

To Double Production and Income on the Average Farm—I.

The six means by which production and income can be increased are as follows:

- First.—Draining.
- Second.—The using of improved live stock.
- Third.—Feeding what is grown on the farm.
- Fourth.—Thorough cultivation.
- Fifth.—Systematic cropping and clovering.
- Sixth.—Special selection of seeds and seed grains.

DRAINING.

A great deal of the tillable land in Ontario requires draining in order to have the soil produce well. And quite often it is the low-lying or springy lands which are the better and surer producers, when the overplus water is carried off underground by well-constructed tile drains. During the past six years, in many counties, the question has been asked at Institute meetings, "How long a time passed ere the outlay in full was refunded from the increased crops?" One year was stated in many cases; in other conditions, two years, and never was the time limit said to be over three years, except in one instance, when there was a peculiar, tough, tenacious clay to be dealt with. Taking three years as a fully safe period to reckon profit or loss from, we find that draining, where required, means making an investment of money, which yields a return annually of 33 1-3 per cent.; and that, not only for the three years till the cost is refunded, but for all the future years of a lifetime, providing the work has been properly done, and good sound, hard-burned tile used.

Given a 100-acre farm in need of draining, and it means the adding to its productive powers of one-third. Or, to put it in another way, it means increasing the acreage to 133 1-3 acres. There are few, if any, outlays which are so certain of being returned in the near future as money spent in draining. The benefits are many. Drained land is ready to sow from several days to, at times, weeks earlier than the undrained; and that means, nineteen times out of twenty, an increased yield and better quality of products. The drier soil is warmer, thus promoting earlier and more rapid growth, and a more vigorous plant. The seed-bed can usually be prepared with half the labor, where the water, drawn off below, has left the surface loose and friable. Further, strange as it may at first appear, the drained clay soils have more moisture near the surface during the drouth of summer than the land standing water-logged in spring, until evaporation carried off the overplus water. That can be accounted for by the close observer, from the fact of the drained land having a loose surface, preventing both evaporation and cracking when the heated period sets in.

IMPROVED LIVE STOCK.

In discussing this question, it is our purpose to say but little regarding pure-bred animals. It is important, and absolutely necessary to use registered sires, in order to obtain the better results. It is the only kind of stock which can be profitably bred on the ordinary average farm, and with the more limited capital required, which we must keep in view. And right here is where probably the greatest losses in Ontario's agriculture occur. Bad breeding and indifferent feeding, making the feeding steer and dairy cow money-losers, instead of profit-makers, tend largely to reduce the income to a low ebb. Recently we noticed in an agricultural paper, an account of two farmers in Eastern Ontario, each sending the milk of six cows to the same cheese factory. One got a check at the season's end for over \$50 per cow, while the other got less than \$18 per cow. Again, while the average cheese-factory cow gives no more than \$30 per season—just enough to barely feed her the year through—there are many herds which make \$50 to over \$60 per cow. Granting that the good ones require fifty per cent. more feed, yet we have another fifty per cent. of profit from the good cow, against not a cent to the credit of the average one. And it is much the same in beef-making. A year ago, after a meeting, we were told of a great mistake made by one of the officers, in buying, the previous year, 11-year-old stockers at \$11 each, carrying them thirteen months, and, after finishing, selling at \$22 each. Another person bought good, well-bred stockers of a similar age at \$27 each, wintered them so as to keep them gaining steadily, put them on good grass, and finished for the Christmas market, selling in early December at \$70 each. One lot, with 13 months' feeding, gained in price \$8, while the good ones, finished in 11 months, gained \$13 each. Surely the first must have lost the feeder some \$10 per head, while the latter made a clear profit of \$19 each. It would be an easy matter to state many instances of equally striking contrasts. To bring it more clearly before our minds, allow me to make a comparison: Supposing the rent of a good 100-acre farm to be \$300. Then, two men start out in life on farms side by side, the soil and all conditions similar, only

that one has his farm well stocked with first-class animals of the different kinds kept, and has to pay the \$300 rent. The other starts out with the average beef-making steer or the low-grade dairy cow, and has all his other stock to correspond, but is allowed the farm rent free. Ten years pass by, each going along as they started, and which has the surest chance of having a fat bank account? May we ask which condition would you choose? Not once, in several years' discussion of this question, did a thoughtful young man state his choice to be that of the rent-free farm. Surely, when 10 steers fed, or 10 cows milked, will alone make the difference of the rent, would it not be folly to choose otherwise? Allow that, and it follows that a very material advance towards doubling the income results from the keeping of good high-grade stock, with proper feeding, to get the results.

Feeding our field productions on our farms is a sure means to increasing production. When we consider that, of all the feed fed to our stock in growing and finishing, their systems take, on the average, less than one-fifth of the nutriment out of what they eat, it is very easy to reason out why it is so advantageous to have the productions turned into higher-priced products, other than as they come from our fields. Parting with one-fifth at more money than the whole of the hay and grains and roots, etc., would bring on the market, and at the same time having four-fifths to go back to the land as manure, is surely a paying proposition. Go where you will, in any county in all Ontario, and wherever you see a farm from which all the returns are got from the live stock and their products, there you will find the soil year by year increasing in fertility and in productiveness.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

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How a Young Farmer Succeeded.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some years ago, a young farmer—a stranger—passing through this section of the country, noticed a farm which showed signs of shameful neglect. Alighting from his rig, he scaled a fence, examined the soil, and then drove on again.

A few months later he returned, and purchased the place for five thousand dollars. Though having only eight hundred dollars to commence with, he found a man to take a mortgage on the farm. His cash, which he had saved, having earned it by hard, almost daily toil, was needed for buying harness, a horse, and implements. His father gave him a team and a few head of cattle to start with. He took possession of the farm in early spring, and, by the time he had reclaimed his seed, and had made ready for working on the land, the fields had dried off. Being alone, he had to get up at five in the morning, and managed to be in the fields by seven, and it was amusing to see the neighbors, with two two-horse teams, try to keep ahead of his three-horse outfit. But he was able to have the work done in good season, and at the same time save the wages of one man and a horse.

During harvest, he hired, at moderate wages, an Englishman, and when one was working with the horses, the other would be either destroying the weeds or cleaning up the bush, which was sorely in need of attention. The brush was thrown on piles; stray pieces of cordwood nicely piled. The back yard and the front, the lanes and fence corners, had been strewn with bones, crockery, glassware, and skeletons of machinery. The iron was sold as scrap-iron, and the rest of the rubbish dumped into a large, deep hole that was probably once a well, and the top covered over with soil, thus doing away with an ill-looking, good-for-nothing, dangerous trap, which had been covered by the previous owner with a few fence-rails.

On rainy days, this young farmer would not go to the village saloon or to the grocery store, and sit there half a day, telling the inhabitants what large potatoes he'd raise next year, but he would be working in the tool-shed, barn or stable, repairing this or that. After the heavy work was done, he would not, as some do, tell his hired man to move and shift for himself during the white months, but, instead, taught him the art of plowing. Being an apt student, the hired man did very creditable work.

By the time winter set in, the barn was shingled, for it was thought wiser to pay for the shingling than to have the rain and water spoil his grain when once in the barn. The stables were in good condition; every crack was closed, and the stock entered the stables comfortable. When, in the spring, they left their winter quarters, they looked sleek and glossy. They had been well curried, fed and tended, and the owner was pleased to note that it was well worth the labor, and he went about whistling. Several large stone piles which ornamented the fields were removed, for the young man had found it was a nuisance to have such heaps in the middle of fields. The fields had been small, and so he sent his man to haul away some of the rail fences. Then, too, he saw that these fences took up a

good-sized piece of ground, which, as long as the rails remained, could not be cultivated, and would only yield weeds. So he sold most of the rails, and with the money erected nice wire fences, and afterwards found that he had gained two whole acres, and did not lie awake at night wondering whether the cows had pushed over the top rails and got into the corn or oats.

A year later and the second crop was in the barn, and more improvements had been made; a lawn, with trees and shrubs, now surrounded the house. The house had been painted, and maples and evergreens lined the lanes and roadside. He had sold his surplus stock at good prices, for he had carefully followed the market reports.

After New Year's, that winter, he went back east, and returned with a companion, a wife—another improvement. The hired man, having secured a better position, left, leaving the newly-wed pair alone. The young farmer devoted nearly all his time to helping arrange the house for his wife's satisfaction. Gossips declared that the place would not be so well looked after as it was the years before, if he continued to spend so much time in the house.

Spring field-work began. Another horse had been purchased for the mistress' private use. Spring was late, and she was bound to aid her husband in his work, and, though it was against his will that she helped, he could not refuse her, and so he gave her two beautiful grays, and high on the seat of the cultivator she sat, while he followed her with the drill. She enjoyed the situation so much that she insisted on driving the reaper, which she did. But did not those gossips stare when she sat on the binder, and he did the "shocking"? Very little hired help was required on that farm that year; and he, in return, helped her, by doing the milking, churning, and otherwise, whenever he could. Often, those summer evenings, one could hear the sweet tones of a guitar, as she and her partner drank in the beauties of the starlight evening, after having done a hard day's honest toil.

To-day, she is an officer of the Women's Institute, and he a member of the council, and they work as faithfully in these positions as if they were working for themselves. The mortgage is raised, the debts are paid, the farm is now one of the finest in the vicinity, and it has increased in value fifty per cent. What is more, they have set an example to the community; they have shown us what can be done when one is determined to succeed. If every farmer would take as much pains in beautifying his home and making it attractive, not only to himself, but to passers-by, also, what a change would take place in the appearance of our country. "SPY."

Maple Syrup Manufacturing.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Well! well! well! About a year ago I wrote to "The Farmer's Advocate," explaining how I handled my sap, and made syrup. I also asked to hear from others, and why was it that we did not have more of a talk about making maple syrup? Surely not because there is no profit in it. Brother farmer, let me say, if you have four or five hundred maple trees on a hundred-acre farm, it is the best-paying business you have, providing you go at it in the right way.

You say it takes a fortune to start. I say it does not. I have known parties to make enough in one season to pay for everything they had to buy—those who had never tapped a tree before.

Then, again, you hear, "Well, I have a pan and two hundred buckets, so I have all that I can attend to." Throw away your pan, and purchase an evaporator that you see from week to week advertised in "The Farmer's Advocate," and tap five hundred, if you have them, and it will not take up any more time than your two hundred did.

In some parts you will again hear, "Well, we cannot get rid of the syrup." I say, make good syrup, and you can sell it.

In 1904 I purchased my evaporator, and started by tapping four hundred trees. The first year I made one hundred and ninety-five gallons, and got about \$1.00 per gallon for the first, then whatever I could—75 cents and 80 cents per gallon—for the remainder. Then I took out the agency to sell for the firm from which I purchased my machine. I started to work, and they told me I would have so much syrup on the market it would not be worth anything. But what has happened? I have sold, within a radius of 20 miles of Kingston, about ten machines, and have sold four more for use next spring, and where is the price of syrup? I sold one machine, which was used last spring. The maker sold 160 gallons, at \$1.00 per gallon, cash. I have made on an average of 200 gallons from my 475 trees, but last spring I made 225 gallons, put it up in one-gallon cans, and got \$1.20 per gallon for the most of it. I put it up in boxes of six cans each, and shipped, at \$8.00 per box, for those out West, as I have quite a few customers out there.

Now, what have we on 100 acres that we can