

# The Farming World

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### Note and Comment

Though cool weather has continued well on into June, the crop outlook has very much improved during the last two weeks. Reports from the West are more hopeful. The acreage will be higher than last year. In Ontario spring grains have improved very much. With suitable growing conditions from this on there is nothing to prevent a good yield. The hay crop has improved somewhat, though the yield is likely to be small in any case. And this applies to fall wheat also. Roots and corn have been a couple of weeks late in planting. Some who planted corn early have had to replant.

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The marked advance in the price of meat in our larger cities and towns during the past couple of weeks has set some people thinking. In Toronto steak is selling all the way from 18c to 22c and 23c. per lb. The middleman when asked the reason for this increase has replied that it is chiefly due to the advance in labor, rents, etc. There has, however, been an advance in the price of the live animal of from one-half to one cent per pound. But it has not been equal to the advance in the price of meat, which may be safely put at from two to three cents per lb. higher than it was a month ago.

The interesting phase of this question, however, is whether the producer is getting his full share of this advance. A live animal weighing say 1200 lbs. will dress out about 635 lbs. of saleable meat. If the figures given above are taken, we find that the producer is getting an increase of about \$6 per head, while the middle man is getting an advance from the consumer of over \$12 per head, and in addition has the hide and other by-products to realize on. Reasoned out in this way, it would seem that the producer is not getting his just share in the recent advance. In other words, the consumer is taxed from two to three cents per lb. more for his meat, while only one-half of this increase goes into the pockets of the producer.

And this leads up to the broader question: Does the producer at any time get a fair price for his beef cattle, considering the price at which meat retails to the consumer in our towns and cities? Is there not too wide a margin between what he gets for his meat on the farm and what the consumer gets for this same meat when converted into beef? These are live questions that we would

be glad to have the views of cattle raisers upon. There are many who think the producer does not get his share, and that the time is ripe for a full discussion of this whole question. If he does not there should be some way of remedying matters.

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The arrangements for the establishment of agricultural classes in six high schools in Ontario as announced in these columns some weeks ago, have been completed, and the schools selected where these classes will be established. The following are the places and the teachers named for each school: Collingwood, R. E. Mortimer; Galt, F. C. Hart; Essex, A. McKenney; Lindsay, F. H. Reed; Georgetown; Perth, R. S. Hamer; Morrisburg, W. A. Munro. The teachers are graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, a guarantee that they have at least the foundation for imparting sound knowledge on the principles and practices of Agriculture to their pupils.

Though a new venture, this movement has in it possibilities of vital importance to agriculture. If successful, there is no reason why it should not be extended to the majority of the high schools and collegiate institutes of the province. To insure its success it should have the active support and co-operation of farmers in the districts where the schools are located. Encourage students to take the agricultural course and fit themselves, if necessary, to teach this subject in the rural schools. The rural school is where the foundation for an agricultural education should begin. But this cannot be secured except by having teachers who are able to intelligently impart knowledge on agricultural or nature topics. This new high school venture furnishes an opportunity for obtaining these, and should be encouraged by everyone interested in developing the agriculture of the country and in keeping our young people on the farm.

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Ontario is not the only country that is branching out in advanced agricultural education. The State of Georgia has recently established eleven agricultural high schools each of which it is expected will have an income of \$10,000 a year. In addition, the local communities where the schools are located have subscribed over \$800,000 for their equipment. A new Agricultural College has also been established at Athens in that State, and a gift of two acres of land valued at \$100,000 has been made to it. Taken altogether, the Georgia venture is the

greatest experiment in agricultural education of this type that has been made on this continent. It is worthy of note also that the official head of the new system in that state is a Canadian, and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, Prof. A. M. Soule.

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For many years in some parts of Europe and Asia potatoes, especially suitable for the production of alcohol for fuel, have been cultivated with success. Secretary Wilson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, is now engaged in introducing this potato into that country. The recent free alcohol law makes it possible to do this and for farmers to produce alcohol for fuel and power purposes.

This potato is now grown in Siberia for this purpose, and it might be well to consider its introduction into Canada. Potatoes can be grown in abundance in Western Canada, and to a large extent as far north as the Yukon. A potato with fuel producing properties would meet a long felt need in these sections of the Dominion.

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The West is overflowing with big things these days. The latest is the building of a great distilling plant at Winnipeg, in which, it is said, all the great distillers of Canada are interested. Thirty-five acres will be required for this plant, one of the largest on the continent. There will be twenty-five acres of cattle sheds, capable of housing from 3000 to 4000 cattle for fattening for the British market. It is this last feature that is, perhaps, of greatest interest. The feeding and finishing of so many cattle annually should help the live stock industry to a considerable extent.

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The municipal phone idea seems to have taken a good hold of the West. In Alberta, especially, is the idea growing. The city of Edmonton owns and operates its own electric light plant, waterworks and telephones. The rate for business phones is \$15 a year, as compared with \$50 in Toronto under a monopoly. The system has and is being extended over the whole province, and it is expected that the local government will take it over and operate the telephones as a public utility, giving the lowest possible rate to subscribers. Many farmers isolated on the prairie now have telephone connection, and many more will have it when the system is further extended. The rural phone is the right thing and every farmer should have one.