

# The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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Thorough, Complete, Reliable.

To THE FARMING WORLD,  
Toronto, Ont.

DEAR SIRS.—Please find enclosed the amount of my subscription. I have been a subscriber to THE FARMING WORLD for two years and find it of great benefit to me in my business as a farmer. It is thorough, complete and reliable. It is the best printed, ablest edited and most interesting and instructive agricultural paper in Canada.

With best wishes for your success and prosperity. I remain.

Yours truly,

W. H. HAVILAND.

Delhi, Ont., Nov. 16, 1900.

## Live Stock the Basis of Agriculture



AN the farming that goes on forever—the agriculture that is truly great—have any foundation other than live stock—improved live stock? This is a quotation from an address before the Illinois Live Stock Association a few weeks ago. And strange to say, the words were spoken by a lady in the person of Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, head of the woman's department of the Minnesota School of Agriculture.

What a world of meaning is wrapped up in this short sentence! Let every Canadian farmer ask himself the question contained therein. Can successful agriculture, in a country where the same land is tilled for generation after generation, have any foundation other than live stock? We think not. The history of the most successful agricultural lands to-day proves it. Has not live stock, and the most improved live stock at that, been the foundation of farming in Great Britain? It has been so for a number of years; it is so to-day, and will continue to be so for all time to come. As soon as the English farmer begins to lose his hold upon live stock, just so soon will he begin to recede from the proud position he occupies to-day, that of being the most successful agriculturist the world over.

In Canada we are merely on the threshold of what improved live stock can and will do for the farmers of this country. Some few of our more progressive farmers have already crossed the threshold, and have advanced a considerable distance beyond the border. Their experience stands as a striking example of what

every farmer can accomplish by putting forth the same effort and skill. But where is the average farmer? Still lurking on the threshold, and wondering whether he had better cross over or not. But delay is dangerous. Others are rapidly moving forward. The farmer, in the United States, in the Argentine, in fact in every progressive agricultural country to-day, is enquiring for good stock, is paying more attention to good stock, and is every day reaping more and more the benefits to be derived from keeping improved live stock. And so the march of progress goes on, and the Canadian farmer must exert himself to keep a little ahead of the tide.

But why is live stock the basis of greater agriculture? Because it furnishes practically the only means by which a farmer may improve the quality of his land and at the same time realize a good profit while doing so. There is no other branch of farming that will enable the farmer to do this. Farming goes on forever, and any adequate consideration of the subject must be broad enough to include vastly more than the present in all farming operations. From this point of view it can be shown upon both economic and intellectual lines that improved live stock is the basis of successful agriculture. There is no quicker or better way of building up a worn-out farm than intelligent and successful live stock husbandry. Then live stock gives permanence to the fertility and conditions of the land. When the farmer maintains and increases the fertility of his land he carries on the highest type of manufacturing—converting the raw material of the soil into forms suitable for use—he manufactures an endless succession of meat and milk, fleece and fibre, speed and draft, cereal and fruit. In this way permanency is assured.

A rotation of crops and the keeping of live stock must go hand in hand. An intelligent rotation brings with it several elements of profit unknown to a system of farming where no rotation is followed. As the speaker referred to above puts it, they are: Minimum expense in equipment; minimum of labor employed; maximum of value in the finished product; minimum of fertility sold in the marketable products; stability of output—a rational equilibrium. This equilibrium means something to do all the year round. That day in agriculture has gone by when a farmer can do business by working half the time. On the stock farm there is tillage in the summer, and the care of the stock in the winter. And so, by employing his energies all the year, the farmer never gets rusty. His means of revenue are greatly increased, and he is building up and raising his land to the highest point of production.