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JANUARY 26, 1911

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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932 boxes in 1903, valued at \$21,500,-000. One great departmental store col-lects direct from the farmers sufficient milk to keep several cheese factories busy.

Successful as the year has been with the farmers of the East, there is a grow- ing conviction that this part of Canada is at the moment a land of neglected op- portunity, largely owing to the easy suc- cess of those who have taken up the cheap lands and virgin soil of the West. While many think that more effort is necessary to success in the East, facts gathered from recent experience show that in no part of Canada can a larger return be obtained in proportion to the intelligence employed than here in On- tario. We have one of the best and most famous of Agricultural Colleges, and wherever one of its students is farming, the effect of his knowledge on his own farm and the influence of his example on those of others is most marked, but there are many parts where no such ex- amples of improved methods exist, and the Government has now adopted the plan of taking the College to the farmer. The Farmers' Institute lectures and the Agricultural Fair prizes have done and are doing much good, but the new effort is of a much more effective and prac- tical nature. It is sought by demon- stration farming, actually carried on by experts acting for the Government, and by visits paid to various parts of the Province by experts who are able and willing to give advice, gradually to break up that condition of contentment with the farming of our fathers, which is so great an enemy to progress. If young men can be shown the results of a thor- ough knowledge of stock-raising as com- pared with not knowing, of caring for orchards instead of not caring for them, of systematic manuring and of proper drainage, of a knowledge, indeed, of the many things which bring about the enor- mous difference in results between old- fashioned and up-to-date farming, we may hope that more farmers' sons will stay on the land, and that many city men will settle there, and that increased wealth and happiness will be the result. But actual results are more powerful arguments than mere preaching. An orchard in Ontario which yielded prior to 1909 \$100 worth of apples annually, produced in 1909, in new hands, fruit worth \$1,437, the net profit on which was \$974, in addition to apples not suitable for eating, worth more than the whole crop before the orchard was prop- erly cared for. In other cases 8 acres of orchard produced \$2,489 gross, and \$1,890 net; 5½ acres produced \$2,237 gross, and \$1,720 net; 1½ acres produced \$539 gross; and many cases of yields in money from \$150 to \$300 per acre could be shown, the result varying of course with the age of the trees, but mainly with the practical knowledge of the fruit-grower. In vegetables one man with 17 acres raised 127 tons of caulif- lower, which he sold for \$30 per ton, a return of about \$225 per acre. We know that for years large profits have been made in Ontario growing fine roses and other flowers for New York and other United States markets, but we now hear of one experienced hybridizer, who is also a banker, who has made himself famous, as well as prosperous as a producer of innumerable species of gladioli, which are in demand in all quarters of the world. It must be remembered that these re- sults are not due merely to the prox-

imity of a market, but that in almost any part of Western Ontario similar things can be done. Too much credit cannot be accorded to the Department of Agriculture for Ontario for the effort it is making, and we can but hope that the number of lecturers and demonstrators will be increased, and that they will be persistently kept at work as a permanent force working for agricultural improve- ment. In some parts already a new tone has been given to farm affairs, emi- gration to the West has nearly ceased, farm values are increasing, and intensive farming is a subject of general and keen interest.

That a more enterprising spirit is neces- sary may be readily gathered from the statistics of live stock in Ontario. From 1901 to 1907, the number of horses on hand grew from 620,000 to 725,000, but since that year there has been practically no increase. The number sold annually has, however, increased from 51,000 in 1901 to 98,000 in 1910, which is evi- dence enough of the difficulty of main- taining a stock on hand. The number of milch cows in 1901 was 984,000, in 1907 1,152,000, in 1910 only 1,052,000. The number of other cattle in 1901 was 1,523,000, in 1906 1,834,000, and in 1910 only 1,514,000. The number of stock slaughtered, however, rose steadily from 610,000 in 1901 to 817,000 in 1910. In sheep and lambs, the story is one of steady decline from 1901 to 1910, in both the number of those on hand and of those slaughtered. In swine, the number on hand rose from 1,491,000 in 1901 to 2,049,000 in 1907, and fell to 1,561,000 in 1910, while the number slaughtered rose from 1,973,000 in 1901 to 2,267,000 in 1905, and fell to 1,844,000 in 1910. In poultry of all classes there has been a satisfactory increase in the number on hand, and in the number annually killed. It will be seen from these figures, which are mainly taken from reports of the Agricultural Department of the Province of Ontario, and do not agree very closely with those of the Census Department at Ottawa, that we are meeting a greatly increased demand by decreasing the stock on hand, and such a state of things can- not, of course, continue long. Many quite natural causes have led to this re- sult, and others will tend to remedy it to some extent in the near future. Hay being scarce, high prices prevailing for coarse grains, and the highest prices ever known for cattle, the farmer has in many cases sold both cattle and coarse grains, instead of feeding his stock as usual. But food crops are now more plentiful, and we may look for an increase in the stock of animals on hand.

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

Considerable disappointment, as we all know, accompanies the record of what is nevertheless another year of progress in the Prairie Provinces. The wheat, oats, and flax reaped in the previous year were the highest in grade, and the whole crop was the largest and produced the largest sum in money ever known. Under such conditions, the acreage for 1910 was naturally increased, not merely by older farmers, but by new settlers preparing their first crops. With an early spring everything promised well, but because of many adverse conditions, a smaller and less highly-graded crop was the result. Our estimates in August were:

	Bushels.
Wheat	88,000,000
Oats	90,000,000
Barley	17,000,000
Flax	4,000,000

Other estimates are as high as 104,-000,000 bushels for wheat, and 128,000,-000 bushels for oats, but we do not ex- pect either wheat or oats to reach 100,-000,000 bushels. About 60 per cent. of the wheat is fit for milling, and oats and barley grade badly. The flax crop was larger than in 1909, and the price during 1910 has been as high as \$2.54 per bushel, and is still most unusually high, so that the crop is much more important than might be supposed. The money re- sult from the crops of the three Prairie Provinces, as estimated by conservative Western opinion, will be about \$20,000,-000 less than for 1909. The estimate of the Census Department, which includes all field crops, is less favorable. The total field crops for the three Provinces for 1910 are valued at \$155,926,000, as com- pared with \$192,839,000 for 1909, a less amount by about \$37,000,000. Much of the shrinkage in value is due to decline in price.

The smaller yield of the crops of these Provinces is due to unfavorable weather in three districts, Southern Alberta, Southern Manitoba, and South-western Saskatchewan. In the northern districts, and in some southern parts, results were most excellent. In the districts where results were generally unfavorable, how- ever, isolated cases stand out clearly, showing splendid results obtained, despite the weather, simply by scientific farming. Agricultural conditions at the moment in Southern Manitoba and parts of South- western Saskatchewan, are unsatisfactory because of lack of moisture, while in Southern Alberta, because of plentiful moisture during the last few months, the prospects are as good as could be de- sired. For some years the necessity of more advanced methods in such older parts as Southern Manitoba has been painfully evident. May we now hope that the Government of Manitoba, as well as the farmers, will forthwith do the quite obvious and not difficult things necessary to redeem and maintain the rep- utation of this part of Canada as a grain- producing country. Undoubtedly the crop is largely reduced every year by the prevalence of weeds, and it is clear that the Provincial Government cannot take too much trouble to remove this evil as far as possible. Enough has been done by individual cases of good farming to show how much larger the profits of agriculture in the West should be. The results of the present poor crop have been improved by the fact that mixed farming has been increasing—indeed, that is the direction in which Southern Manitoba is already working out, the reform made necessary by the impoverishment of the land as a result of repeated grain crops.

There is no question of more impor- tance to Western development than that of improving the breeding of live stock and of increasing their numbers. We are witnessing the gradual extinction of the rancher, and the gradual establishment of a great grazing and feeding industry. It is naturally dulled by the increase due to the slower methods of the latter to make up for the losses consequent on the passing of the rancher, but the outlook as a whole is promising. The Live-stock

Exhibition at Winnipeg in 1910 exceeded all records in the number of high-grade animals shown, and these were of such excellence that little further improvement can be looked for, some classes having been the finest ever shown in America. The progressive Western farmer is demon- strating to his fellows that if each of them will, as soon as he can afford it, raise a few head of high-grade stock, the disappearance of the rancher will redound to their gain, and the problem of main- taining a sufficient supply of animals will be solved. As matters now stand, stocks are not as large as they should be, nor are they increasing as fast as they should. Statistics do not go far enough back in Saskatchewan and Al- berta to be of much service, but in Mani- toba horses have increased in numbers only about 50 per cent. in ten years, cattle a trifle more than 50 per cent., sheep have lessened in number, swine have increased about 100 per cent., and poul- try about 65 to 70 per cent. Such sta- tistics as are available, show that stocks on hand for the three Provinces are about 870,000 horses, 2,300,000 cattle, 345,000 sheep, and 608,000 swine. Fig- ures for poultry seem unreliable, but ap- parently there are not yet half as many as in Ontario. One has only to look at the map and consider the small part of Ontario that is farmed, and to compare it with the West, in order to see how very much must be done before it can be made impossible for the Vice-President of the C. P. R. to reproach Manitoba with the importation of 12,000,000 eggs in one year over that railway alone, and to say further that the poultry and cream for their dining cars must be obtained partly in the United States.

The storage capacity of terminal and inland elevators has increased from 63,-190,000 bushels in 1909, to 77,901,000 in 1910.

The railways are again to be congratu- lated on the manner in which they han- dled the crop. It is estimated that by the close of navigation 60,000,000 bush- els had reached the head of the lakes. Terminal facilities for handling the crop have still further improved, and through the Lake Shippers' Clearance Association, vessels can be loaded and despatched with much greater rapidity than heretofore. There has been the usual large increase in the mileage of railways, with the prospect of a still greater increase in 1911. In addition to Winnipeg, there are now many important railway centers, such as Brandon, Regina, Moosejaw, Weyburn, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, York- ton, North Battleford, Edmonton, Cal- gary, and Lethbridge.

One of the most interesting things in the settlement of Canada is the work of the superintendent of the irrigation schemes of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The policy of providing "ready-made" farms is succeeding admirably, and the dryness of the past season has drawn at- tention to the value of irrigation in Southern Alberta. Sales of land in the irrigation area have been very large dur- ing the last three years, and have lately averaged a million dollars a month. The railway company naturally favors sales which result in immediate occupation. Their plans have succeeded so well that an appropriation of \$8,000,000 is said to have been voted by the Railway Board in order to carry the irrigation system further east.

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