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EDITORIAL.

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true.—Abraham Lincoln.

Fresh ground is one of the big factors of success in raising chickens. Have large portable yards or coops and move them often.

"Give us some good names for a horse driving colt," beseeches one confident subscriber. Next thing we know we shall be asked to name the babies.

In this latitude and comparatively humid climate, hard-clay slopes are about the only places where an alfalfa stand is reasonably safe for many years without tiling.

Many a rolling field seeded to alfalfa is patched and spotted by killing-out in the hollows, on the loamy knoll-tops and in springy runways, even down the slopes. A few tile drains in such a field will overcome the difficulty, and practically insure a beautiful even stand.

It is idle to talk about keeping big issues out of politics, or of keeping politics out of big issues. What people usually mean when they speak about keeping a certain question out of politics is that it should be considered by all men on its merits, without the prejudice of partisanship. Why should not all questions be, in that sense, kept out of politics? When judgment supersedes prejudice, when voters are prepared to weigh matters without bias, better government will come. That is the idea of independence in politics.

Wheel-barrow patrol of the highways is the idea which Jonathan Bourne, Jr., Chairman of Joint Good Roads Committee of the United States Congress, intends to put into effect. He has learned from the French that wheel-barrow patrolmen are the secret of economy in the upkeep of rural highways. A shovel and a barrow are all the equipment necessary. He has written to all the 42,000 rural mail carriers in the United States, and when Congress meets in December the committee will be ready to report a complete plan of maintenance and repair. Common sense at last! Prompt repair is the big secret of the problem. But instead of a wheel-barrow why not a light wagon, especially on the longer and less travelled beats?

A great many alfalfa fields have been spoiled in the Province of Ontario. An open winter, which heaved the roots, is generally ascribed as the cause. We suspect if the truth were known the excessive wetness of last summer started the trouble by weakening the plants, and favoring the encroachment of grass. On our own farm some remarkable comparisons are now evident, seeming to prove that serious injury followed removal of the second cutting during wet weather when the soil was saturated. Where the second cutting was removed during a few days of fair weather there is now rank alfalfa, which stood the adverse May weather much better than did clover or timothy meadows. Last summer was a most exceptional season. Let it discourage no one. Get good seed, clean land and drainage.

Co-operation Gradually Gains Ground.

A new country like Canada presents far more difficulties to the inauguration and successful operation of agricultural co-operation than does an older country where economic and social conditions favor a working together. It is a good thing to be independent, but self-reliance may be carried too far for the individual's own good, and certainly too far for the good of the agricultural community as a whole. Notwithstanding all the drawbacks presented by the people co-operation is growing, and the co-operative spirit is beginning to permeate and enthuse the minds of some leading men and organizations which are working for better things for the farmer and fruit grower. Ontario fruit growers are taking a forward step, and are organizing a central selling agency or association to handle a large part of the co-operative pack of the province. Nothing could be more commendable than this action. Canadian farmers may be able to produce high-class farm products, but up to the present very little has been done to facilitate selling or marketing. With agriculture operated as a business, it becomes necessary to incorporate business methods. Imagine a large wholesale or manufacturing plant without its selling organization. The farm is essentially a wholesale plant, and it is just as necessary that all the best marketing methods be used to dispose of the crop as it is that the soil be worked and the crop produced by approved cultural methods. The old days, when the consumer sought his purchases, are gone forever. We are living in a vastly different age. It is now necessary, owing to the fact that others do it, for the producer to find his market, or, in other words, go out and sell his goods. There is a good market, in fact many good markets, but unless business methods are used in marketing, highest returns can not be made.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the development of co-operation is the lack of co-operative spirit, and a fear which still seems to lurk in the minds of many that the affairs are not going to be managed properly, or that someone else is going to get a little more out of it than they are. If a co-operative company can dispose of a season's crop of apples at \$2.50 to \$3.25 per barrel with the services of a first-class manager and sales agent, and the average price paid by apple buyers is not over \$1.25, what reason has a grower, who has consigned his apples to the association, to raise a "kick" if the manager gets 20 or 25 cents per barrel for all his work in connection with the handling and disposing of the crop? A business man will jump at the chance of investing 25 cents if he knows he is going to make from \$1.25 to \$2.00 out of his venture. Petty jealousies and all narrow selfishness must be banished from the mind of every member of a co-operative association. It is a case of each for all and all for each. Absolute confidence must be placed in the directorate and management, and, of course, to warrant this good reliable men must fill these positions, but none but this class should be admitted as a member of the association, and if any do happen to get in they should be promptly expelled upon proof of offence. No "knockers" should apply for membership. Individual identity is all right, but it must not be used to the detriment of the association work. The association should be the

uppermost consideration in the minds of the members.

It is not wise to start on too small a basis, nor yet too large. Funds are necessary, and there should never be any difficulty in raising these in a truly co-operative concern. The association is better off without the man who is afraid to go down into his pocket and get out the small share which is necessary from each member to commence business. A man of this stamp lacks the co-operative spirit. Of course, we would not advise the wholesale stock-taking in so-called co-operative concerns. What is referred to is an association purely co-operative, and operated altogether by men engaged in the production of the particular crop or product to be marketed. A man must be vitally interested in the association to be a valued member.

An Ontario central fruit growers' organization is needed, and can do much to aid fruit growing or rather fruit selling. A uniform pack for all apples sold through the association is possible; competition between various Ontario associations as to price may be done away with; better transportation facilities may result, and Ontario apples may be sold at the top price in all markets, as the quality must be unquestionably good and uniform. It is the way to develop and hold the market.

Nature at Rest.

On one of these perfect moonlit June evenings a farmer sat on the spacious verandah of his comfortable home. A good week's work had been finished, for it was Saturday night, and the men were off to town. About him spread broad acres planted to crop. The cattle and horses grazed in his meadows; but it was not of these things he pondered. The Spirit of the Infinite possessed his soul. Nature for him held a charm that appeals to one chiefly in his pensive moods. A wide rectangle of trees encompassed his house. Pines and spruce abounded on the north and west, while a splendid row of maples bordered the driveway on the east. The air was perfect, neither chilly nor close. Not a leaf stirred. Nature was at rest.

Late into the evening he sat, surveying the matchless handiwork of God. The rising moon brightened the pale green of the maples, casting deep shadows along the pines and spruce. What painting could equal it? What city glare or splendor could suggest comparison with the scene in its calm beauty and majesty and peace?

The city with its hectic flush for the maddening crowd with no reflections of their own to indulge, but for true men and women with intellect, natural kinship and spiritual impulse, the attractive country home holds an incomparable charm.

Steady Progress the Ideal.

Important American journals, like the New York Times Annalist, have been indulging in severe criticism lately of what they call the startling economic and financial position of Canada. While their motives in this are probably not disinterested, the situation has features that should command our serious attention. Canadian governments, municipalities and corporations have been borrowing upon an enormous scale for some years back, and while most of the investments are sound enough, there is such a thing as drawing too heavily upon the world's money chests. If an era of tight money checks