

it acts: If the spring is favorable to growth, the crop forms many stools using up its energy for the purpose, then if the rain becomes less plentiful or the soil is not just rich enough the plants are not able to bring as much seed to maturity, nor will the plant make provision for large heads, for it has attempted to propagate itself by producing several stems which carry small heads rather than one stem with a very large head. One may then say the matter is as broad as it is long, but if one had a strain of grain that was non-stooling, we would sow much thicker and have all the single stemmed plants the land would carry, bearing large heads which would come to maturity earlier. This has been the experience of the British farmers.

The object to be attained with our cereals is much the same as that already attained by the American corn growers. The Americans grow corn for grain and plant it in hills so many inches apart and so many kernels to the hill. If they sowed the corn thicker they would have a heavier crop of stalks and a lighter crop of grain and if they looked about they would find some old types of corn that would stool like our cereals do and produce much less grain than the sorts they now use.

Now we do not mean to say that everyone should begin to try to produce types of wheat and oats that perform the special function of seed production, by sowing thicker to prevent stooling, but we are inclined to think that, as thicker seeding tends to prevent stooling, in the course of a few years grain, after several years of thick seeding, would stool less, carry larger heads and ripen earlier. To develop such types of grain is properly the work of our experimenters and plant breeders, but inasmuch as some farmers are more favorably situated than many experimenters, we commend the work to them.

What I Consider Farmers Should Do

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

You ask me what I consider the agricultural interests of this province are most in need of, to which I submit the following as my views as far as I have had time and opportunity to formulate them. I arrange my answers under the three heads into which you divide the subject, viz:

1st. The course that should be adopted in framing legislation.

2nd. The aims and objects that should characterize farmer's organizations.

3rd. What the individual farmer should aim at. As to the first, I consider whatever legislation is required to secure and protect for the farmer the best markets for his products, with as little intervention from the middleman as is practicable, and the cheap, rapid and safe transportation thereto, is of great importance. All such legislation as provides for the enlightenment and scientific development of the farmer in his chosen calling through educational means is also to be encouraged. Anything that contributes to the social and moral improvement and welfare of the farmer and that increases the comforts and pleasures of farm life is of great value. This includes good schools, good roads, rural mail delivery where practicable, and rural telephone systems.

2nd. The aims of the farmers' organizations have been many and diverse, ranging from the harmless social gathering to the "Dollar Wheat" schemes, the abolition of the middleman, the attempted control of markets, etc. The fundamental reasons for the failure of so many of these ambitious dreams have been the ignoring of, or indifference to, one of the underlying principles of political economy—the law of supply and demand—and the wide-spread ignorance of market conditions, together with the notorious inability of farmers to "hang together."

For such reasons as these, the first objects of farmers' organizations should, it seems to me, be educational; not alone for the inspiration and encouragement gained in comparing methods of work, and in gleaning new ideas, but in the opportunity thus given to learn to recognize that they are not a collection of units each pulling in different directions, but that they have common interests, and that concerted action spells power. From this, it is but a short step to the realization that there is no antagonism between the farmer and the public; that the price of commodities cannot be controlled by any arbitrary measures, and that a knowledge of conditions and a careful catering to public demand is the key to success.

No one who has studied the development of agricultural methods in the last generation can doubt the value of such educational work. Take, for instance, the experience in corn raising of our neighbors to the south, the history of whose development we are in some respects paralleling. Corn was easily and cheaply raised in what was known as the corn belt, and the consequence was that the market was glutted—refused to buy it almost at any price. The same market was always ready to pay good prices for fat stock and at this point the educational value of farmers' organizations and the press came to be tested. The farmers had to be taught to feed, as well

as to raise, the corn, and they learned to do it. It is a far cry from the Nebraska farmer of twenty years back, who used his corn for fuel "because it was cheap" to the one of today whose corn-fed cattle and hogs buy not only his fuel, but many luxuries besides;—from the ten cent corn of that day to the fifty cent corn of this.

3rd. The individual farmer should aim at being, in all senses of that word, a successful farmer. We need men who can raise good crops on clean land worked to the best possible advantage according to all that modern science can teach them, and no farmer should lose sight of the fact that he cannot afford to carry on his farm by antiquated and slipshod methods any more than a merchant or manufacturer can do so. The latter may be taught by the exigencies of trade to recognize his failure rather more quickly than a farmer, but there is no spectacle more pitiable than that seen too often in older farming communities, of a discouraged, debt-ridden farmer hanging on year after year to his poorly-tilled acres till the mortgage forces a separation. Neither the richness of our soil nor the vastness of our untilled acres will protect our eyes from such sights long if the same methods are pursued.

No man in any walk of life can fail in making a living for his family and preserve his self-respect, therefore I should place success in his calling as the first aim of a farmer, but no man worthy the name will be satisfied with that alone.

Who has not seen instances of the most successful farmer in his district—the one who pays the largest threshing bills and exhibits the finest stock,—having a home as bare and unattractive as the poorest laborer. No trees or lawn, flowers or shrubbery to screen the bareness of the barn-like dwelling. No fruit or garden to vary the diet of the family. No touch of refinement, in short, inside or out, to make anything but a sordid work-shop of what should be a cozy home.

The country is the ideal place for a home. More and more is it becoming difficult to find the right conditions for a true home life among the crowded tenements and apartment houses of the large cities.

It is the rural homes of New England that have supplied the mental and moral backbone of the American Republic, and Ontario has helped in the past with thousands of boys from her country homes—though now the tide has turned and our own new West is getting the benefit of this good material. Homes of this sort are what we need. No ambition can be loftier than that of founding a true home where honor, peace and happiness reign, where simple courtesy and refinement are cultivated and a generous mutual interest in all that concerns the family welfare binds the members together. This should, in my opinion, be the great aim of the farmer and the accumulation of wealth should only be one means to gain that end. No man can expect to gain it who becomes a mere machine for grinding out dollars and who neglects to make his home attractive in the process.

This aspect of the case—the beautifying of the home—seems to me to be one of special importance to the prairie farmer in our new provinces. Nature has done much in the way of soil and climate, but for the beauty of noble trees and grassy slopes, of running brook and shady glades, we must go to less fertile lands or make Nature the servant of Science and Toil and win them for ourselves. It takes time, but fortunately, not much money, for the government is at hand to help, with the Forestry Department and the Experimental Farms. It takes time, and for that reason should not be delayed. The fine buildings can wait—they will look bare and unlovely enough if the trees are not there. The poorest dwelling surrounded by trees, shrubbery and lawn, is more attractive than the most imposing without them.

It may seem to some a trivial matter, this of surrounding our homes with the beauty of which Nature has been, in some lands, so lavish, but I believe it to be of more importance to us than some of us quite realize.

W. H. FAIRFIELD.

(This is the first of several articles in answer to the three questions asked above. At any time we shall be glad to have further letters from those who have thought seriously upon these subjects, especially if they embody conclusions based upon years of experience. Ed.)

Why "Caution"

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I notice in your December 23rd number a communication from "Farmer," who advises the farmers to be cautious in the matter of government owned elevators. He says farmers' elevators have not been a success, but I would like to know what difference it makes to government owned elevators, what farmers' elevators amounted to. I cannot see why the government owned system should not be a success. It would not need to be an entire success to be better than the system we now have. "Farmer" does not give us any reason why he thinks wheat-growing is at its height in Manitoba. Why should it be when farmers are beginning to adopt more improved and up-to-date methods both in killing weeds and conserving moisture?

We need some improvements in the elevator methods as badly or more so than we do in killing weeds and if the elevator companies will not improve

their methods of doing business the farmer is compelled to do something to help himself and government owned elevators look to me as a step forward. "Farmer" says commercial fertilizers are out of the question. Well then, why not keep more stock and use the home made fertilizer which costs nothing to manufacture? I wonder, Mr. Editor, how much stock there will be to ship after our country has no wheat to ship! I think if "Farmer" lives till then instead of hearing people shouting for creameries and government owned cold storage plants, they will be pale faced and begging for something to eat if there are any left alive. "Farmer" also thinks the government got a white elephant when they bought the Bell Telephone. Barnum when he added a white elephant to his great circus thought he had a good thing, and I think most people who use the telephone today think the government got a good thing. We are paying each year for all the elevators in our different towns and villages, then why not buy them out, then in the future if we happen not to need them we can sell them or turn them into creameries or cold storage plants and save red faces and sore throats from shouting.

Morton, Mun. Man.

R. J. KING.

Making the Scalding Water Just Right

To remove the hair thoroughly after the hog has been scalded, it is necessary that the water be just about right when it goes into the scalding barrel. Next time you have hogs to kill try this plan of getting the scald ready:

Bring the water to boiling point and throw in a couple of handfuls of wood ashes or a little soda or tar, which helps to loosen the hair and removes the scurf from the skin. Boil briskly a few minutes and remove water to the scalding barrel, which will make it about the right temperature for use, if not add cold water. Avoid a hot scald; it sets the hair and makes the skin tender. Place a hook with a handle in the pig's mouth, then sling the back half of body into the scalding barrel, churn up and down several times, pulling it out occasionally to air. Reverse the hog, cut open ham strings, insert gambrel, and scald the front end the same way. Test the scald by pulling the hair on legs and ears. If it comes off freely the scald is sufficient. Pull the carcass on to platform and scrape off hair quickly, removing it from the legs and head first. Return the water from barrel to kettle to have it heating for the next. After the water has been used or tempered, subsequent scalds will be more successful.

Practical Paint Tests

The North Dakota College of Agriculture in collaboration with the American Paint Manufacturers Association is conducting a series of practical tests with commercial paints to determine the relative value of the ready-mixed paints most generally used in the State. The tests are being made on specially constructed fences made with four kinds of lumber, also on buildings newly constructed and painted for the first time and on buildings needing repainting. The work will be carried on for a number of years that the fullest data possible may be obtained. The wearing qualities of the various ready-mixed paints on all kinds of lumber and subjected to different exposures has been reported on in detail in a bulletin recently issued by the station, but as the experiment has been running for only two years yet no very definite information as to the relative value of different mixtures is possible.

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When the shelly or brittle foot is observed before the colt has been shod or worked it is more than likely that the fault is in the digestive organs, or else in the nature of the food supplied, says an English veterinarian. The intimate connection between the horn of the feet, the skin of the animal and the lining of the alimentary canal is not so generally known as it should be, and our efforts to build good feet are often best directed when we prescribe a more liberal diet and one in which the elements of horn are abundant. Gelatinous foods, of which linseed stands at the head for horses, are calculated to supply the binding material that is wanting in a brittle hoof, but there must be power of appropriation, which may be aided by such things as clumba, potash, soda or dilute mineral acids, which enable the stomach to better deal with the food. The robbery committed by worms may be at the root of shelly feet. The intimacy between the skin and digestion is recognized in a practical way by most men, for they readily associate a hidebound condition with worms, but do not carry the comparison to the feet.

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There are a lot of disappointed farmers on account of the impossibility of the railroads hauling out all the wheat that has been offered, but there is the consolation of the certainty of higher prices between now and next July.

Breed

Few good dairies chance or care for good ones are breeding on the them. Colantha able milk-produ conceived first mated a male animals of app most phenomenon world was the cow is bred is determination of her progeny. Upon that by the profit-produ But the foundat on both sides amount of feed develop the m extent in their important part believed. The gence will out-b breeding especia

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