and in the emotion they induce, get somewhat mingled together and blurred. While thankfulness for the good the past year brought us wells up, we can distinctly see, on looking back and looking within, that we have lessened the measure of the mercies received by our own negligence, ignorance and weakness of purpose. The cry of past generations and our own cry in past new years has been, we must, we must do better. Let our resolves for this year of grace be more thoughtfully considered and more patiently and determinedly carried out than heretofore, and, whatever may come, this will be a better year to us than any that has gone before.

Moral questions which affect character and destiny, of course, should have first place in our plans for the future; but as farmers, whether of Canada or anywhere else, we have our farm operations to carry on, and it becomes us to reflect on past mistakes and successes in our work, and to determine that we shall profit by our experience, and in the coming year be better farmers than ever we have been before.

Let us take better care of the stock. Waste-fulness and niggardliness in feeding are both un-profitable. Many a bushel of good grain has, by being too lavishly fed, been thrown away; and, on the other hand, and much more frequently, many an animal has "eaten its head off" because it did not get enough of anything else to keep it growing, gaining or producing. A knowledge of the composition and effects of foods will greatly help us to feed without waste and to profit, but nothing that we may know or learn will amount to much without individual watchfulness and interest. Flesh and size are not all that should be looked to, especially in the case of young stock, but vigor of constitution and health should be promoted by exercise, ventilation and sunlight, in addition to abundant, wholesome food.

The resolve of every dairyman might well be, "I have done with guesswork. From this time I will know what my cows, each one, are doing." Following closely after this comes the weeding out of profitable or small-profit cows, the pruning process, without which the exact knowledge obtained by test and scales is of no practical benefit. Occasionally it requires some resolution to carry into effect what seems wise, but do not let us deceive ourselves into thinking that we are kind-hearted in sparing a worthless animal, when the trouble is indolence. The process of weeding out the poorest might well be applied to all classes of farm stock, down to the poultry. Many a small, well-selected flock of chickens gives greater returns at half the outlay than others twice the size. Let us cut out once and for all the use of scrub sires. To use such is to perpetuate the undesirable—the kind we ought to get rid of.

That low-lying piece of ground which last Spring delayed the seeding of a whole field for more than a week, and in that way lessened materially the yield of grain per acre, and on which the crop is seldom worth much, must be reclaimed by plowing. We will do it this season before work begins, making all preparations in good time. It will then be the best land in the field,

and the first to be ready for working." A good resolution, indeed. We commend, also, to our readers the following, the general adoption of which would, we believe, be good for the farmer himself, for the country, and for the world:

"I have noticed how weeds are increasing, and how they lessen yield and increase work, and I am determined to sow only clean seed. I have quite a few patches of noxious weeds as it is, but they shall not spread if I can help it; and I can, and I will go further, and enter on a war of extermination. What others have done I can do."

"I cannot make a seed to grow, nor have I any influence over the weather, but I can prepare the seed-bed carefully, and, by thorough tillage of cultivated crops, increase largely the annual returns from the soil, and I will."

"Discouraged, until this season, by the returns, apple culture has been neglected, but I cannot afford to be without a sufficient supply for home use, nor shall I again be so neglectful of the possibilities of profit in the orchard. Spraying may be disagreeable work, but I will do it, for it pays. Pears also, and plums, cherries and small fruits, which are so delicious, and of which so many farms are bare, shall be planted as needed, so that the supply may be kept up."

"Realizing more and more the value of manure, I shall take pains to apply it carefully and to prevent its waste in either liquid or gaseous form. To supplement manure as a fertilizing agent, clover shall be grown largely, as its value for such a purpose has of late years been repeatedly proven."

"These fellows that use their brains seem, somehow, to get the start of the others, and I am going to depend more on my own thinking than I have done, while, at the same time, be more open to receive hints from other sources. I will think more and think ahead, and aim at producing only THE BEST of everything, and in doing so, if I find out something worth knowing, I will make it public through the 'Farmer's Advocate,' that others may know it, too."

For Both Sexes.—"Confessing to failure in the past, I shall in future strive more to make the farm home attractive by trees, lawns, vegetable garden, general tidiness, paint, papers, books, music, sprightly and intelligent conversation, etc."

"My thoughts and interest shall not be limited to my farm and family—for that were, indeed, a poor way to live—but whatever is for the welfare of the country generally shall have my support and co-operation."

"I shall seek so to conduct myself that the profession of tilling the soil shall be raised to its proper place in general estimation, as conducive to thrift, honesty, pure living and intelligence."

These suggestions we leave to our kind readers, with the hope that the hints given may be far and away exceeded, and wishing for one and all a HAPPY, GOOD NEW YEAR.

Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. Man may be civilized in some degree without great progress in manufactures and with little commerce with his distant neighbors, but without the cultivation of the earth he is, in all countries, a savage. Until he gives up the chase and fixes himself in some place, and seeks a living from the earth, he is a roaming barbarian. When tillage begins other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.—[Daniel Webster.

### A Forward Policy at Guelph.

The multiplication of agricultural colleges in Canada, by the establishment of one now in operation at Truro, N. S., another expected to commence its work at Winnipeg next fall, and still another planned on a most elaborate scale, in course of erection at St. Anne de Bellevue, Que., should serve as the only stimulus necessary to induce a vigorous forward policy in the mother of these institutions, at Guelph, Ont., which, with the prestige it has attained, should spare no effort to maintain its position as the foremost agricultural university of America. To this end, it seems to us, a little introspection is in order just now, to determine whether there are any departments which need strengthening or more elaborate equipment. There is, to our mind, the need of more attention to horse-breeding and horse-judging. That some efficient work in the latter branch has been done, is evident from the high standing of the O. A. C. students at the Chicago International, where, among six American college teams, the Canadian boys who captured the trophy in cattle, sheep and swine, stood a good second in judging horses. At the same time, it is no secret that what has been done was accomplished in the face of difficulties, and, moreover, the competing team, drawn from the fourth year, during preparation was accorded privileges to visit various herds and studs, which the other students are deprived of, and the fact that they have done well is no argument that they are incapable of doing better. The truth is that, while male and female representatives of the leading breeds of cattle, sheep, swine and poultry are kept on the College farm for breeding, experimental and class-room purposes, there is not a single stallion, nor any mares or geldings, except those kept for working and driving purposes. The instructor in horse-judging, Dr. J. H. Reed, usually supplies some light horses from his own stables for the students to score and judge, but for the most part, the numbers and types of horses available to illustrate the several breeds and classes of horses are quite inadequate, one of the greatest drawbacks being the total lack of entire males. In a country where the horse is universally employed, where conditions as to inhabitants and climatic and soil conditions are so favorable to the development of an export-horse industry, where our own needs are so great, and where, of all places, on account of the winters of our northern climate, the horseless age is a chimera, it is astonishing that the matters of horse-breeding, horse-judging, and experimentation with this indispensable class of stock should have been so long neglected at this center of live-stock and agricultural research, and it is to be hoped the lack will be promptly supplied by the judicious purchase of males and females of the leading breeds, to be kept on the farm as cattle and other stock are now kept. With this innovation, we believe, might very well go an increased amount of time spent by the students in judging horses and studying horse-breeding problems. As indicative of the recognition of the importance of horse-breeding problems, we find the National Government of the United States inaugurating at and in conjunction with the Colorado Experiment Station an extended demonstration in the production of the Coach horse, as described recently in the "Farmer's Advocate." We know of nothing better calculated to increase the attendance of the O. A. C., or likely to be fraught with more benefit to the students and to the Province generally, than the inauguration of a strong, up-to-date horse department.

Very properly, the College is paying increased attention to forestry. The efforts will well re-

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