

tor would tell) just how many of his schools are up-to-date and how many are behind the times.

The "trustee system" as applied to rural schools is a hindrance to systematic progress. I also make the assertion (and I know whereof I speak) that our rural schools have not advanced five years since I went to school thirty years ago.

I saw the assertion in the Globe some time ago that the Toronto schools were ten years behind the times, so I guess I am safe in saying our rural schools are thirty years behind. If you don't believe me, read up on what other schools are doing. You have seen the portrait of little ten-year-old Lois Edmonds, of Iowa, who was given a free trip to Washington, D.C., because she made the best loaf of bread.

You can read of the Minnesota schools, where the honor boys and girls are given a short term at the State Agricultural College. Also of the Australian children, who are considered as the best assets a country can have, and who are educated by the state.

Farming has now attained its dignity as a profession, and our farmers and farmerettes should see that their sons and daughters are given a thorough elementary training in their home schools sufficient to enable them to earn a decent living if necessary.

If they wish to go further, then attend the city schools or university, for one cannot have too much of the right kind of instruction, but the purpose of the rural schools should be to breed a liking for the great and glorious country, and to turn out home-builders and home-makers rather than to act as feeders for the professions.

Now, Peter, what do you think of a "system" that teaches grammar to a second-book scholar—said scholar can tell all the parts of speech and their many subdivisions—who still says, "I ain't a-goin'," and "sez he," just as the countryman talks in the dialect novels.

The system does not make school attractive to the dull children. They dread it as they do a task, and avoid it as much as possible.

A trustee receives \$5 a year salary. Sometimes he doesn't earn that, but I should think a convention of trustees would have a tendency to increase the efficiency of "the system." The Government and the section should bear the expense of the outing between them, as the trustee could never become rich if he used up all his salary in outings.

I contend that boys and girls should be taught plain sewing and darning, also plain cooking, and sawing and hammering. These could be taught every week for one hour, same as in the city schools.

Manual training could be taught by pamphlets issued by the Department, if it were not possible to have an instructor visit the schools.

As for morals: Well, the more I think of Mrs. Thornley's statement, that aroused such a furore, the more I feel the need of instruction in morals in every school. Swearing is bad enough, but there are older boys—and girls, too—that will use the lowest kind of language to your children, and no matter how well or carefully you teach them they are never able to forget. It is the old example of the ink and the water—no amount of water added is ever able to obliterate the ink.

The trouble with our system is, it is too elastic; there is too much left to the discretion of the trustees.

We should have a system independent of the city system, and we should have, to carry it out to completion, a man in thorough sympathy with boys and girls,—one who has not forgotten that he was a boy, and a country boy at that.

You also speak of the lack of accommodation at the O.A.C., Guelph. Now, Peter, could you not induce the Department to let the O.A.C. alone and establish a domestic science and manual-training school in each county? Catch the farmer's young in their native lair, so to speak.

I have faith in the boys and girls of to-day, the men and women of to-morrow, and I would like to see things so adjusted that our country children could be given the same advantages that the city children enjoy. As it is now, THE POOREST CHILD IN THE CITY SCHOOL HAS A BETTER CHANCE FOR AN EDUCATION THAN THE RICH MAN'S CHILD IN THE COUNTRY. Education SHOULD be free and equal, but it is not.

HOWARD KENT.

New Course for Agricultural Teachers.

The Ontario Department of Education at Toronto has announced details of the proposal, outlined some months ago in "The Farmer's Advocate," of the scheme designed to supply teachers in agriculture and science in Continuation and High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. According to the statement of Premier Whitney, in the absence of the Minister of Education, it has been found in working the plan of county representatives of the Department of Agriculture, adopted four years ago, that they are unable in most cases to discharge satisfactorily the duty of conducting agricultural classes in the secondary schools as contemplated because of the pressure of their other duties as representatives. The new course established provides for granting a degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B. Sc. Agr.) after a two years' course at either one of the universities of Toronto, McMaster or Queen's, followed by two years at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The courses will begin the present season.

Under the new scheme the county representative will continue to discharge his duties as such, and will, in addition, conduct, under the school board concerned, classes for farmers and farmers' sons throughout the country, while the holder of the new specialist's certificate will teach agriculture in the secondary schools, and, if need be, the science and some of the classes of the general programme.

By way of further encouragement, the Government will give, at the end of each of the two years taken at the Ontario Agricultural College, a scholarship of \$100 to each candidate for the degree who passes the final examinations of the year and is recommended therefor by the President of the College. Moreover, as soon as the new class of specialists is available, the Government will continue for the secondary schools the policy it has adopted in the case of the public schools; it will make liberal grants for the encouragement of classes in agriculture in the High and Continuation schools and the Collegiate Institutes, in the form of contributions to their maintenance and additions to the teachers' salaries.

The Department of Education also announces that an agricultural reader is being prepared for the public and separate schools, of the same general character as the third form history and geography readers. The book will not be a textbook, but will convey, in an interesting form, information which farmers' sons should possess, and which will be useful in connection with the practical work done in the schools.

With regard to the foregoing proposals, "The Farmer's Advocate" has no further comment to add to the judgment expressed when the scheme was first mooted beyond this: That the bait of

\$100 scholarships is no more warranted, though it may probably be less deserved, than in the case of the regular four-year-course men at the Ontario Agricultural College, covering in the final two years the same field of work.

HORSES.

A horse with poor feet is considered by most horsemen to be a poor horse, no matter if in all other particulars he is near perfection.

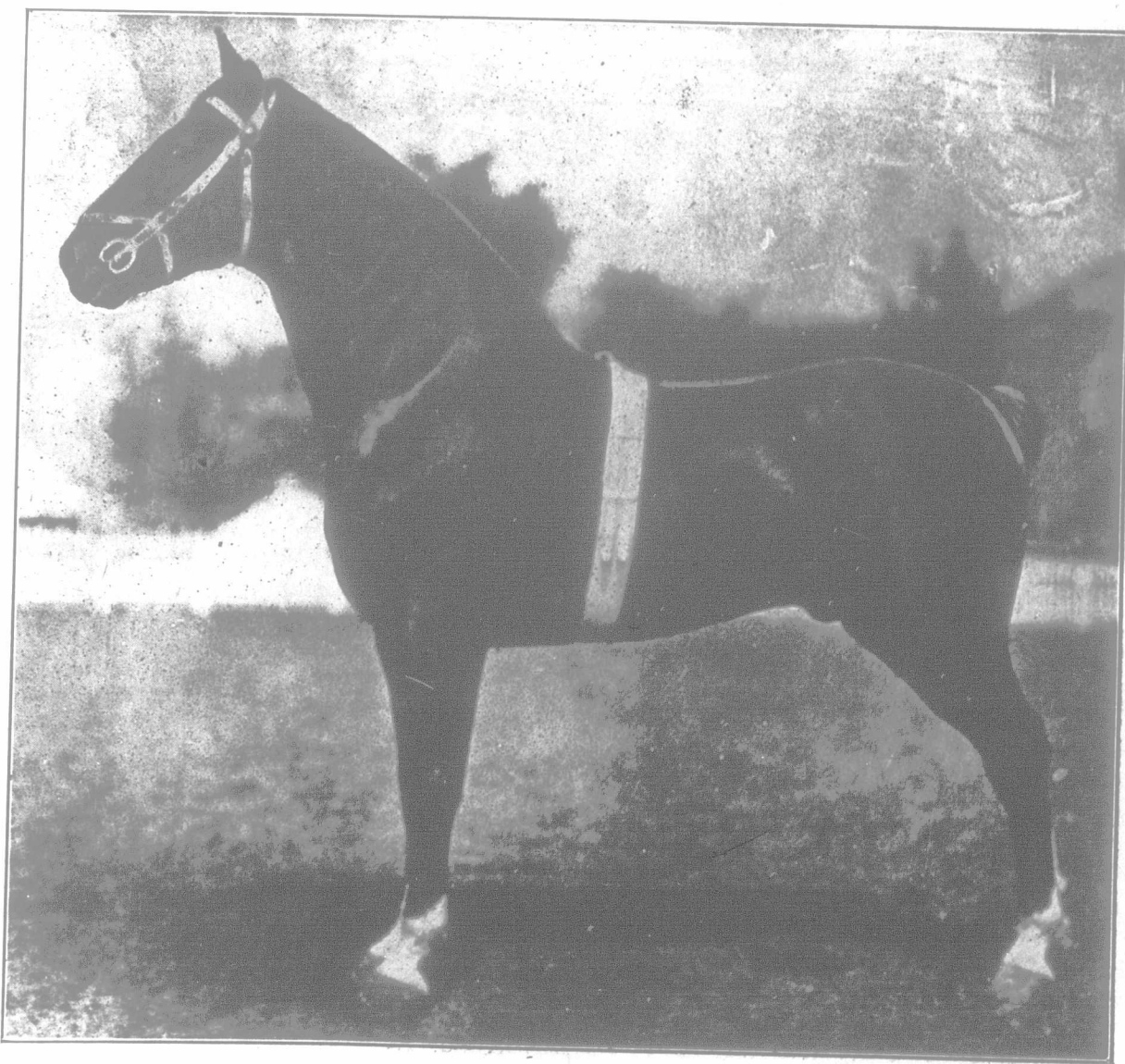
We wonder whether all judges place enough importance on the muscling of the draft horse in making awards. A horse intended for moving heavy loads and standing heavy strains continuously must be well muscled.

Action is one of the important points in a heavy as well as a light horse. Good judges lay considerable stress upon the manner in which a draft horse walks and trots, and well they should, for it is the feet and legs which are most likely to yield to the strain of the heavy work and the constant hammering on the hard road or pavement, and a sprightly actor going straight and true is not half so likely to injure himself as is a clumsy, awkward-gaited roller or paddler.

Eliminating All but the Best.

It has been stated by many that the advance of the automobiles would drive the fancy and fast driver and the high-stepping carriage horse into oblivion. Others just as intelligent and just as well versed in the developments of both the horse and the horseless carriage have been just as emphatic in stating that never would the light horse be entirely superseded by any form of carriage containing propelling power within itself.

Large live-stock exhibitions, such as the Canada National, the Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa and the Western Fair at London, serve to give some idea of the status of the light horse. It is noticeable that in the breeding classes of such races as Standard-breds and Hackneys, the two breeds from which harness-speed and carriage-quality largely emanate, there is a lack of numbers in the younger classes, while the aged classes are filled with some of the best individuals the country has ever seen, but most of them are "old-timers," winners of laurels in many a competition. This would seem to indicate that few good ones are being bred at the present time, and these only by a few noted breeders. The amateur horseman is not turning his attention toward light



Bonnie Bassett.

First-prize aged Hackney stallion, and champion at Toronto. Owned by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.