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EDITORIAL.

October silo-filling is kind of a poky job.

The best method of supplying nitrogen to the soil on the general farm is through leguminous crops or barnyard manure.

One great aim in the new education should be to train the head through the work of the hand, and character through both.

When a man conceives a bold but rational idea, he can afford to follow it unruffled by any amount of scoffing. Let those laugh who have nothing better to do.

It sometimes happens that the most profit is realized from despised sources, while the brightest hopes turn to ashes. The potato crop, which promised such a bumper yield, has been dug out of the mud only to rot and discolor in the pits or bins. But roots are fine.

Full mows, full silos, full granaries and full root cellars mean well-filled thrifty stock for the winter, and months of contentment to the owner. Nothing is more satisfying to the stockman than to see his stock well bedded and well fed, and nothing gives him more trouble than a feed shortage.

There is very little to promote health or discipline in either body or mind in shutting prisoners in dark cells for their entire terms. Farm work promotes both, gives work to the able-bodied inmates, and produces goods of great value for consumption. This scheme is working admirably in Ontario.

Very true words are these from "Scotland Yet," referring to the inbred Mertoun flock of Border Leicesters recently dispersed. "An aristocracy can run to seed among sheep, cattle or horses as well as among human beings. If you are breeding (beef) cattle or sheep, always remember the butcher's idea, and what he must provide for the public; if you are breeding (draft) horses keep the lorry in view. Thus only will you escape disaster."

Advanced opinion is veering strongly to the opinion that education should be made more practical. That is to say, it should have more direct relation to the things of everyday life. In rural communities especially it should be related as closely as practicable to agriculture and to rural affairs. Such lines of education will be continued into later life through vocational experience and necessity. Education along purely abstract or academic lines too often ceases with good-bye to the schoolroom.

The prices recorded at Cranford were not merely the prices of well-bred cattle, says our Scottish correspondent, they were the prices of milk-record pedigree Shorthorns. "While he was prosecuting his scheme, the late Mr. Taylor was sometimes laughed at, but the results of the dispersion show him to have been no idle dreamer, but a man with a well-founded rational idea as to what might be done to retain the dairying propensities of the Shorthorns recorded in Coates' Herdbook." The result was a complete vindication.

To What End?

From press and platform a vast amount of cheap advice has been tendered Canadian farmers for many years past, inciting them to swell statistics of production and of export by producing more pork, more beef, more butter, more cheese, more eggs, more poultry, more sheep, more wheat, more fruit, more vegetables—in fact more everything. Campaigns of "education" and propaganda have been systematically waged on Institute platforms, inspired by official generals who thought in totals, but sometimes overlooked the interest of the producer as an individual. In their anxiety to push agriculture, boom the country and bring to pass impressive percentages of increase in production of hogs or cheese, or what not, they failed to consider duly the probable effect of such increased production upon prices. "No fear of over-production," they would glibly assert. "The British market will take all you can raise." Which was true enough—with a proviso. They omitted to emphasize that a few dozen other countries were also catering to this same British market, and that custom could be wrested from these competitors only by superior quality or lower prices, or both. Quality being equal, an increased plenitude of supply, even to the extent of one or two per cent., is bound to make for depression of values. Take, for instance, hogs. How quickly prices drop when receipts run a few thousands heavier than usual, and how prompt the explanation that abundance of supplies in England has sent the bacon market down! A comparatively small augmentation of supply, even in world markets, often makes the difference between scarcity and abundance, between high prices and low. In local markets the effect is still more sharply and immediately discernible—as everyone knows who has marketed fruit, vegetables or other perishable products.

The Farmer's Advocate is by no means unsympathetic with well-considered efforts to enlarge production to a reasonable extent in those lines where expansion is likely to prove profitable to the individual farmer, but maintains that not a little such effort has been ill-judged because too much attention has been paid to eye-filling totals, too much interest to the secondary businesses depending upon farmers' purchases and too little attention to the profit-and-loss account of the individual farmer himself. We believe the bacon-hog boom was over-done and there have been times when the cheese business looked as though it had been, though matters have since readjusted themselves pretty satisfactorily in both these lines, as they always will in the end.

It is just as well that public officials should keep first principles in mind, and realize the true ends towards which they should strive. The everyday farmer is farming for profit, and it is not to his interest to have production enormously increased, thus slumping prices. It is to his interest to be shown how he, as an individual, can extract a larger revenue, and especially a larger profit, from his own particular farm. Also it is usually to his advantage to have the standard of quality raised, for that increases consumption, enlarges fastidious demand and generally swells prices. We are pleased to note that Governmental effort in Canada to-day is being largely directed towards improving quality and assisting the individual farmer to make the best use of his particular opportunities for produc-

tion, rather than towards extensive exploitation of this or that line of production. As farmers more clearly discern their own true interests, it will become increasingly and properly difficult to encourage production upon any ground but that of a broad and reasonable self-interest.

Farming as Prison and Hospital Labor.

In this issue there appears an article dealing with agriculture on the Prison Farm, Guelph, Ontario. This is the final of a series of four articles discussing agriculture on Government farms in this Province. It has always been a problem facing the Government how best to employ such misdemeanants as were physically fit to work and also those weak-minded who are not considered dangerous. The problem has been solved and agriculture has filled the gap, as it has done many another gap in the welfare of the individual and the country.

Dealing first with the hospitals for the insane and feeble-minded, confined in these institutions are hundreds of people whose labor may be, and is being, usefully employed in working farm land. There is nothing quite so beneficial for a person who is affected by disease of body or mind as light work in the open air in full communion with nature. Farm work offers such a variety of opportunity in the great diversification of tasks always on hand that large numbers may be employed at all times. Work under such conditions relieves the mind. The hospital becomes to the inmate more of a home than an institution of confinement. The freedom given encourages, and is the best medicine for mind and body. A healthy body aids in the cure of the mind, and the work on the land keeps the body physically fit. Besides, the inmates are doing a useful work, not only for themselves but for the institution. They are cultivating and reaping crops which are utilized as food for those in the institution. It requires no small amount of milk, meat, fruit, wheat and vegetables to supply the tables in these institutions annually, yet this is now being very largely done by the institutions themselves, and in time, as the scheme unfolds, will be produced entirely upon the farms operated by the inmates. This is not all. Some of the institutions are already selling large quantities of pork. Much different is the life of the man confined in a hospital for the insane to-day than it was in former times. He is now working for his own and for his benefactor's good, in comparative freedom, enjoying fresh air, sunshine and productive manual labor. He gets less chance to brood about his trouble, and his case is far more likely to yield to medical treatment than were he closely confined. May the good work continue to grow.

Prison labor has been even a more difficult proposition than hospital labor. Mechanics and artisans of all kinds are confined in our prisons, and many of them are not really bad, having yielded to temptation and been apprehended. Such men should labor, are the better of work, and, besides, there is little in corporal punishment to improve a misdemeanant. There are those who would do away with it entirely. This cannot be done in a day, if it is ever accomplished, but the prison-farm scheme for comparatively short-term prisoners is one of the best yet in the way of reforming rather than punishing those who are under the ban of the law. The principle is right, and we can do no better than quote