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EDITORIAL.

The noblest question in the world is: "What good may I do in it?"—[Benj. Franklin.]

The farm-labor problem will never be settled upon any other principle than that of the Golden Rule.

To enable one man to accomplish two men's work, is good business. In dozens of operations it can be done—nowhere better than in plowing.

Nature these days presents one vast panoramic picture of brilliant and beautiful coloring. There is something astray with your habits of life if you have been too busy to admire it.

"Barnyard grades" is the very expressive colloquialism heard by one of our editors lately as a designation for scrubs. How aptly it denotes the accumulated results of many years' breeding to no particular end!

The average man is wonderfully benefited by an occasional transplanting. Thus have great nations been established or invigorated, and thus have millions of men been individually broadened and stimulated, to the good of themselves and of the communities into which they remove.

The demand for two-furrow plows has completely exhausted the season's output of at least one prominent Canadian implement firm, and, it being impracticable to manufacture any more for the trade of 1910, their agents have had no option but to temporarily cease pushing this branch of their business.

Farm procedure is more and more being regulated according to accurate business methods. The wider the adaptation of business principles to farm practice, the greater will be the resulting profits. In order to stimulate the adoption of such methods, we announce this week the offer of twenty dollars in prizes for the best contributions upon the cost of horse-power to the average farmer. Contribute your quota of information on the subject.

A plowing match is a splendid institution. Men and boys for miles around take an interest in doing their plowing right. From doing one thing as it should be done, there arises from the resulting satisfaction a desire to do all things properly. Straight, accurate plowing becomes followed by more careful teaming at seeding time; straight rows stimulate a desire for straight, trim fences and roads; and thus the influence of one good reaches out to benefit the whole span of life.

Competition, says a recent magazine writer, is a spectre that looms up to the average business man more formidable than it really is. Excepting iron-clad combinations in restraint of trade, competition rarely or never captures the market as a business man's nightmare forebodes. The man who keeps cool finds his niche in the trade, and develops a healthy, expanding business, competition serving only as a stimulus. As in domestic markets, so in foreign. There is room for all. Beyond shadow of a doubt, firms now supplying, respectively, the markets of the United States and Canada, would, under the automatic regulation of reciprocity, exchange part of their present market with each other, to the mutual advantage of themselves, as well as of consumers.

Improvements are best effected by noting deficiencies when they are most apparent. During the harvesting of the crops, those places in the field which need an underdrain should have been more or less clearly outlined to the eye of the interested owner. The heavy autumn rains now falling will serve more distinctly to define these places. Mark them, and forget them not.

Many conspicuous object lessons in the value of spraying apple orchards have been furnished by this season's experience. To be sure, the adverse effects of repeated late frosts, combined, possibly, with other untoward conditions, were in some sections so serious that even well-handled orchards have little fruit; but where there was any chance for a crop at all, the sprayed orchards almost invariably have a marked advantage in both quality and quantity. Such is the case in Middlesex County, and it is the general report.

Tariff reduction and reciprocity are two distinct issues. It is possible to have some degree of either without the other. We favor a measure of both. For the relief of consumers and the benefit of interdependent industries, and especially of agriculture, many of our present schedules should be gradually reduced to an approximately uniform percentage, much lower than the present average rate. If, in addition, an equitable reciprocity treaty can be negotiated, it will be of unquestionable advantage, especially to our agriculturists.

Another amendment to the Seed Control Act is contemplated. It is proposed, for one thing, to eliminate the present sophistical use of the indefinite term, "Government Standard," by providing three grades, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, respectively (with possibly a Fancy or Extra No. 1), for seeds of timothy, alfalfa, red and alsike clover. It is also expected that the new Act will stipulate a maximum percentage for all weed seeds, instead of specifying, as at present, a maximum only for certain of the worst seeds which are named in the Act. The present law prevents the sale of many seeds carrying a large percentage of seeds of the less noxious weeds.

Some experiment stations have been carrying on extensive careful investigations into the actual cost of farm operations, as practiced in various types of farming, and thus leading the way to a systematic business basis for all farming. Farmers following such methods, keep extending them, and with every extension forge farther towards the front of their profession. A free participation in our Dairy-cow Contest should cast much light upon the profitability of this phase of farm industry, and help to place not only this but all lines of farm pursuits upon a firmer footing. Your experience, contributed with your neighbor's, must form the basis of further knowledge.

Pleasant as it is to hear the warm words of praise for "The Farmer's Advocate," volunteered by enthusiastic friends wherever we go, it is very much more satisfactory to find readers who have been attentively following its recommendations, and thereby winning success where others failed. Whilst there are many such encouraging examples, there might be many more. The highest compliment any reader can pay this paper is judiciously, intelligently and perseveringly to practice what we preach. We like to feel proud of the results obtained by a "Farmer's Advocate" subscriber, wherever he may be found. It rests with you to make your farming a credit to the agricultural journal you read.

Compensations of Storms.

This is not a sermon. We leave that for the men of the pulpit. It is, rather, just a plain talk about getting good from things that seem ill. Disasters are never as hopeless or irretrievable as they may appear. For the most part, the past season has been one of great abundance on the farms of Eastern Canada, and, under the stimulus of prevailing good prices, there is, as a general rule, continued prosperity. But, in a few restricted districts crops and fruit plantations were devastated by storms which have had no parallel in half a century. The shock of such an event is hard to bear, for it is a sorry interruption to the even tenor of our plans, which we like to see go smoothly along, or even with a rush and unbroken material gain. But, in the loss and disturbance, may we not find some substantial compensations?

The fields bereft of grain, once the straw was removed, were soon covered with a dense mass of verdure that made autumn feed for the cattle and smothered out the usual after-crop of weeds; and, upon being fall-plowed, the soil is found filled with a mass of greatly-needed vegetable matter that will surely tell favorably in the luxuriance of future crops. There are three compensating considerations to begin with.

In the next place, it compels us to cultivate resourcefulness, to adopt new plans, perhaps to cull out our live stock to correspond with the depleted contents of the bins and mows. In this way we may be rid of some unprofitable animals. There is abundance of fodder, of a kind, so the concentrated feedstuffs must be more carefully husbanded and fed with discretion, but not parsimoniously. Feed fewer cows and heaves if need be, but feed them well, though purchases must be made to do so. In some cases men were able, by prompt action, to provide themselves with extra crops of Hungarian or millet to replace in measure what had been destroyed. A half crop of corn, but of superior quality, is not to be despised, and garden stuff and potatoes that seemed a total wreck when the blow was over, turned out to be just about as good as usual, and in some cases better. If we do without certain fruits for once, we shall appreciate them better hereafter, and have some sympathy for those who never enjoy them at all. On the material side of the case, we believe that five years hence some will be better off than they would have been had the hail and wind never wrought their havoc, just because of the hard, practical lessons taught.

It is worse than useless to brood over what is "lost," as we call it, forgetful of unnumbered benefits and blessings yet enjoyed. Far better turn with hopeful courage to the future, and plan for a new day and better things. Every ounce of mental energy spent deploring losses is just so much taken from what might well be devoted to fresh effort.

It is right that we grow the cleanest and very finest crops of which the land is capable, and take a pride in the work and life of the farm, but it is right to remember that crops and money, highly as we prize them, are only a means to an end, and if we stake wholly upon them, we run the risk of losing all in the game of life. Manhood, character, virtue, intelligence, culture, service of others, love of home, and good friends—these are the things that really count.

We need not assume that the disaster was a "punishment" for misdoing or worldliness, but it will prove one of the greatest of blessings if it but lifts us clear of the grip of those things, and causes us to keep first things first. It has taught us patience that most of us have to learn; it has shown us how powerless we really are amid the