

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

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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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years ago we published statistics, showing that prices of pole stock for implements had risen from \$22 per M. in 1896 to \$40 in 1907—an increase of 82% in eleven years. Prices for select woods suitable for veneering and furniture-making are astonishing. Farmers who have such trees as black walnut and know their value, can almost name their own prices. Even such kinds as elm and basswood command \$9 and \$12 per M. on the stump, according to figures given us by a local box manufacturer, while for fine trees of rock elm anywhere from \$15 to \$100 per tree may be paid, and for black walnut, \$100 or upwards per tree is not rare.

Considering these figures, bearing in mind the indirect monetary benefits and the aesthetic value of the natural wood-lot, than which no planted park can be more delightful, will it not be worth any farmer's while to preserve ten or fifteen per cent. of his less valuable land in bush, and in sections where there are no rough areas, to devote a few acres even of choice arable land to tree growth? Those who do will bequeath to their children a valuable heirloom, and rear to their memory the noblest monument that any man can have.

### International Institute of Agriculture.

The ancient City of Rome, which was for so long the center of world-power, and which is still the seat of vast influence in other respects, is the headquarters of an organization which includes nearly all the countries of the world, and is designed to promote the interests of commerce and of peace. This is the International Institute of Agriculture, which was formed at a convention in June, 1905. A second convention was held in December, 1909, at which delegates from forty-six of the forty-eight adhering countries were present, Canada being represented by the Hon. Arthur Boyer and Archibald Rae.

A part of the aims and purposes of the International Institute of Agriculture is to secure greater uniformity between the agricultural statistical services of the different countries; greater comparability between the information officially reported by the several countries as to agricultural production; and more complete and reliable information as to the conditions and yields of crops throughout the world than is now available.

Marked changes of products are indicated by informal notices of crop conditions. At present, most of the commercial agencies collect data

in a practical, honest and effective manner, and freely disseminate such information to the public; but, on the other hand, there are agencies which, from lack of complete information, or from a desire to manipulate prices, circulate false reports, which cause violent fluctuations in values.

As a check against the evils of inaccurate or misleading reporting, it was decided at the 1909 Convention of the Institute, to establish a statistical service, which was accordingly started January 1st, 1910. This service sends out reports monthly as to area, condition and production of wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, rice and cotton. Questions are sent out to the different countries the first of each month, and the tabulated answers are published about the 20th of the same month. Information is only to be supplied by Governments adhering to the Convention, or under their responsibility, or through their intervention. It is desired that answers as to crop conditions or prospects be expressed in percentages of an average crop. The terms of the metric system are used in published reports, areas being given in hectares (a hectare is about 2½ acres), and yields in quintals (a quintal equals 220½ pounds).

As yet, the information contained in the monthly reports is very incomplete, but as the countries continue to fall into line, as they are doing, fuller and more valuable reports will be issued. It is intended that statistics regarding other crops than those mentioned, and also those relating to live stock, may be included in later reports. A yearbook, summarizing the information received monthly, will be published at the proper time.

It will come as a surprise to most to know that the forty-eight countries affiliated with the International Institute embrace 98 per cent. of the population and 95 per cent. of the area of the world.

### Reorganize Federal Poultry Department.

An important work, of Dominion scope, was launched last year by the organization of the Poultry-producers' Association of Canada, local branches of which, styled egg circles, are now being formed in Peterborough County, Ont. The deplorably wasteful and unsatisfactory condition of the egg-and-poultry trade in Canada points to the need of spreading this movement rapidly throughout the land, with, so far as possible, a uniform basis of organization, and with a judicious, capable oversight and direction from the watch-tower of the Federal Department of Agriculture. While inaugurated without Government aid, through the initiative of Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, the routine work of the Poultry-producers' Association has already outgrown the restricted resources of that institution, and the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, is now defraying the office expenses, and has promised, we understand, to take the whole work over this fall.

This opens up a general question: What is being done for the poultry industry through the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa? Since Mr. Elford, former Chief of the Poultry Division, left Ottawa for Macdonald College, there has been no officer in the Department concerned in the welfare of the poultry industry. True, there is a Poultry Department of the Central Experimental Farm, where five or six men supervise and attend to a couple of hundred hens, producing a gross income of several hundred dollars a year. But the equipment is antiquated, the conditions disheartening, and the experimental work of little beyond local value. From a variety of causes, the department has fallen into a hopeless state of innocuous desuetude, and it looks as though the best way to mend it is to end it. The one redeeming feature is the Poultry Manager, A. G. Gilbert, who has labored long and honestly in the interest of poultry culture, writing well, lecturing much, and always giving practical advice. Mr. Gilbert deserves recognition, but his services might be advantageously enlisted in some such capacity as Dominion Poultry Expert, where he would devote himself to speaking and correspondence. What is most needed at the Experimental Farm is a Poultry Pathologist, a capable, earnest bacteriologist interested in poultry, to go into the Biological Laboratory and take over the work with which Dr. Higgins is altogether overburdened. In the study of white diarrhea, tuberculosis, black-head, roup and other diseases, as well as in the diagnosis of diseased fowls sent in, there is splendid scope for such a man, who should be given complete facilities and authority to use any number of birds he requires for clinical examination.

Then, in the Department of Agriculture itself, there should be an aggressive Poultry Commissioner, who could promote the work of co-operation, maintain a broad outlook over the whole field of poultry husbandry at home and abroad, and concern himself in everything directly or indirectly germane to the poultry industry, more especially the commercial aspects. His office should be independent of every other Branch in the Depart-

ment; the scope is large enough, and the freedom of action likely to be greater. For this position, we take the liberty of suggesting the one man conspicuously qualified by nature, experience and training, Prof. F. C. Elford. We do this without Prof. Elford's cognizance or consent, believing him to be the man for the place. It is an open secret that he leaves Macdonald College at the end of the year; also, that he has received tempting offers from the United States. Canada cannot afford to lose his services, and the promising line of co-operative work he has initiated is the one he should be retained to prosecute.

### One-crop Farming in Mississippi.

(Editorial correspondence.)

Canadians have been protesting vehemently against their unusual and unseemly spring. "June weather in March, and March weather in June," they apologetically assert to the visitor or the newcomer. Truly, it has been cold and damp in much of Ontario, anyway, for early summer, retarding the growth of the crops that have been planted, and keeping others from being planted at all. It may be that there is sufficient reason for some dissatisfaction, yet, to a stranger riding through our land, small basis is apparent for any pessimism. The whole land looks prosperous and beautiful. The oat and wheat crops seem to be making good headway; the corn may be somewhat late, but there is a splendid stand, and the plants seem healthy; here and there are a few fields receiving their last touches from the plowman, which services may be late, but are being done with such artistic precision that there is every hope of a good crop in these places. Surrounding these field crops are the red clover and timothy meadows, bounded on every side with the extensive white-clover and blue-grass pastures, extending far back to the woods, rich in their new foliage. As the train leisurely makes its way through the country, on either side, for miles, this picture undulates before one's eyes. And ever at work in these fields are seen good teams of well-harnessed horses, managed by competent men; or, in the pastures, groups of fattening steers, or, mayhap, herds of dairy cattle, or frequently flocks of sheep surrounded by their playful lambs; but whether sheep, or steers, or milch cows, all are in good pastures, and give no uncertain proof of the fact. Farther back is seen, through the thickness of the surrounding orchard, the home, not always large, but always substantial, squarely set, built to stand, and flanked by its equally impressive outbuildings. About all—the house, the barns, the fences, the fields, the pastures, the very stock in the fields—is an appearance of trimness that gives pleasure. To the stranger it is a beautiful picture, interesting at every turn.

But how different it is from Mississippi! Let the dissatisfied one, the grumbler, the pessimist, betake himself to that "far-off, sunny southern climate." It will probably do him good.

Mississippi presents an entirely different appearance to the traveller within her gates. Bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, it comes within the latitudes of great heat and excessive moisture, and, being so near the meeting place of the land and the sea, yet devoid of anything resembling mountains, much of the State is low and marshy. Having thus combined the two factors of heat and moisture, we find in Mississippi a luxuriant, semi-tropical vegetation. Originally, practically the entire State was covered with very valuable forests, in which game abounded, and where the Indian loved to enjoy his life. Most of the best timber has been removed, much of the land burned over, part of it going into cultivation, and part of it reforesting itself naturally. Game is becoming very scarce everywhere in the State, though bear, deer and wild turkey can still be found, while smaller game birds and animals are fairly plentiful. Of the Indian, nothing remains save their perplexing mounds and their names, given to the rivers, towns and counties. Still, there is to be seen on every hand profligate growth, if not always in forests and crops, still in the vines, flowers and weeds.

Mississippi is one of the oldest States. In her early days, slavery became adopted in the State, so that practically every plantation owner was a landlord, owning large areas of land and plenty of negroes, by whose labor his crops were made. At that time the lands were newer, so, more productive, and, since the only expenditure for labor was for its maintenance, the profits from these estates maintained the owner and his family in a luxurious style. Under this system of farming, all work was done both outside and inside of the house by the slaves, so that the children grew to manhood without manual labor. This continued until the introduction of slavery into the State was repudiated, when all this order of things was destroyed. Someone has said, "Slavery was a burning fire, at any time, and in any place, and it bears the grinning