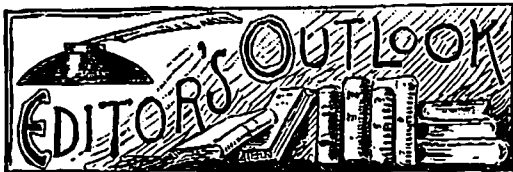


The Old Methods of Farming.

How awfully hard were the old ways of farming,
As sad recollection presents them to light.
The old iron plow that was drawn by the oxen,
Those solemn old oxen that wouldn't go right.
The planting of corn, the broadcast hand-sowing,
The cutting out weeds with a hoe from the corn.
The back-aching work of hilling up "taters,"
That made us long so for the sound of the horn.

And then came the haying with wearisome labor
Of cutting with scythe, the grass to make hay.
Of raking with hand-rake, of pitching and loading
And sweating to death as we mowed it away.
Then harvesting grain with long-fingered cradles,
The binding with straw—'twas hard and so slow,
The threshing with flails or trampling with oxen,
And cleaning from chaff when a strong wind would blow.

How different now are the methods of farming.
We turn over ground with a steel riding plow.
We hoe with a sulky, cut grass while we're riding,
Rake and load with the horses and put in the mow.
How sweet is the sound of the Toronto Light Binder
To those who remember the cradle's bright gleam,
And the noise of the thrasher, the puff of the engine,
As they turn out the grain so fast and so clean.



MR. FRED V. MASSEY, whose illness we have referred to in previous issues of the ILLUSTRATED, continues very ill, requiring constant care and attention. He suffers greatly from nervousness and periods of coughing. His greatest relief is found in hypodermic injections of morphine, which he has to undergo every two or three hours while awake.

The members of the family are very grateful for the many expressions of sympathy they receive from all quarters, and the constant enquiries regarding Mr. Fred, that are made on all sides, indicate the high esteem in which he is held by those who know him.

FARMERS in the North-West will be pleased to hear that the Dominion Government will spend \$20,000 in procuring a supply of the best seed wheat for gratuitous distribution throughout the Territories. Mr. McKay, superintendent of the Brandon Experimental Farm, will be entrusted with the work of distribution, and preference will be given to those whose crops failed last year.

AND now it is Pennsylvania's turn. A Pittsburg paper published, the other day, an interview with Mr. John McDowell, one of the most prominent farmers in the country, about the decline in farming, in which he says: "I have devoted some little investigation to the matter, locally, and I find that the value of agricultural property in Washington county has decreased just about 30 per cent in the last three years. In 1886 farms here could be bought only at an average of \$70 per acre, but I have followed up the Sheriff's sales since then, and from the recorded figures the depreciation will average 30 per cent. Farming does not pay in Pennsylvania. The mortgaging of agricultural land results from two causes, viz: unfair taxation first; and the want of a remunerative market for both stock and serial crops, second."

HON. CHAS. DRURY, Minister of Agriculture, was waited upon last month by a large and influential deputation representing the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario who urged that in consideration of the grants to Electoral District Agricultural

Societies being inadequate at the present time to meet the requirements, the Government should make an additional grant of \$20,000 to them for their exclusive use. It was argued, amongst other things, that by having a good prize list the public could be easily

induced to attend the country fairs thereby counteracting the attractions of outside exhibitions. Mr. Drury did not give the deputation much hope of anything being done by the Government in the direction asked. There is apparently considerable diversity of opinion in regard to Township fairs. It cannot be denied that a large number of people interested in these fairs are strongly opposed to carrying them on in the face of a yearly deficit caused, no doubt, by people preferring to attend the Exhibitions in large cities. Many look upon side shows as an evil, but all the same the fact remains that people will persist in crowding to Fairs where outside attractions are to be seen. The desire to have Fairs devoted solely to agricultural purposes is worthy of the highest commendation but when such Fairs as the Provincial, with its attractive prize list, are run at a heavy loss there is nothing for it but to succumb to the inevitable. The time may come when people will get tired of side show attractions and then the purely agricultural fair will have a good chance of financial success.

THE settlers' trains for Manitoba have started again this spring, and will continue to run throughout March and April. We learn that they are likely to be well patronized this year by Ontario farmers, who are going to settle in the West. Many of these farmers went to Manitoba last summer, looked over the country, and bought land which they will cultivate this year. In most parts of the country farms can be rented for a small cash outlay, and a new settler cannot do better than rent a place and at his leisure look over the country. Notwithstanding the fact that the crops in the North-West were light last season, the settlers have shown their faith in the country by preparing a larger acreage for crop this year than on any previous year. It is estimated that over one million acres will be sown this season in Manitoba alone. A great many cattle and sheep are now in the country and mixed farming is becoming general. In addressing meetings in various parts of Ontario this year, Mr. McMillan, the Manitoba Government Agent in Eastern Canada, expressed the opinion that, within ten years, Manitoba would be as widely and as favorably known for cattle and dairy products as it is to-day for grain, and there is no reason to doubt that this will be so. Our Canadian North-West is going ahead, and the signs of progress are both rapid and substantial. There is not a boom in the ordinary sense of the word, nor is it desirable there should be, but railroads are being built in all directions, substantial buildings both in town and country are taking the place of temporary ones, and more actual settlers are moving into the country now than ever before in its history.

WE regret that limited space at our disposal will only permit us to refer briefly to several important meetings held in Toronto last month. The Central Farmers' Institute had a three days' session at which many subjects of interest to the agricultural community were submitted and ably discussed. An address by Prof. Robertson of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, on "What can Winter Dairying do for Ontario" was full of practical and useful information. In his opinion winter dairying was a branch of agriculture which the farmers of Ontario could no longer afford to neglect. If it could be developed with good judgment and persevering energy it would repair the shattered financial health of those districts which a long practice of grain selling had brought upon them. The deliverance of our farmers from ever-recurring periods of depression and hard times was in their own hands. Winter dairying would help them to do for themselves what no outside help or governmental aid or hindrance could effect. It would provide large supplies of products always in demand at remunerative prices. It would increase the fertility of their fields and give them a satisfying income the year

round. He believed that the creameries of this province might become one of the greatest factors in furthering its material prosperity through winter dairying. The other meetings were the Dominion Short Horn Breeders' Association, the Dominion Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the Draught Horse Association, and the Canadian Clydesdale Horse Association. Satisfactory reports were read at all these meetings and at the first-named several interesting papers were read and discussed. At the last-named it was stated that the stallion show to be held in Toronto on March 13th. would surpass any of those previously held.

It is evident that the Public School Inspectors of Ontario are fully alive to the importance of teaching agriculture on the lines advocated in the ILLUSTRATED. At their annual convention held in Toronto last month they passed the following resolution: "That in the opinion of the Public School Inspectors in convention assembled, it is desirable that provision be made in our Public Schools' Act for the establishment of a system of advanced Public Schools more especially devoted to the interests of agricultural education; that the honorable the Minister of Education be requested to have the Public Schools Act amended in this direction, utilizing as far as possible the present Public Schools of the Province for this purpose, and that a special grant from the Legislature and the County and the Township municipalities be made to aid the Trustees in establishing these schools." The question now is what is the Minister of Education going to do about it? Has he the higher education of farmers' sons sufficiently at heart to give the matter at least a trial? The cost would not be great. A select number of school teachers could receive a special training at the Guelph Agricultural College to enable them to take charge of these advanced schools. It is not expected that they could become qualified to instruct farmers' sons in the actual practices of husbandry but they could be equipped for teaching the principles on which success in agriculture depends. We believe that an immense amount of useful elementary knowledge could be disseminated by school teachers, if they would confine themselves to principles, leaving the practice entirely to those who have spent their lives in it. The instruction a youth receives in our rural schools deals with altogether different subjects useful in their way, no doubt, and necessary, but barren of interest to youth as compared with the book of nature when properly opened and explained. Imagine a country lad inspired with a desire to know and learn about his surroundings. There is no one to help him. His early efforts, at least, must be cramped and disappointed, if, indeed, he is not altogether disheartened and dissuaded from following his natural inclination. Boys in the country must be so taught that they will take a wider and deeper interest in the things of the country if the growing tendency to crowd into the cities is to be checked. The movement to establish advanced schools in the interests of agricultural education is a step in the right direction and it is to be hoped that those appealed to for aid to carry it out will respond generously.

AN apothecary in Holland has brought out an invention which may have the effect of making doctors and druggists unnecessary. It consists of a figure of a man made of metal, divided internally into compartments, representing the heart, lungs, liver, stomach, throat, etc. In each of these is a drawer opening outward, in which there is an approved remedy for the diseases of the organ. The drawer can be opened by pushing a coin into a slot situated where the keyhole ordinarily is. The packages of pills or powders will contain full directions in regard to their use. It is proposed to set up one of these combined doctors and druggists in every public square, at the principal street crossings and at all railway stations. In country places one of these automatic medicine dispensers will stand near each post-office, church, and other public buildings. A resident or traveller, being suddenly afflicted with the toothache, pushes a sixpence or dime into a slot, opens the drawer leading into the mouth, takes out a powder, swallows it and is at once relieved of