

# FARM AND HOME

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## The Ways of Hired Men.

**A** PERUSAL of the hundreds of letters and postals received in our farm help contest leaves a few leading features of this testimony deeply impressed on the mind. Almost without exception the employers declare the golden rule to be the "secret" of keeping good hired help. Many of the writers have been hired men themselves. There is almost unanimous agreement, from Nova Scotia to Texas, that competent men are available at all times to employers who treat their help well. Men are said to respond readily to the right treatment, as a rule, and to take a real interest in their work. In Oklahoma and other rapidly developing regions a hired man is such usually only for one year; when next heard from he is running his own ranch. That bad housekeeping and an unfortunate attitude on the part of women and children toward the men are responsible for much difficulty, is clearly pointed out. These true stories from life, as they appear in our columns from time to time, will prove fascinating reading.

## Are You Going to the Fair

this month? It is doubtful if ever in the history of Canadian fairs were such vast preparations being made by the management for your pleasure and profit. Never has there been such a vast array of prizes for live stock at the leading fairs throughout Canada as this year. Not only are premiums on live stock greater, but numerous amusements are on a more vast scale than ever before. Never before have Canadian railways co-operated to such an extent with the management of fairs in offering low rates. In the maritime provinces, the C P R and government railways will transport live stock to and from the three leading maritime fairs absolutely free of charge. Our readers should by all means so arrange their fall work that they can take in at least one big fair. A few dollars cannot be expended to better advantage. Go to the fairs whether you have anything to show or not.

## With a Solid Front,

organized for mutual advantage, and educated with a knowledge concerning the little as well as the great things of farm life, farmers can have untold influence with political parties, with government, with transportation companies and to buyers and sellers of all kinds of products. The live stock breeders of Ontario are perfecting magnificent organizations and their efforts are beginning to bear fruit. There is every reason why the breeders of the eastern provinces as well as the northwest should organize. Live Stock Commissioner Hudson gave some very valuable advice to eastern provincial farmers last month along this line at some well attended institutes. Will

they follow it? We hope the readers of F & H will be in the lead in doing so. Besides the stockmen, the fruit growers of both Ontario and the east are doing good work in a co-operative and educational way. The possibilities for good from the organization of well educated specialists in any line are almost limitless.

## A Dominion Plebiscite

is announced for October. This will afford farmers an opportunity to elect whatever party they will, if they choose to do so. There is one thing every farmer should do and that is pledge his candidate for the house on the so-called Casey drainage bill. This bill has been introduced for years only to be turned down by railroad interests. If enacted, it will afford honest relief to those whose fields have been crossed by railroads and their drainage thereby prevented. There are other measures, some of pressing local importance, which farmers should look after. A good time to do it is before election.

## Prizes for Canning and Evaporating.

Twenty-five dollars will be paid by Farm and Home for the best articles descriptive of canning fruits and vegetables, also drying or evaporating them. While methods of doing this work at home may be available, we specially desire full accounts of canning factories, evaporators, etc. Articles accompanied by photos of factories or the different processes, will stand best chance for prize money. Anyone may compete, and any hints on these topics will be gladly received.

## England's Gratitude

to Canada for substantial help in the South African war was shown by the purchase of millions of dollars worth of supplies. An imperial order was recently reported aggregating \$1,000,000 for shoes, stockings and portable houses, for use of the British army in China.

## Guessing at One's Income.

A friend of mine whose business takes him regularly through some of the most prosperous agricultural counties in North America tried his hand at census enumerating in that same section, and was astounded at learning how few farmers had kept books of their business or had any idea of the value of the products of the farm, especially those consumed at home. The man whose wages come in a pay envelope knows well enough, of necessity, how much his milk, eggs and "garden sass" cost him, whereas the grower himself takes these things for granted. Men apparently prosperous could not tell how much milk they produced in a year, or eggs; in fact, they were compelled to make a wild guess at their annual income. There are manufacturers whose methods are

as easy-going as this, but they can't survive such laxity so long as the agriculturist can. The lesson which the census will teach the forehanded man is the importance of scientific farm bookkeeping.

## The Grandest Crop of Them All.



See that it has the most careful cultivation, at home and at school.

## The "Hired Help" Prizes.

The "secret" of success in getting and keeping good hired help on the farm—this was the theme of our prize contest, announced in the issue of June 15, and the responses run up into the hundreds, many of them being so excellent as to render the decision difficult. Four prizes were offered, namely, two dollars for the best answer and one dollar each for the three next best. The first prize is awarded to J. T. Hawley, Derby, N. Y., the next three to Howard Denny, Piasa, Ill., E. B. Marvin, Auburn, N. Y., Mrs. Della Sarles, Roswell, N. M.; and for good measure I have awarded one-dollar prizes to these persons in addition, their letters approaching so close to the foregoing in excellence: Thomas Mel-drum, Hull, Que. I., A. Stockwell, Cloverdale, Ind., S. R. McKinly, La Crosse Valley, Wis. There are seven prizes instead of four. Two of the prize-winning letters appear in this issue.

## A Railroad King.

For the peace of his soul, let us hope the late Collis P. Huntington cannot read some of the printed obituaries of him. His masterly strength and his real service to the country in putting through the Central Pacific railroad with a rush when most men would have failed, are obscured by his autocratic use of power over federal and state legislatures. He was a prodigious worker, this railroad king; he knew how to lay a track, build a bridge, run a locomotive or work out the details of a block system. He was born on Poverty Hill in Connecticut and got

his start by saving his money when comrades spent theirs. Young men may learn from his career what to do, and what not to do.

## Arise, Organize and Co-operate.

More good has undoubtedly been done to the farmers of the maritime provinces by the visit of Dominion Live Stock Commissioner Hudson than is at first apparent. Farmers have been led to think, to realize they must pool interests there by organizing and then co-operating. Mr Hudson found some very fine and well managed butter and cheese factories in the east and said so. Another thing observed was that the maritime provinces are finely located for milk production on account of the luxuriant pasturage. The economical management of a dairy herd may yet be the salvation of many a mortgaged farm, provided dairymen organize and manufacture and sell their product on up to date business methods.

## Impressive Figures.

"A little one shall become a thousand." This is what the United States department of agriculture fears with regard to Belgian hares, and is accordingly making an investigation. Reflect that in one year, 1887, the people of New South Wales in Australia destroyed 19,182,539 rabbits, with which the country was and is overrun, as the result of importing a few of the animals from England. Kansas has paid over \$50,000 in bounties for jack rabbits; something like 500,000 rabbits were killed in the San Joaquin valley of California from 1888 to 1898. The United States is importing millions of rabbit skins from Australia for the manufacture of felt hats, but the Belgian hare comes too high for the hat business at present.

The silent berry picker is the one who is fast filling his pail. All that we hear from old Spain, now that she is rid of her colonies and living a quiet home life, is that her industrial progress is faster than at any time in a hundred years. The government loan of \$2,000,000 was oversubscribed three times. Industries which have been dormant for years are being revived, and electric traction is making its way into Spanish cities. Her colonies cost her \$100,000,000 a year, to say nothing of draining her of young men.

Beef for the troops in China will cost Germany a pretty penny because of the exclusion act which shortly will prevent the purchase of American meats. In case of a war with a European power Germany's beef supply would be almost entirely cut off.

The Dominion government will send a carload of binder twine to the northwest from Kingston penitentiary, to sell to farmers as an experiment.