

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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Established  
1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1908.

Vol. XLIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 7, 1908.

No. 815.

## EDITORIAL.

### ONTARIO EDUCATIONISTS IN CONVENTION.

The proceedings of the Teachers' Parliament, as the members of the Ontario Educational Association call that body, are of general interest, not because it can carry into effect any measure that it espouses, but because many more or less important measures are there first brought into public notice, and educational legislation is there subjected to critical review, and approved or condemned from the teacher's point of view. It further serves as a kind of clearing house of educational ideals and tendencies. Through the delegates from the county associations of teachers throughout the Province, it is influenced by them, and in turn exerts much influence upon the local associations.

In recent years, several of the addresses and discussions have maintained a contest between the so-called culture and utility subjects of instruction. This year there was an absence of controversy on that issue. It attracted comment that three of the classical teachers referred in their addresses, with apparent satisfaction, to their successful experience as gardeners or farmers. The utility subjects are longer in coming to their own than they should be, owing to the fact that their advocates have not sufficiently emphasized their cultural possibilities. Nature study, geography, history, constructive art, etc., taught exclusively for useful knowledge and skill, are only half-taught.

"The Farmer's Advocate" offers no excuse for being particularly interested in such part of the proceedings of the convention as affects its campaign for an education that will make life on the farm happy and prosperous. President Falconer's warning against the dangers of specialization on one hand, and superficiality on the other, supports our contention that the present method of certifying country-school inspectors upon High-school specialists' standing and a brief experience in public-school work, is unfortunate. The public-school teachers voiced their dissatisfaction on this point through a delegation that waited upon the Minister of Education. The latter stated, according to report, that he had under consideration the extension of experience in public-school work as a condition for an inspector's certificate. It is to be hoped that it will not prove an instance of ending with consideration. To the same delegation, he favored the proposition that no certificate to teach should be granted to any person under twenty-one years of age, except as an assistant. It did not pass without remark that it was only recently that the minimum age for admission to the Normal Schools was reduced from the twentieth to the seventeenth year.

Fewer addresses than usual dealt directly with that which might be called "agricultural education." Deputy-Minister C. C. James addressed the High-school teachers on "Agriculture in the High Schools." Mr. McCready read a paper on "What the O. A. C. Can Do for the Rural-school Teacher," and Inspector Mills read a paper on "Nature Study in the Rural Schools." The last-named speaker deplored the neglect or ineffectiveness of the teaching of nature study, and charged the incompetence of the teachers to the lack of training. He said that the Normal Schools are attaching more importance to such things as paper-folding and basketry than to nature study.

As might be expected, the town and city interests are strongly represented in the convention. These made a claim for a greatly-increased grant

to urban schools. It will be remembered that, when the Provincial Government withdrew its minimum-salary law, it offered what is known as the 40-per-cent. grant in lieu thereof. The effect of the latter has been to raise the rural-school grant to about \$3.30 per unit of average attendance, while the urban grant, on the same basis, is less than a dollar. At first sight, the demand for an additional \$200,000, or thereabout, to the city and town schools seems fair, but when it is considered that the grants for kindergartens, technical schools, High Schools, public libraries, etc., go wholly or largely to urban institutions, the discrepancy complained of disappears. In 1907 the Government expended on Education Account, \$1,359,105; Toronto University, \$340,461; Normal-school Buildings, \$148,277; total, \$1,848,043. Of this total, \$358,528, being little more than was given to Toronto University alone, went directly to the rural public and separate schools as a grant. Their share of the poor-school fund, flag expenses, etc., would scarcely bring the rural schools up to \$400,000. It remains, then, that nearly three dollars were granted for education in urban municipalities for every one dollar that was given to the rural districts. In this statement, the High-school grant is counted on the urban side, but, while it is true that many farmers' children are being educated in the High Schools, the most of them are attending at a considerably greater expense than town people bear for the same privilege. The incorporated villages and some of the smaller towns would seem to be the only real sufferers.

### HOME MARKET IS PAYING BEST.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin, commenting on the falling off in exports to Great Britain of several lines of Canadian agricultural products, says: "It has been stated that the increase in our home consumption has accounted for the falling off in the above exports. That may be partly true, but the main reason is we are being undersold, which should not be." The Trade Bulletin surely does not expect that Canadians will ship produce abroad when it can be sold to greater profit at home, or expect us to sell regardless of profit or loss. In this connection we note in the 1907 report of the Professor of Dairy Husbandry, at Guelph, that in both 1906 and 1907, the financial returns from butter shipped to London, Eng., were not equal to those obtained for similar butter on local markets, and Siberian and other butter has actually been imported from England for consumption in Canada. Canada, or, at least, Older Canada, is relatively less of a farming country than it once was. Manufacturing and other industries now bulk proportionately larger in the scale, and, of course, an industrial population requires to be fed. A considerable share of our agricultural produce now goes to support an artisan and laboring army at home, instead of abroad. Canadian agriculture is doing very well, though there certainly is room for vast extension yet. When the country's educational systems are remodelled, and the intelligent youth of Canada is educated for rather than from the farm, and agriculture rises to its proper plane in popular favor, our exports of agricultural products may again increase. Canada can hold her own in economy of production, but so long as home markets absorb our produce, at tempting prices, we shall have small concern about exports.

The Province of Ontario is looking for an automobile law based on the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number.

### MILK STANDARDS AND INSPECTION.

Discussion in "The Farmer's Advocate," and lately in the Ontario Legislature, recalls attention to the perennial subject of milk standards. Though the metaphors are somewhat mixed, it may be conceded, as a fairly accurate statement of the situation, that "milk is the keystone to the arch of the pure-food crusade." A fixed, minimum standard per cent. of butter-fat and other solids in milk, as a basis of prosecutions, was early resorted to as a speedy means of improvement in the quality of milk. It is difficult to convict a man when it is only necessary to show that the sample of his milk falls below a certain standard, but is it justifiable, and is it the best means available at the present time of attaining the object in view, viz., supplies of pure and wholesome milk for the consumer? Against the standard, it is argued that it makes a criminal of a man who inadvertently or otherwise sells unadulterated milk that happens to be below the legal standard; that it enables dealers who are supplied under contract to "squeeze the price" on the dairy farmer; that men who produce milk over standard do not, as a rule, receive extra pay for it; that, in order to keep up the standard, unprofitable cows, as far as quantity of milk given is concerned, have to be kept; and that it discriminates against certain breeds of cattle, and favors average animals.

Though not a strictly accurate gauge of its value for cheesemaking, the fat content of milk measures its value for cream or butter production, and the general consumer in cities and towns usually estimates its value according to its richness in cream, which, however, is only approximately correct. For infants and others, a milk is preferred by many in which the percentage of solids is fairly well balanced; and, beyond any question, cleanliness and purity of milk from a healthy cow are the chief desiderata.

Massachusetts has been tinkering with its State milk laws for half a century, and the net result is two statutes, one regulating the sale of milk by imposing a penalty of not less than \$50 fine for the first offence of selling adulterated milk, and the other not more than \$50 fine for selling milk not a good standard quality, which is 13 per cent. total solids (3.7 butter-fat, and 9.3 per cent. other solids) in winter, and 12 per cent. total solids (3 per cent. fat, and 9 per cent. other solids) in summer, which latter has been asked for by farmers as a standard for the year round. At the last session of the State Legislature, the Agricultural Committee recommended a uniform standard of 12 per cent. total solids for the year, and 3.35 per cent. fat, but the question was left over till the next session. Most of the convictions against dairymen in the State have been secured under the standard law, being more easily secured than under the adulteration statute, and yet we have it upon the authority of P. M. Harwood, General Agent of the Massachusetts Dairy Bureau, that in many instances the milk is apparently just as the cow gave it. It surely is not right nor just to subject the owners in such cases to annoyance and prosecution. Then, though milk retails in Boston at 8 cents per quart, the dairy farmer who produces it gets only about 3½ cents on the average, the balance being eaten up by railways, milk contractors and peddlers, who manipulate the standard, by skimming, etc., to their own pecuniary advantage. Before the Legislative Committee it was developed that, in general, dairy farming in Massachusetts was not reasonably profitable, and that the producers were being gradually driven out of the business, foreigners filling their places, in so far as they are filled at all. Now, while not wholly due to the