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"Persevere and
Succeed"

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EDITORIAL.

PROGRESSIVE JOURNALISM.

In the closing days of the year, a retrospect of some of the topics vital to the farmer, covered by "The Farmer's Advocate" in its weekly issues during that period, may not be inopportune. That an honest effort has been made to render the paper helpful to its patrons by securing and disseminating reliable and up-to-date information, irrespective of the labor and expense involved, we feel sure will be cheerfully acknowledged. And that our efforts have been appreciated, we are glad to know from having received so many kindly expressions from those we have sought to serve, and from the substantial lengthening of our subscription lists during the past twelve months. A brief recapitulation will serve to show the intimate connection of the principal subjects discussed with the interests and welfare of the farmer, and that our position in the discussion of these questions has been generally accepted by our constituents as sound and sensible, we have good reason to believe.

The urgent need of more careful attention being given to the proper ventilation of basement stables, in the interest of the health of animals so housed, has long been given prominence in "The Farmer's Advocate," and early in the year a fresh-air-and-exercise propaganda was inaugurated with an article puncturing the winter "June conditions" fad, and teaching that simpler and more inexpensive means are the most likely to attain the desired object.

The attention of breeders and experimenters was directed to the important question of the possibility of uniting in one class of cattle the double purpose of milk and beef production, in order to enhance the profits of the latter necessary in meeting the conditions and predilections of a large class of farmers. This subject was given free and full discussion, while the claims of the special-purpose cow for the largest milk and butter production demanded by those who make dairying a specialty have been given wide and generous consideration, the steadily upward range of records of production in the case of individual cows and herds being noted and commended, and the importance of using sires bred from high-producing strains advocated in no uncertain terms. The simple system of cow-testing, by means of the scales, in order to obtaining a certain knowledge of the working record of individual cows, and determining which are paying a profit and which are being kept at a loss, has been heartily encouraged and recorded.

The importance of growing in larger proportion alfalfa, red clover and other leguminous crops for the double purpose of maintaining and increasing the fertility of the soil, while producing the most valuable class of stock food, has been given special prominence; while the advantages of devoting much larger areas to corn production, and of better care in selection of seed corn, and intelligent corn culture, have been emphasized strongly.

The farm-labor problem, so acute and perplexing, has received a large share of consideration, and suggestions given for the partial relief of farmers and their wives in this regard, such as the employment of more labor-saving implements and machinery, the use of three and four-horse teams, the making provision for the yearly employment of married men with families, with the hope of securing extra help from that source, and the co-operation of neighbors, where practicable, in order to lighten the labor.

General farm-crop culture, harvesting, storing,

feeding and marketing have received more than usual attention, the object being to secure the largest crop returns for the labor and expense incurred, and the most satisfactory financial results from the operations of the year.

Full and fair reports, prepared by practical and experienced writers, have been published of the principal features in all departments of the leading live-stock, agricultural, dairy, horticultural, and other exhibitions and conventions.

By means of the split-log-drag competition, the results of which were announced in our Christmas Number, last week, a successful effort was made to focus public attention upon earth-road improvement and the use of that effective implement.

Poultry-raising, a branch of farming which is constantly becoming more profitable, the demand and the prices increasing in proportion as towns and cities grow and population increases, has received a full share of attention, special consideration being given to the healthful housing and general management of the flock.

Beekeeping, a specialty deserving greater attention, has been dealt with by specialists from issue to issue.

The sheep-breeding industry, for which the climatic and feed-growing conditions of our country are especially well adapted, and which has been sadly neglected by too many farmers, has been given a fresh impetus by the improved demand and prices, and by the attention of our people being called to the moderate amount of labor and expense involved in founding and maintaining a small flock of this dividend-paying class of stock. The phenomenal success of Canadian sheep-breeders in prizewinning at International Exhibitions year after year, speaks volumes for the suitability of our soil and climate, and the ability of our people to excel in this line of live stock.

Horse-breeding has also experienced a revival of interest, owing to the improved demand as a consequence of the settlement of the new lands of the West, the growth of our cities and towns, and the extensive construction of new railways. "The Farmer's Advocate" has given special attention to the question of the improvement of the horse stock of the country and the measures best calculated to insure the production of a profitable class of uniform type and quality.

A popular and decidedly useful feature with fruit-growers has been the able series of articles in which, under the title, "Horticultural Progress," are given the attested results of investigations at experiment stations and elsewhere, with pertinent comments regarding their applicability to Canadian conditions.

The reform of the educational system of the country, the whole tendency of which has been to draw our young people away from the farm, has been advocated and insisted upon, in order that a more sane and sensible course may be adopted by which the dignity and wholesomeness of farm life may be properly appreciated, and a programme of studies adopted which will fit farmers' sons and daughters for the duties of farm life, instead of inclining so many of them to the already overfilled professions.

Domestic and literary life have received a liberal share of attention in the ably-conducted Home Magazine department of "The Farmer's Advocate," the influence of which is freely acknowledged as being wholesome and elevating in its tendencies.

In addition to the features above mentioned, in which the paper has served its patrons, we may mention that in the Questions and Answers department nearly three thousand queries of interest have received replies prepared by expert

scientists and men of practical experience, and thereby much useful and helpful information disseminated. The paper is always profusely illustrated with high-class photogravures, adding greatly to its educational value.

Our programme for the coming year will be equally full of interest and usefulness, grappling with each practical issue as it arises. New and important features are in contemplation, and we appeal to our patrons for not only a renewal and continuation of their own subscriptions, but an interest in a wider spreading of the influence of the paper by their inducing others to avail themselves of the helpfulness of "The Farmer's Advocate," which for over forty years has proven itself not only in name but in fact the "farmer's advocate" in the best sense of the term. We invite the attention of our readers to special offers and valuable premiums given for securing new subscribers, and urge immediate action, in order that new subscribers may have the benefit of the paper for the balance of this year and all of next year for the yearly subscription price. Figure out the modest cost of the weekly visits of "The Farmer's Advocate," and appraise its benefits. The decision will be, we are quite sure, that neither yourself nor your neighbor can afford to do without it.

THE RURAL - SCHOOL GARDEN.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to a special feature of the Home Magazine department of this issue, viz., a series of illustrated articles presenting the results of school-gardening, as carried on in connection with some of the most successful Canadian schools. "The Farmer's Advocate" has persistently upheld the idea that some sort of training which might tend to awaken interest in agriculture should be given in our public schools throughout the rural districts, better fitting the sons and daughters of the farm for the agricultural pursuits. School-gardening, if rightly conducted, should surely be a great means to this end, besides proving, as well, a distinct medium of educative intellectual work.

We have much pleasure in calling the attention of parents, teachers, inspectors and school boards to these articles, and trust that the reading of them may be an incentive to many more experiments of this kind during the summer of 1908. We are on the eve of important changes for the better in our public-school policy, and school gardening emphasizes one aspect of the reform. Read, study and preserve the articles on "The New Education," and the experience of wide-awake teachers who made use of gardens as an educational agency.

TEACH THE BOY: SAVE THE FARM.

We are thankful to read, from time to time, an effective word in Hoard's Dairyman on the subject of public-school reform, one of the greatest needs of the times, whether viewed from an agricultural or a national standpoint. Referring again to the Syracuse, N. Y., convention, which "The Farmer's Advocate" reviewed some time ago under the caption, "The Undoing of the Farmer," our clear-sighted Wisconsin contemporary makes the following observations: "There has been a decline of the fine old farming spirit which used to prevail in New York fifty years ago. Then good men were proud of being farmers, and their sons were anxious to fill their father's shoes. But the effect on the productive capacity of New York soil has resulted in an enormous decline in land values, amounting to \$126,000,000 in thirty years. Had the common schools of New York taken hold of the minds of the children of the farm 30 years ago, and taught them enough of the elements of