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Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

APPROACHING OPPORTUNITIES.

The present may well be regarded as, in many respects, a period of transition in agricultural conditions, in the experience of farmers, from the somewhat easy-going methods of the past, to a more intensive and businesslike management, in which thorough cultivation, economy of time and well-directed labor shall receive greater attention and consideration than has hitherto been the case. The up-to-date farmer must be alert to the changes in the tastes and demands of the people to whom he caters in the branch or branches of the business he has chosen as his specialties. While, as a rule, there is wisdom in adhering to the class or breed of live stock, or of crop production, one has adopted, and seeking to excel in that line, in the belief that, in any specialty in business there is always room at the top or near it, circumstances are liable to occur rendering a change of procedure not only justifiable, but, in view of the circumstances, commendable and wise.

The man who has secured a widespread reputation may retain his hold upon the market fairly well throughout the ups and downs which are liable to come to pass in time in the experience of a breeder or a grower of any special class of product, and may, provided he is endowed with tact, good judgment and ability as a salesman, hold his own through a temporary business depression, come through it safely, and rise with the rebound to even better things than before. But, lacking the advantages and gifts afore mentioned, the average breeder or farmer, when markets, labor and other circumstances indicate the probability of better results financially, by changing, for instance, from beef-raising to dairying, or vice versa, may greatly improve his conditions, as has been the satisfactory experience of many.

The economical utilization of fodder and other classes of feed for stock in a year such as the present, when feed in many districts is scarce and prices ruling high, is a subject that may well engage the attention and consideration of every farmer at the present juncture. To so prepare and dispense the available supply as to make it go the farthest, while keeping up the condition and capacity of the animals for profitable production of meat or milk or work, is, at any time, a study well worthy of mature thought, but especially so under the conditions of scarcity many farmers are facing just now. That a substantial saving may be effected by careful handling, preparation and dispensing of the supply, has been proven by many farmers in a time of scarcity, while, in years of plenty, when it has been dealt out lavishly, little has been left at the end of the winter feeding period.

The winter is a favorable season in which, by reading and study, to obtain an intelligent knowledge of the composition and comparative feeding values of the various stock foods raised on the farm or placed on the market, and of the proportions of each required to constitute a balanced ration, and an economical mixture for feeding to produce the desired results.

To this end, no better school is available than that afforded by the Winter Fairs, at which are provided not only helpful addresses, presented by scientists and practical men, relating their own experience and the results of their methods, but the opportunity is at the same time and place afforded to study the most approved types of animals for profitable production of meat or milk, and also to compare the living animal and its dressed carcass, and to learn the comparative market values of different classes or types. These

Fairs, and the free short courses for farmers provided by the Agricultural Colleges, lasting only two or three weeks, are inexpensive opportunities for gaining information which may be profitably utilized. These, together with the advantages afforded by associations, conventions, and the Farmers' Institute system, for personal discussion, the many good books available, and the regular visits of farm journals, in which practical farmers relate their experience, and scientists who have applied the tests of observation, analysis and experimentation, freely answer questions, giving advice and reasons for their conclusions—all combine to place within reach of the farmer helpful information, some of which may suit his individual conditions and circumstances, and may be turned to profitable account. The time has surely passed when farmers can afford to discount the aid afforded by science, invention and discovery placed before them at so little cost to themselves, and it is gratifying to observe that "book-learning" is no longer despised so generally as formerly, but that, intelligently selected and studied, it is accepted as helpful in the prosecution of the most important of human occupations, the management of a farm.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE THROUGH SCOTTISH EYES.

From reviews of his standard volume in relation to the farm live stock of Great Britain and other portions of the Empire, published in these columns from time to time, "Farmer's Advocate" readers are tolerably familiar with the name and work of Prof. Robert Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the University of Edinburgh, who, during the past summer, paid Canada and the United States an extended visit. Since his return to the Scottish seat of learning, he has begun to make good use of the stores of agricultural impressions gathered during his journeyings on this continent. In opening what is called the Garton course of lectures on Colonial and Indian Agriculture, he told of his visit to the numerous agricultural colleges and experimental stations in America, and outlined the nature of the educational and research work being carried on. It is gratifying to know that so learned and capable an observer as Professor Wallace has earned the reputation of being, was, on the whole, favorably impressed with the activity and efficiency of the various institutions visited, and, above all, with the generous part which the American Government plays in promoting and assisting agricultural education and investigation. The Agricultural Department at Washington he describes as the greatest government organization of its kind in the world. He does not think that the agricultural resources of America are approaching the limit of development. His version is that a vast amount of uncultivated land exists in almost every State in the Union—land which will grow profitable crops when the pressure of population makes it necessary. Undoubtedly this is true, as was emphasized in our review of the Syracuse, N. Y., speech by Secretary Wilson last week, and we shall see the course of events taking place in Canada. At the same time, Prof. Wallace says that the boundaries of the areas of cultivation are being extended by the efforts of the Irrigation Division of the Department on the one hand, and of the Dry Land Division on the other. Apparently, the farmers in the rainless districts, guided by the pioneer efforts of the State Department, have succeeded in overcoming many of the initial difficulties. By giving special attention to the cultivation of the surface soil, they manage to restrict evaporation,

while, by the enterprise of the Plant Introduction Division of the Agricultural Department, in selecting and improving plants adapted to the conditions, the natural disadvantages under which they labor have been greatly mitigated.

TOO BUSY TO MAKE ROADS!

A special correspondent of the London (Eng.) Times, as a result of a most painstaking tour through the Dominion, reaches the conclusion that nothing in Canada is more striking to a stranger than the attachment of the people, not only to the country itself, but to the particular part of it in which they happen to dwell. He finds it the same from one end of the land to the other, and this national and civic pride he regards as the outstanding characteristic of all Canadians, being one of the best proofs of the confidence which they feel in their country. This confidence is largely due to the remarkable development of industry and agriculture in recent years. As incidental examples of town growth, the Times correspondent cites Port Arthur and Fort William. In 1901 the former had a population of but 3,000, which last year had grown to over 10,000, while Ft. William had expanded from some 4,000 to about 13,000. He describes these towns as well supplied with power from the beautiful Kakabeka Falls and other sources. They are well lighted with electricity, and possess a good system of electric street railways, and appear, in "almost every other respect," to be efficiently equipped. Just here, however, the proverbial fly in the ointment makes its appearance, for the Times correspondent notes, with pain, that, in common with most Canadian localities, these towns are lamentably defective in the matter of roads. He was told that Canadians "had no time to make roads." It may be so, he comments, but when they find time to make so many other civic and municipal improvements, he could not but regard as a serious blemish the state of the public highways in many flourishing centers of population, and, had he visited many rural districts, his impression would not have been any more favorable. The condition of our civic streets and rural roads are confessedly a bad advertisement of the country, and the wonder is that the taxpayers have so long tolerated a system of mismanagement which gives them so little facility and comfort for their money.

THE FOUR-HORSE AGE.

The farm-labor problem is being reduced to a matter of mathematics. Briefly, the question may be epitomized thus: With wages at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day (counting board), can a farmer afford to have one man following a walking plow drawn by two horses, when experience proves that any reasonably capable man can do twice as much work equally well or better by using four horses on a two-furrow or three-furrow riding plow? Each year an increasing number of Canadian farmers answer this question wisely by investing in the faster-working implement. Time was when Ontario farmers deemed the four-horse plow practicable only on the plains. Necessity has brought us to view the matter differently. By clearing obstructions from the fields and removing cross-fences, we have fitted our farms for the advantageous use of fast-working implements, and, by gradually introducing these into our farm practice as opportunity offers, we are increasing the earning capacity not only of the men we hire, but of the time which we, as employers, spend on our own farms. It has cost us something in money and convenience to make the