

remedy he prescribes is only a partial one, a secondary or supplementary measure of relief. While much can be done by judicious and generous encouragement on the part of the Government, to induce our farmers' sons, *so inclined*, to take up land and start farming on their own account, there is a far greater work in inducing the far greater number of farmer's sons, *not so inclined*, to look upon farming as a desirable and congenial sphere for their energies.

The accomplishment of this will be the first step towards maintaining for Canada that solid class, whom one of the greatest English poets declared to be

"Their country's pride
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

And it is a work not for the Government, but for the farmers, who in the past have done so much, and who are still doing so much, for Canada.

We often hear it stated, as the cause of many little anomalies and solecisms that exist, that we are "too near the pioneer days."

In our opinion, much of the discontent with farm life which prevails among the younger generation, is due to the fact that their elders are swayed too much by the remembrance of their pioneer days—of the life of incessant toil, relieved by little in the way of recreation and enjoyment. It was only by keeping at it day in and day out, that they secured for themselves their present positions of well secured independence. Unfortunately, they overlook the fact that their children have imbibed the spirit of a condition of things vastly different from that which obtained when they were young. The difference is not, as in older countries, merely one brought about by the advance of years. Sections of the country, whose inhabitants a generation ago were cut off from any intercourse with their fellows, are by the inroads of the all-penetrating railway systems, and the springing up of towns, large and small, all over the country, now brought within the sphere of a more active, intellectual life.

The school-house is in evidence everywhere.

To expect these influences to have no effect upon the present generation, would be the height of folly; as it would be the height of misfortune did they not exercise a very pronounced effect. They must, necessarily, create and foster a desire for a wider and more intellectually active life than that which satisfied the more or less isolated farmer of thirty and forty years ago. But this by no means implies that the wider and more intellectually active life is not to be found on the farm; in fact, it is being demonstrated more and more every day, that the most successful farmers are those who bring to bear on their work, minds and intellects which have been educated and cultivated with the same care that would have been requisite, had their owners been destined for any of the so-called more learned walks of life.

The great change in farming methods which has been brought about by the substitution in so many cases of machinery for physical effort, is but part of a system of improvement which also includes and requires the substitution of diligent research and study for that large amount of physical energy which is expended in trying to accomplish the impossible—to make a profit in these days of keen competition without keeping up with the times, in the requirements of profitable farming.

Under the influence of aggressive Farmer's Institutes, a good deal of the apathy of the farmers, regarding the status of their calling, and its educational requirements, is vanishing; and when they more fully realize that it is incumbent upon them to bestow upon the sons who intend to follow farming, educational and other opportunities similar to those they have afforded the son who was abandoning the farm to enter a "profession," we shall hear less of the dissatisfaction with which farmers' sons contemplate farming as a livelihood.