

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY, (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:

IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BARNATTYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Fitzalan House, Strand,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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Learn Something.

Of the various channels through which education may be obtained, reading and observation are within easy reach of every farmer. As you go about the shows this year, keep your eyes open. Don't make the visit to the exhibition a matter of pleasure merely, but strive to learn something, and when you return home, read the best agricultural paper in the country to maintain the interest in high-class stock and farm produce which the outing has aroused. Life is too short to learn from actual practice everything required to be known on a farm. The experience of others, if obtained from a reliable source, may become a valuable acquisition.



GLIMPSE OF D. A. GORDON'S 18-ACRE SUGAR-BEET FIELD, WALLACEBURG, ONT.

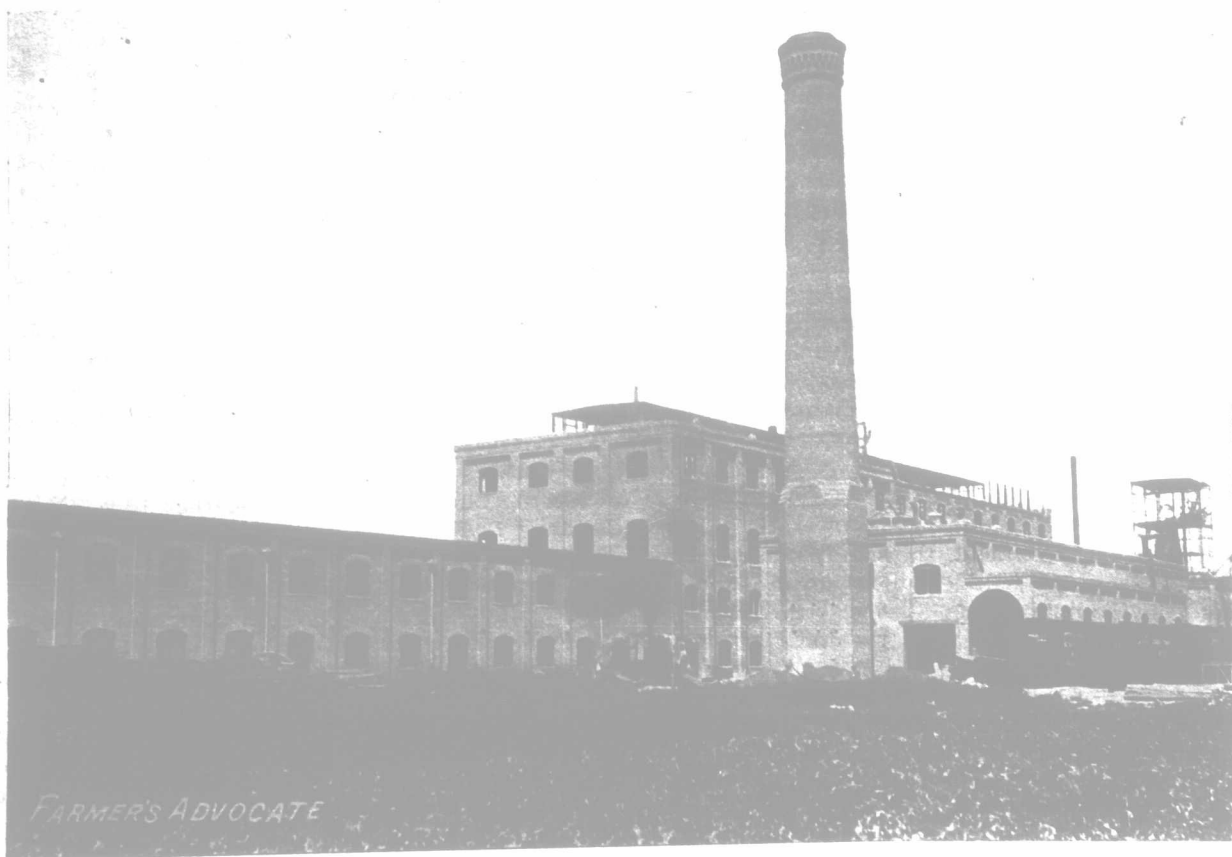
The Canadian Farmer's Compensations.

The immense area of cultivable land in Canada, the great variety of climate and conditions ordinarily prevailing in the various sections of the Dominion, and the wide variety of food products the country is capable, under average conditions, of maturing, place our people in a peculiarly fortunate position. The different provinces furnish a market for each other in respect to many commodities to such an extent that in case of a partial failure of crops, owing to unfavorable weather conditions in any one or more sections, the needs of the people may be readily supplied at a minimum of cost, thereby avoiding suffering or serious inconvenience. Happily, as the result of scientific research and experimentation, the apparent necessity of dependence of the Provinces upon each other for certain varieties of food products becomes less as the years go by, new and improved varieties and methods of production rendering it possible to successfully produce many articles in each district which had formerly been considered unsuitable to the local conditions, if not, indeed, impossible of attainment. For these reasons, the danger of a general shortage, owing to protracted drouths or other contingencies, is minimized, and our people have, happily, never been, and are not likely to be at any time, reduced to the privations to which those of occasionally famine-stricken countries have, from time

to time, been subjected. For this we should be devoutly thankful, and the spirit of complaining liable to prevail when unusual weather conditions disappoint our highest hopes should be checked and our mercies, rather than our miseries, recounted. It is safe to say that few, if any, people in this world have fewer distresses or disabilities of a general character, taking the years as they come, than we in Canada. The general exemption from disastrous storms and floods, or of extreme and widespread drouths or hot-wind waves, such as in some countries shrivel the grain when in the milk stage and in a few days blight the brightest hopes of the husbandman on the verge of a promising harvest yield, is cause for gratification.

Complaining of the character of the weather in the last few weeks has been common among farmers in many sections of Eastern Canada, and not without cause, fine crops of clover in many cases having been seriously damaged in the attempt to cure it between intermittent rains, the corn crop suffering severely from wet feet, the barley badly discolored, and the wheat, here and there, sprouting in the stook. These are discouraging dispensations, which add much to the labor and expense of harvesting, and to some extent discount the value of the product. But to the older people this is no new experience, for though they may have nearly forgotten similar distresses in bygone years, yet memory may recall many more serious losses from the same cause when the people were less able to bear them, and they came safely through such trials, finding the rainbow in the cloud, presaging brighter days ahead. Happily, in these times farmers are not depending solely upon the sale of grain for financial returns, and slightly damaged grain makes capital feed for the cattle and hogs which are the real money-makers on most of the farms in older Canada to-day, and the very conditions which have discounted the market value of the grain have helped to fill the milk pails and the cream cans far beyond the common summer measure, and have kept the beef cattle well supplied with succulent pastures, putting on flesh that sells for higher prices than have ruled for many years. The law of compensation has been quietly at work, despite the grumbling of the grumblers and the fears of the fearful, and the net result to the farmers, taking all things into account, will doubtless be a successful season, probably quite beyond the average in this regard, and affording much cause for thankfulness when our circumstances are compared with those of many others.

The fair season has opened auspiciously, and the indications promise a better display than usual in nearly every department, with many new and improved features calculated to increase their interest and usefulness. The success of the fairs depends largely upon the patronage of the people and the use they make of the programme of events. It is, or should be, the interest of all to make the fairs as helpful as possible.



THE WALLACEBURG, ONT., BEET-SUGAR FACTORY.