

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL  
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"  
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
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brought to bear on such, to enable them to view the matter less narrowly."

"The Farmer's Advocate" most heartily agrees with this correspondent in his regret at seeing whole farm forests sold and cleared off, and in his fear lest such a practice should become even more common than it is. It would strongly urge that those who wish Ontario to remain a country with forests should busy themselves in inducing municipal councils in Ontario to pass by-laws exempting protected wood-lots from taxation, as provided for in the Downey Act. The agitation necessary to secure such by-laws would be highly educative, and make the question a live one.

### Apple-growers Want Reciprocity.

It would be a great mistake to assume that Canadian fruit-growers as a whole are opposed to reciprocity. Apple-growers realize that they have much to gain thereby. Jas. E. Johnson pointed out, upon the occasion of the farmers' tariff delegation to Ottawa, that the opening of the American market would be a fine thing for Canadian apple-growers, particularly in some seasons, as there are certain varieties, such as Greenings, Belleflower and Talman Sweets, which sell to better advantage in the American than in our own Western markets. J. G. Mitchell, manager of the Georgian Bay Fruit-growers, of Clarksburg, writes to the Toronto Globe that, in view of the proposed changes, there is more interest taken in the apple industry in the Georgian Bay section than for many years. Hundreds of acres will be planted with varieties of apples suitable to the American and Western markets. Also, as to plums, they have had many inquiries in September from such cities as Cincinnati, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans, New York and Chicago. So, if under reciprocity, Canadian consumers get the benefit of early fruit at reasonable prices, Canadian growers will have an improved opportunity to market some of their later fruit across the line. This goes to emphasize the view we have expressed, that, under reciprocity, Canadian fruit-growers would be little, if any, disadvantaged in the long run, while consumers on both sides of the line would be benefited.

### Landlord-and-Tenant Bill.

A bill has been introduced by I. B. Lucas, M. P. P., in the Ontario Legislature, consolidating the Landlord and Tenant Act, the Overholding Tenants' Act, and certain other statutory provisions affecting the rights of landlord and tenant. There are many verbal changes intended to clarify the law, and an effort is made to cut out all obsolete provisions and generally to revise the law up-to-date. It practically introduces no new principle. Under the old law, treble damages were recovered against any person guilty of pound breach, or rescue; this is to be modified, and the penalty proposed is twenty dollars and actual damages. Before the Act finally goes through, there will probably be some alteration in the clauses as they now exist, providing for damages for seizure where no rent is due. The new clause will probably provide that the damages shall be whatever the court may determine as reasonable, rather than the arbitrary amount of double the value of the goods shown.

### Best in the Empire.

I enclose you £1 4s. 0d. money order to pay for "The Farmer's Advocate" to Jan. 30th, 1912. I may say that I get agricultural papers from Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and Ireland, and not one of them has the practical information that I find in "The Farmer's Advocate." THOS. BRADSHAW.  
Orange Free State, South Africa.

### Two Great Problems.

Two things must be done if we are to keep a reasonable proportion of the wide-awake, educated children of this modern generation upon the land. First, we must cultivate a deeper appreciation of country life, imparting, at the same time, a business and scientific training that will enable our sons to make more money on the farms, and make it more easily than we have done; and secondly, we must suffuse through the rural districts as many as possible of the advantages of city life adapted to rural conditions. Both these problems are immense. Both must be matters of evolution or growth. At present we are so far short of either that the heights of future attainment look dizzy in the distant blue.

To say that the real fascination and beauty and wholesomeness of agriculture are not half appreciated by the people engaged in it, is to utter but a fraction of the truth. Even to-day we hear the independence of the farmer's life held up as one of its chiefest privileges. As a matter of fact, this advantage is generally overrated, and, at any rate, it is so far transcended by several others as to be worthy of but secondary mention. Whenever we hear anyone laud the farmer's independence, we know at once there is a person who has not begun to appreciate its great cardinal advantages. "The Farmer," declares N. P. Hull, of Michigan, "is first lieutenant of the Maker of this world." No occupation is more dignified. Out on the farm men's hearts grow strong and characters develop mightily, if given a chance. And what other great occupation permits one to dwell in such intimate contact with the sublime, rugged and exquisite beauty of nature? To observe the unfolding of the embryo seed, the up-stretching of the plants and trees, the gradual development of living, companionable animals—all creatures of one's own ambition, thought and care—to hold reverie in the cathedral silence of the woods, to work for the upbuilding of a home, to watch the natural development of the children, companions of the placid creatures of the farm—these are some of the pleasures of country life.

To be sure, there is the sterner side, else strong lines of character would never develop. Life everywhere has its trials and drawbacks, but the strong-hearted, wholesome, rational man or woman finds probably a greater combination of attractions on a well-ordered, well-situated farm than in any other spot on God's green earth. In the city, man moulds wood and brick and stone;

on the farm, he moulds Nature. "Nature Idealized," should be the motto of every country home.

But if the attractions of the farm are so great, why do so few people appreciate them? The answer is simple; they have not been trained to appreciate them, and few possess the discrimination to value most highly in youth the things that are best worth while.

Two great influences moulding the aspirations and conceptions of youth are the home and the school. Few homes have exerted a rational influence towards a wholesome appreciation of country life, because the parents themselves did not feel it, except half-heartedly. And as for the schools, they have directed the ambition and thought of youth into any other channel but the farm. Even yet, the most advanced schools are making but lame and feeble efforts to repair that obvious lack. It will be at least a generation, probably longer, ere the schools are wholly freed from the cityward bias. School-gardening, nature study, manual training and domestic science should be introduced into every school, and persistent effort made to relate the whole school work as intimately as may be to the conditions of the country and the problems of the farm. The state has nothing officially to do with the home; it does have to do with the school, and should endeavor to so modify its curriculum that it may cease educating so many of the brightest boys off the farm. Then, after about two or three generations of remodelled schooling, we may expect to see a race of farmers develop who will not only see more in the farm, but will make more out of it.

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The second problem, how to take city advantages to the country, is much the easier of the two, and will be partly solved by the solution of the former problem. Already it is being solved to a considerable degree in many instances.

If it be sane and wholesome to appreciate the peculiar advantages of the farm, it is likewise sane to appreciate certain educational and social privileges—not to mention creature comforts—which the city offers. It is not well for man to live alone, nor for a family, nor yet a neighborhood. Character may grow strong under such conditions, but it also grows narrow and eccentric. A broad sphere of human contact is essential to the highest development of human intellect and character. Unless country life can promise a reasonable measure of these things, the children will be wise to leave it. It is not so much necessary to connect the country with the city by good roads and electric lines, though this is very desirable, but we must evolve in the rural districts, through school and church and institute and club, a social life of the country, by the country, and for the country—something germane to rural conditions. Of course, we want good roads, rural telephones, free rural delivery when we can get it; neat, well-planted homes equipped with modern conveniences; and last, but most important, plenty of good periodicals, music, pictures and books. But these things alone are inadequate to appeal to a well-balanced mind. Not one thing, but many, must be done.

And this leads up to a question upon which we have pondered not a little in the past. Why is it that in so many of the more progressive rural homes the boys have shown even a more marked propensity to leave the farm than the boys in the humbler homes? Is it not partly because the former lads got merely a taste of the educational and social privileges that could be enjoyed more abundantly in the town? If so—and we believe this is one fundamental explanation—it follows that the thing to do is improve our country homes and country society a great deal more than we have already done. It cannot be accomplished all at once; some of us have not the means to do much more than we have already done. But all of us can set before ourselves high ideals of country farms, country homes, and country social organization, working toward these as best we may.

Certainly, that is the direction in which to face, though the change will come not by revolution, but by evolution. And again we say the state must work through the school. Let the state busy itself forthwith. Take no stock in any easy panacea for improvement of rural conditions. Progress must be slow and cumulative. The problem is one of generations.