

tain checks upon its too rapid increase. But when a species is introduced into a new country these checks are often lacking, and the form increases until it becomes a pest. We have enough pests which are introduced inadvertently without going out of our way to introduce species which may, when it is too late to exterminate them, prove to be injurious. We would suggest that this importation of birds be shipped back whence they came, or else kept in large roomy aviaries in the parks of Vancouver and Victoria.

"The Rural Problem."

Four days of the first week in March were devoted by I. B. Whale, District Representative, in Middlesex Co., Ontario, to a series of farmers' meetings in Glencoe. These meetings, while not largely attended, were one of the bright spots in the county work during this season. The average attendance, up to the last evening of the meetings, was about forty, and, judging by the questions asked, interest was keen and much valuable information imparted. Mr. Whale discussed weeds, seed selection and soil cultivation. D. Johnson, of Forest, gave a demonstration in box-packing apples, and W. F. Kydd, of Simcoe, gave a very instructive address on the care of the orchard. The meetings came to a close Friday evening with a well filled hall to listen to an able address by Prof. J. B. Reynolds, of the O. A. C., on "The Rural Problem," and to Dr. H. G. Reed, V. S., of Georgetown, on horse breeding and stabling of stock.

The Rural Problem has been discussed from almost every platform and through the columns of almost every live journal in Ontario, but few, if any, of the speakers or writers making this their theme, have so ably stated the real problem and what is needed to remedy the present situation as did Prof. Reynolds at this meeting.

The problem, as so often stated, is the gradual depopulation of the country—the increasing moving away from the Ontario farms to the West and to the cities—the abandoning of farm life by boys and girls who were born on the farm. This is the problem. This is responsible for the increased cost of living, which is directly a result of supply and demand. (Decreasing the number of producers means decreasing the supply, and increasing city population means increasing the demand.)

It is a matter of the attractiveness of farming. If agriculture is an attractive occupation, rural population should not be depleted. Because a boy or girl is born on a farm is no reason why he or she should be compelled to remain there. In a democratic country like Canada, every child should have the liberty of choosing his or her own occupation. We are not born to any particular occupation in this country.

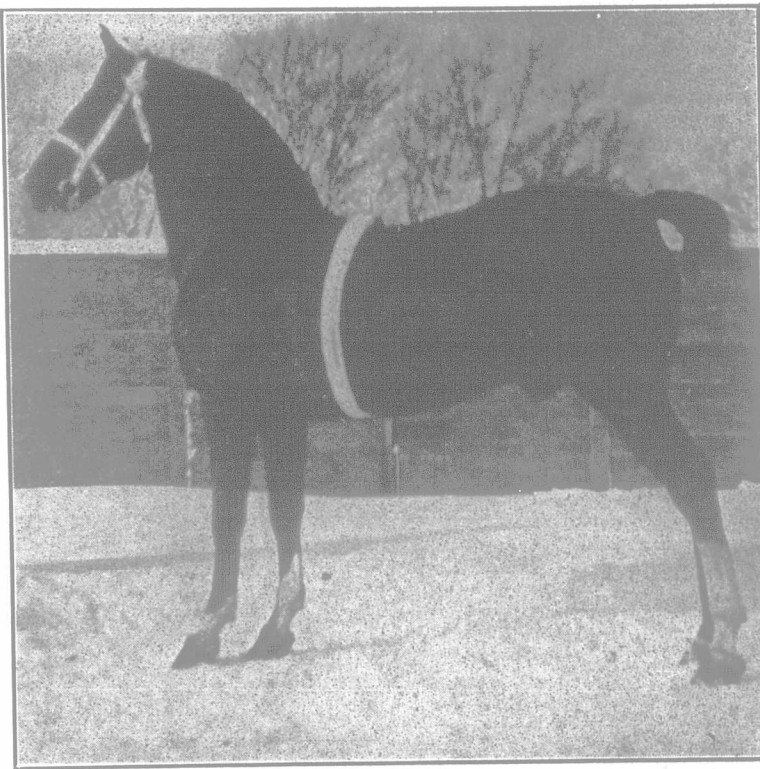
Professor Reynolds was not in sympathy with the cry that we are educating away from the farm. He held, however, that advanced education unfits people for labor, believing that "an educated farmer cannot be a laborer." The great need is to remedy the conditions of farming. The cry against the Collegiate-institute education he believed to be unfounded, and stated—"A university course is almost as likely to turn a young man's attention toward farming as a four-years' course at the agricultural college." Present-day agricultural education fits young men for other pursuits, and a large percentage of the graduates (four-year men) do not go into farming, because their education opens their eyes to the possibilities of other occupations and to the disabilities of farming; but Prof. Reynolds stated that there is no better education to fit the young man for the business of life than an agricultural college education. An education to be of real value should fit a man for life. The blame is not in education, but in the conditions of farming.

"What makes farm life attractive?" asked Professor Reynolds. All the talk of the beauties of nature and the charm of farm life he called "poppycock." People cannot live on it, and until our living is certain there is no use of talking "fresh air," "nature," and "independence." These are factors—accessories, but not the life.

Farming is unattractive because of the hard labor involved, but hard work should not drive people away from the farm. "If a man is looking for a soft job let him get away from the farm." Such a man is no use anywhere, and this country has no place for him. It was the men who were not afraid of work that made this country, and are still making it. Right here is where Prof. Reynolds struck the keynote of his address, "Too often on the farm hard labor is not associated with mental interest. The man is merely a laborer and not enough of a business man and not enough of a scientist, and the sooner farmers learn that agriculture is a science the sooner they elevate their occupation to a business. The one touch to redeem farming is to make it an intelligent occupation."

Another necessary factor is that farming must be made relatively profitable. One can never be a millionaire farming, but money ought not to be the chief end of our lives. A few sacrifice the prospect of being rich, provided that in their occupation they have a clear conscience, and are making a fair living and doing good to citizenship. The idea of service is the one thing which makes business worth while. Farm produce is wealth in the divinest form in which wealth is produced, but the business of farming must be made reasonably profitable.

To illustrate the significance of work on the farm which will appeal to the intellect, Prof. Reynolds produced the figures obtained through the keeping of milk records the past year on his own farm. The proceeds from cow No. 1 for 10 months were \$122.71; the cost of feed, \$49.00; net profit, \$73.71. Cow No. 2, milked 1 year; proceeds, \$127.90; feed, \$52.90; profit, \$75. Cow No. 3, milked 1 year; proceeds, \$125.82; feed, \$51.70; profit, \$74.12. Cow No. 4, milked 10 months; proceeds, \$85.79; feed, \$47.50; profit, \$38.29. In this group it will be noticed that while the cost of feed for cow No. 4 was nearly as much as that for each of the others the profits were only about half as much. Cow No. 5, milked 3 months (winter); proceeds, \$40.51; feed, \$18.71; profit, \$21.80. Cow No. 6, milked 3 months (winter); proceeds, \$25.32;



Christopher North.

First-prize Hackney stallion under 15.2, and champion of the breed, at the Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show, Ottawa, 1913. Exhibited by Mount Victoria Stock Farm, Hudson Heights, Que.

feed, \$16.20; profits, \$9.12. Cow No. 7, milked 3 months (winter); proceeds, \$19.11; feed, \$16.00; profit, \$3.11; and cow No. 8, milked 3 months (winter); proceeds, \$57.78; feed, \$24.00; profit, \$33.78. Three of the cows in the first group more than paid for themselves in the first milking period, and this last cow, which cost \$72.00, is likely to pay for herself in eight months of milking. Note that in the last group it would take eleven cows like No. 7 to yield a profit equal to that of No. 8. This should appeal to the intellect, should encourage the adoption of business principles. Even the foreman in charge of these cows became intensely interested, seeking to ascertain the cause of every fluctuation in the milk flow. Interest in one branch leads to interest in others.

The rural problem is a practical matter. We must engage our minds. Intellectual emptiness in the business of a good many farms is responsible for so many abandoned farms, concluded Prof. Reynolds, and this also he believed was the cause of farmers having had for so long to bear the burdens of the world. "Why should the farmer not get what is coming to him?" There is relatively too much time spent on production, ignoring the marketing end of the business. The marketing problem will never be solved until we get some measure of co-operation in both production and marketing. Country boys and girls are going and will continue to go to the city, and some city boys and girls are beginning to go to the country. This latter is a good feature, for the city boy is instilling a certain amount of business training into the country, is bringing city conveniences to the country home. In time the flow from the country to the city and from the city to the country will, to some extent, balance. In the meantime use the intellect and make farming a business.

President Wilson's Program.

In the inaugural address of President Woodrow Wilson, at Washington, he gives the following remarkable opinions of the duty of the new American Government in relation to the people. Of things that ought to be altered he cites:—"A tariff which cuts us off from our proper part in the commerce of the world, violates the just principles of taxation, and makes the Government a facile instrument in the hands of private interests; a banking and currency system based upon the necessity of the Government to sell its bonds fifty years ago and perfectly adapted to concentrating cash and restricting credits; an industrial system which, taken on all its sides, financial as well as administrative, holds capital in leading strings, restricts the liberties and limits the opportunities of labor and exploits without renewing or conserving the natural resources of the country; a body of agricultural activities never yet given the efficiency of great business undertakings or served as it should be through the instrumentality of science taken directly to the farm, or afforded the facilities of credit best suited to its practical needs; watercourses undeveloped, waste places unreclaimed, forests untended, fast disappearing without plan or prospect of renewal, unregarded waste heaps at every mine.

"Nor have we studied and perfected the means by which Government may be put at the service of humanity, in safeguarding the health of the nation, the health of its men and its women and its children, as well as their rights in the struggle for existence. This is no sentimental duty. The firm basis of Government is justice, not pity. Society must see to it that it does not itself crush or weaken or damage its own constituent parts. The first duty of law is to keep sound the society it serves.

"This is not a day of triumph; it is a day of dedication. Here muster not the forces of party, but the forces of humanity. Men's hearts wait upon us; men's lives hang in the balance; men's hopes call upon us to say what we will do. Who shall live up to the great trust? Who dares fail to try? I summon all honest men, all patriotic, all forward-looking men, to my side. God helping me, I will not fail them, if they will but counsel and sustain me!"

A Canadian in Wilson Cabinet.

The men of the Maritime Provinces of Canada have ever been to the fore in public affairs. One of them appears in the new cabinet of President Wilson, at Washington, as Secretary of the Interior. He is Franklin Knight Lane, who was born in Prince Edward Island in 1864. He was educated in California, and practiced law there. He was a candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket in that State and received the vote of his party for Senator. He has for years been a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission and represents the United States on the International Railroad Commission.

HORSES.

Among a long list of "rules" laid down by the Boston Work-horse Parade Association, the following are a few:—

A heavy-draft horse should never be driven faster than a walk, with or without a load.

Teach your horses to go into the collar gradually. When a load is to be started, speak to the horses and take a firm hold of the reins so that they will arch their necks, keep their legs under them and step on their toes, a loose rein means sprawling and slipping, often with one horse ahead of the other.

Avoid these harness faults,—bridle too long or too short; blinders pressing on the eye or flapping; throat-latch too tight; collar too tight or too loose; shaft-girth too loose; traces too long; breeching too low down or too loose; inside reins too long in driving a team.

Drive your horse all the time, feel his mouth gently but never jerk the reins.