

### A Book Worth Having

"In Pastures Green" is fresh, inviting, humorous, philosophical and very readable. It is the latest book by Peter McArthur, the son of Ekfrid, and is largely a compilation of his letters in the Toronto Globe and The Farmers' Advocate. The book takes the form of a journal of the year's happenings on the Middlesex county farm where the author lives. The spirit of the work is explained by the author himself in his opening paragraph: "The man who wishes to learn the human side of farming may find something to interest him, but the man who consults these pages for scientific information does so at his peril."

The whole work thrills with the love of the open spaces, the joy of communion with nature. We who live in the country cannot read the sketches of country life without a new appreciation of the joys and blessings of the farmer's lot. The book is chuck full of optimism and goodwill to all men.

But there is a deeper meaning running all through the volume. It is really an appeal for a real back-to-the-land movement. The concluding paragraph of the preface voices the spirit and object of the work.

"At this time, with the business of the world more completely disorganized than most people imagine, I do not hesitate to advise every one who can possibly go back to the land, to go. If I had my way there would not be a vacant farmhouse in all Canada before the snow flies. The who are out of work and have some resources, would find it cheaper to spend the idle winter on a farm, and they could be ready by spring to begin to make their living from the soil. At the present time, our cities have many victims of the war who are as blameless as the victims of a great fire or any similar disaster. They must be cared for, and our government would be making no mistake in voting an appropriation for the purchase of a million bags of flour for the relief of distress at home. It will be many years before the business of the world can be resumed in the volume of past years, and those who are in authority can do nothing better than get the unemployed back on the land, where they can earn their own food, clothing and shelter. This suggests that the land problem will soon be one of the most pressing in Canada. How are people to get back on the land? My friends of the Single Tax Association need not write to me to explain how this is to be accomplished. I admit all their conclusions, though as a weak human being I resent the perfection of their logic. Nothing in my experience has ever happened logically. If they will stop antagonizing people with their perfect theory, they may see that their dreams fulfilled much sooner than they expect. The nationalization of land is immeasurably nearer than any one supposes, and it will be brought about by the blundering logic of events. The people must get back on the land, must! must! must!

The work of education undertaken by Henry George and his disciples, is now practically complete. The time has come for action. People must have access to the land—the one source of production. If the people of the cities turn towards the land, where they can provide for themselves, it will not be long before as justice as humanly possible, will be accorded to them. Land-hunger will force a solution of the land problem. The time for dissertations on abstract justice is past. It is to stimulate the land-hunger of this made bold to trouble readers of this column with so frank a statement of my personal affairs at the present

time. If you are looking ahead with terror to the long winter, you should make up your mind that before another winter comes, you will be as well provided for as I am, with the fruits of your own labor on the land. Back to the land! should become a slogan of power. I trust that those who are in authority, and who will have the task of caring for our victims of the war, will give it their earnest attention."

The volume may be had through I. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., Toronto, at \$1.50. We know of no book issued in recent years more well worth reading.—F. E. E.

### Do We Want City Farmers?

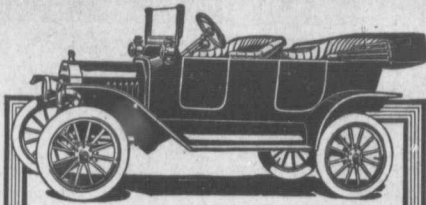
EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—The Mayors of cities and municipalities of Canada in convention assembled a few months ago, recommended that the problem of the unemployed be solved by assisting men to the land by a gift of 40 acres of virgin soil and a \$500 loan. Since that recommendation has appeared in the press as to whether or not a city man could make a living on 40 acres of land with the loan mentioned. Not a word have I seen of the farmer's side of the question,—not even in the agricultural press. I would ask, is it desirable to crowd the city's unemployed on to our farms?

First let us consider the economic side. Every man who leaves the city to take up a farm means that I, as a farmer, lose a customer and have another competitor. It is coolly proposed by the mayors of our municipalities that the government assist to provide this extra competition for the farmers. How, I would like to ask, would manufacturers meet a similar proposition? Would it not be just as easy for the government to establish a few big manufacturing concerns as to lay out and finance a few thousand small farms? But they would never think of doing so. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association would immediately be heard in protest. They would point out the large sums of money already invested in manufacturing industries, and the fact that the profits of these investments would be endangered by such additional competition. Never a word about the still greater sums invested in our Canadian farms that would certainly be rendered unprofitable by such an increase in the production of farm products as these city farmers would cause. We as farmers should oppose any such measure.

Just a word on the possible profits. A 40-acre farm might be all right if situated near a large and good market. The city man then stand a chance to make a decent living. But farms be out on the prairie, far from markets of any kind. Under these conditions, city men might eke out an existence not quite as good as that enjoyed by the lowest peasants of Europe, but they could not raise a family as self-respecting Canadian citizens would like to do.

I claim that we do not need any more men on our farms. The fact show that there is no under-production of farm products. If there were under-production, prices would be higher and the profits of farming would increase to the point where people would be flocking to the land without any other inducement or assistance from the government. This is the situation as seen by—"A Plain Farmer."

Corn cannot be ripened properly in the greater part of Quebec province, but it can be sufficiently matured to make excellent silage.



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