

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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When Good Farming Tells.

Tests reveal the weak spots. Anyone can grow crops when all conditions are favorable. Science and skill avail most against drouth and adversity. It has proven so this year in the West. C. H. Moore, an American, returned to Spokane from a 4,000-mile tour in Northern and Western Canada, had this to say of what he saw:

North of a line that would pass from Calgary, Alta., to Saskatoon, Sask., I found that where the farmers practiced dry-farming methods the crops are in excellent condition, while to the south of the line indicated many of the growers appear to be wedded to shipshod methods, and their crops show it.

Many farmers have "stuffed in" their grain, and have recklessly put grain in poorly broken ground. Wherever such methods have been used, the crop prospects are poor. On the other hand, where better methods were used, the crops look fine. This is especially noticeable in the districts north of the Calgary-Saskatoon line.

There the farmers are raising wheat, oats, barley, flax, timothy, broom-grass, and large quantities of wild hay. Harvesting will begin soon, in fact, some of the farmers are already at work. This shows what can be done by the practice of dry-farming principles. There should be more of it in the drier districts in the Western part of the Dominion of Canada.

The farmers are practicing dry farming, it is true, but not as thoroughly as they should. Many turn over the sod, and, instead of packing it and working it once, they permit it to remain for days, and thus practically lose all of its moisture. They then cut it up with discs, only to find that it has become so hard that the growing of crops is an almost hopeless proposition. Another practice that has cost the farmers much money, the sowing of the "studding in" of grain. The best thing which this will be stopped.

The fact that I stated is one of the best I have ever seen for the practice of dry farming. The country has considerable rain, but the conservation of moisture is necessary. That is the secret of dry farming, making the most of the rainfall.

His observations are not without significance for Eastern farmers.

Discrimination According to Quality.

"While there are many good points in Mr. Flavelle's letter, I think he has laid himself open to a fine retort on one score," remarked a well-informed professional man to "The Farmer's Advocate" recently. "While criticising farmers for their shortcomings, what has he done in a practical way to bring about discrimination, according to quality, in the buying of hogs? If the type and condition of hogs is as important in catering to the Wiltshire trade as we were told ten years ago, surely the buyers could find some way to insure the payment of a premium for the grade of stock they wanted. But there the managers sit, declaring it can't be done."

With this criticism we are disposed to agree. It may be that nowadays decreasing production of hogs and increasing home demand for lard have lessened the margin of value to the packers between singers and common stuff, and that the home demand has enabled packers to dispose of a considerable amount of pork from inferior types to about as good advantage as that from select converted into Wiltshires. Probably the packers reckoned that the ratio of production as between selects and culls would be maintained, and that they would still be able to secure a sufficient quota of selects to supply their Old Country trade. However this may be, we maintain, as we pointed out years ago, that unless some slight advantage is accorded the man who seeks by care and enterprise to produce the right class (whether it cost him more or not), the tendency will inevitably be to relax effort, and drift back to the raising of miscellaneous lots, with a partiality toward thick fats. In their failure to realize and attempt to stem such tendency, we believe Canadian packers have been unwise. Either that, or the stress formerly placed on bacon type was grossly exaggerated. Chickens come home to roost. The man who will not pay for quality need not expect to get quality.

At the same time, we maintain there is good money in hog-raising on Canadian farms, and are convinced that it will pay to go on producing pork steadily, and especially to swim a little extra strong when the crowd get cramps and come out of the water. Whatever the packer does or does not do, is no reason why we should not make full use of our opportunities.

Cheesemaking in Brockville District.

That a cheese factory be successful, the following requirements are essential: A modern building and equipment; a capable, progressive maker, and much milk of good quality. Given these three factors (and they are interdependent), a profitable business will result. It is a rather peculiar situation, but the presence or absence of these factors is governed to quite an extent in Eastern Ontario by the ownership of the plant.

Modern building and equipment in cheese factories, among other things, demands provision for pasteurization of whey, proper disposal of sewage, and cooling rooms. Cheesemaking is not child's play, and only men with brains who have studied out, continue to study, who are ambitious, can succeed. More than an apprenticeship must be served; attendance upon the dairy schools is very desirable; sanitation, ventilation, plumbing, chemistry, bacteriology, are a few of the many branches to be mastered and practiced. Men of this type who will or can afford to pursue these studies are called forth only by factories wherein much milk is made into cheese—where more than 800 a month is paid.

In Ontario, and especially in Eastern Ontario, most of the cheese factories are privately owned. The proprietor receives from one cent to a cent and a quarter for making, out of which he hires the maker, makes repairs, pays interest, and makes improvements. The margin is not sufficient for him to more than live, and does not justify extensive improvement. Furthermore, his patrons, having no investment in the plant, are free to come or go as they choose. Slight provocation frequently arouses a competitor to build within the same territory.

There are nearly one thousand factories in the east of Ontario, out of these, only about seventy are joint-stock factories. There are three factories in the Brockville section that have cooling rooms, one in the Kempton section, three

in the Ottawa section, and three in the Gananoque section. Going west, more are found, going east in Ontario, none. The number of factories has been increasing. Where, a few years ago, one large factory served for a radius of four or five miles, are found now three or four factories, and yet the total amount of milk made up is practically unchanged. These smaller factories work ruin to the cheese interests. The only argument in their favor is that they are conveniently located for the few patrons sending to them. They do not furnish enough milk to pay a capable cheesemaker, nor enough profit to encourage the owner in improvements. Consequently, these little factories that have sprung up, and are springing up at every cross-road, are cheaply built, lack curing facilities, are insanitary, and frequently are run by makers who do not know the conditions demanded for successful cheesemaking. This was the great fault of the cheese situation, as seen in a recent trip of inspection through the Brockville district. And wherever the small factory was encountered, the evils indicated prevailed. There should be a law, rigidly enforced, which would prevent such unnecessary and unfortunate crowding of factories.

Unless steps are taken to prevent the further crowding of factories, and to do away with many we now have, the cheese industry, instead of advancing, must retrograde. At this point, the value of co-operation is evidenced, and wherever such factories are encountered, they typify the best that is to be found.

Farmers and Their Parasites.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been much interested in J. W. Flavelle's open letter to the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and in the consequent discussion in your columns, and, as the subject is not likely to become quickly exhausted, I beg leave to add my quota.

To a certain extent Mr. Flavelle's criticism is quite true: True that the demand for certain classes of foodstuffs has increased wonderfully during the last few years, and true, also, that Ontario farms are not producing anything like what is possible for them. The production of Danish farms is so much greater than ours that it must shame us to have the comparison made. But it is not true that, considering the undermanning of Ontario farms, and the unfavorable climatic conditions of the last few years, Ontario agriculture has absolutely declined. This point has been discussed at some length in the editorial columns of the Weekly Sun, and a very effective reply made to Mr. Flavelle's indictment along this particular line. Nor is it true that the Ontario farmer is doing little to improve his property and increase his production. Anyone who travels at all cannot help noticing the way in which farm buildings are being improved and silos erected, and the tile manufacturers can certainly give evidence as to the rapid increase in the rate of underdrainage. But, though Mr. Flavelle's indictment is overdrawn, there is a basis of soundness in it that gives just cause for serious thought. Why is it that Ontario agriculture is not advancing as rapidly as it should? In the answer to this question is the key to the remedy.

I take sharp issue with Mr. Flavelle when he says that "The farmers of this and other Provinces have been diverted from enterprise, and have been encouraged to look for returns through agitation, frequently ungenerous, and generally wrong, which has had for its keynote that farmers were being deprived by the greed of others of a legitimate share of the returns for their labor." Mr. Flavelle will find that farm journals, the press generally, and the various Departments of Agriculture, which are all doing splendid educational work along technically agricultural lines, are also pleading for economic justice, and he will find that those farmers who are identified with the agitations to which he has alluded are by no means the unprogressive, unenterprising section of the rural community. In fact, taking things on the whole, those who are doing the best work for progressive agriculture are also most prominent in demanding economic justice for the farmer. To take one example, which, as it does not touch the bacon-hog controversy, cannot be said to be a direct thrust at Mr. Flavelle, I will refer to the tariff. There is a general concurrence of opinion among farm journals and independent farm organizations throughout the whole of Canada that protectionism is a curse to our country, that its practice robs our farmers of "a legitimate share of the returns for their labor," and that it, instead of the lack of intelligence and capacity, may account in a degree for the unsatisfactory returns from agriculture. It is quite true that a community can only in the last analysis secure results from its own "intelligence, sound sense and industry." But it is also true that those individuals who apply both intelligence, sound sense and industry