

FARMER'S ADVOCATE
AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal
Published Every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance	\$1.50
" " " " (if in arrears)	2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance	2.50

Date on label shows time subscription expires.

In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrearages.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House,
Norfolk St., London, W. C. England.

Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.
Address all communications to the firm, not to any individual.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED.
14-16 PRINCESS STREET WINNIPEG, MAN.

EDITORIAL

Study Grain Conditions

Wheat producers, if they are to secure the best price this season for their grain, require to keep in touch with market situations and to study closely crop and market conditions in all parts of the world. On August 1st the cereal year of 1909-10 began. It opened with supplies at a very low ebb. It is doubtful if the world ever came nearer consuming its entire stocks of wheat than it did in the twelve months just closed. Considered in itself, the fact that supplies were very nearly exhausted should lend considerable strength to the present situation. But while the old crop has been nearly all consumed, considerable wheat of this year's growing is offering in American and European markets, a feature of the situation that tends to weaken the price outlook. Added to this is the fact that official estimates of the crop in Canada and the United States are higher than was expected. Government figures for the American crop indicate a yield considerably higher than last year's, and much better than was looked for a short time ago. Figuring on Canadian out-turn is to some extent guesswork, but official and individual estimates place the crop substantially higher than it was a year ago. It is thought America will have somewhere between twenty-five and seventy-five million bushels more wheat to export in the present cereal year than was exported in the last. To this must be added the increase resulting from increased acreage sown in Europe, a quantity by the way of rather doubtful proportions, and then the southern exporting countries and India have to be considered.

At present the market is probably more sensitive to bear influence than conditions warrant, at least it is usual at this season to over-estimate the probable yield, and under-estimate the influence of factors likely to produce a decrease in the out-turn, and since wheat prices

a month or so ago were probably a little higher than the situation required, and the outlook for the crop in America during the past month shows considerable improvement, it was only natural that a slump in price of some magnitude was imminent. Whether that slump was larger than world conditions warranted remains to be seen. At any rate, it is the grain-grower's duty to look out for his own interests and to watch carefully the developments in the situation from time to time.

Changing Farm Specialties

Leading agriculturists commonly urge mixed farming with particular attention to a special line or two. On a Manitoba farm recently, the results of mixed farming and specialties were displayed with a vengeance. The trouble was lack of attention to details and a rapid-fire change from one specialty to another, because cash returns were not enormous in a season or two.

First, the production of milk was to be the source of wealth. Fine dairy cows were purchased, and an excellent stable equipped. A couple of seasons revealed the fact that it did not pay. Now the large stable stands practically unused. Then it was concluded there was money in beef cattle, and a few good animals of one of the popular beef breeds were secured. Some youngsters were sold at handsome figures, but it was found difficult to establish a reputation that would make it worth while. During these years, too, it suddenly dawned on this versatile farmer that a fortune could be made out of poultry. Pure-breds were purchased and placed in a magnificent pen running the full length of a large barn. After a season or two, however, he talked it over with a neighbor and came to the conclusion that when labor and everything was taken into consideration there was no money to be made out of poultry. Strange to say, the neighbor still has a large flock of pure-breds, and claims to be making money out of them.

During these years of large ideals in regard to specialties, it would seem the fields have been neglected. At any rate, this season's crop will not yield up to the average of the district, and weeds of all kinds are greatly in evidence. At present, the avowed intention is to go into sheep-raising. This, it is claimed, will relieve the weed situation wonderfully. It is safe guessing, however, that a season or two in the sheep-raising industry will suffice.

The trouble seems to have been a lack of general management, and a striving after mushroom growth in special lines in which our friend was not experienced. As a rule, it is safest to go slowly, to exercise strict care in buying, and gradually to develop a superior product that will establish a reputation that means ready sales at handsome prices

Cases are known where individuals rapidly have undertaken special lines of farming or stock-raising and made a success of it from the start ; but it is not the cheapest or the surest way. Generally speaking, particularly for the man with limited capital, it is wisest to go cautiously, and stick to it. In any event, it is folly to jump from one to another without regard to conditions or experience.

Courtesy to Harvesters

Interest in Canada's welfare, and in the development of the prairie provinces, should result in courteous treatment of all who have come to the West to assist in garnering in a bounteous harvest. In the rush of work during the cutting and threshing season, the average farmer is too apt to forget everything but the speedy transfer of his crops from field to stack or granary. The uncertainty of the weather makes it necessary that special attention be given to this work. But in the supreme effort of the land-owner of the prairies, the harvesters in too many cases receive such treatment as to give them undesirable impressions of the prairie, Canada and Western farming.

It is all too noticeable that a certain percentage of the new-comers are undesirable as harvest hands, that few, if any, are capable of doing or willing to do as much work in a given time as hired men were wont to do a few decades ago, and that among certain classes there is a tendency to demand short hours, even though acres of crop stand waiting on the toiler. Such condition of affairs is liable to make the farmer forget himself and the treatment he should tender his helpers.

The shrewd manager, however, has learned that courteous treatment pays. Judicious, good-natured handling of men, with noticeable granting of privileges when weather conditions are unfavorable for harvesting operations, goes a long way toward making it easy to induce the men to work longer hours with greater vim when the weather is fine. In Canada, the day is past when the man of average intelligence will act the slave as hired man, even though it does mean dollars in the crop return of his employer. He has concluded that it pays better to own land of his own.

Among those who arrive on harvesters' excursions are men who have been accustomed to hard work in other parts of Canada. With many, this trip has been made with a view to gaining a knowledge of the West, and finding out the wisdom of settling here. The impressions they get depend largely on the men with whom they work. The special aim should be to accord such treatment as will send all away filled with a desire to return as settlers, and so enthused that valuable missionary work on behalf of Western Canada will be done wherever they go.