

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and 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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cities and towns direct. If text books, normal training and curriculum do not shape for new ends, then we may expect nothing else than that the old order will remain intact and the old results will be reproduced with automatic persistence. As a thoughtful farmer the other day observed, unless there is some radical change made in the conduct of the public school there will soon be nobody left in the country to do its work and preserve its home life. The people will be all in town.

The Long Look Ahead.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Farming is a cultivation of the spirit as well as of the soil. Patience, faith, hope, besides many lesser virtues, grow and ripen within us while we wait from the time that we turn the first furrow until the sheaves are safely stored in the barn. We cannot, as does the laborer or professional man, expect our day's pay at the end of our day's labour, for we work for the future and not for the present. Even when the golden grain is at last shaken into our hands, it is but that we may again sow and again wait. In this wise the promise is permanently, as it were, always before us; its fulfillment forever afar. Not that I would for that or any other reason, express our condition with any sense of sadness. Sorrow is rather for those who must live without the fresh zest of life which every spring re-creates anew in our hearts. What I wish to emphasize is the far-away result of almost all farm work and the need made imperative thereby, of continually looking a long way ahead. If work is but for a day it may be done without much thought, but if it is to stand through the coming years as a monument of our making, if it is to represent our character and ideals, to bear witness to our courage and ability, we need plan and system to go by; we need to look on our present efforts in the light of our results that will accrue from them; we need to look a long way ahead.

It is my firm belief that the promise of heaven has always had more power to stimulate the saint than the threat of hell has had to deter the sinner, and I likewise consider it time and labor lost to attempt to convert the careless by talk-

ing of the dread consequences of the future. More to the sharp lessons of repeated failures; more to the humiliating comparisons of our condition with that of others; more to the personal experience dearly bought and sacrificially paid for, must we owe our regeneration than to all the sermons ever spoken or written.

I concede that when the outcome of almost all farm work is so often invisible and unfelt until the remembrance of the work itself has had time to fade away more or less, it is like sliding down hill for the unheeding and inefficient—to become more confirmed so—to work more and more without chart and compass, and trust to time and luck to finish out all right what they weakly and fully begin all wrong.

To the ignorant and unthinking the favorable results of long and careful planning, of devoted attention, of hard work, is enviously characterized as 'luck.' If one man has magnificent crops while another, under equal conditions, has but poor returns; if one has splendid success with live-stock, while others are steadily losing ground if one has all his farming operations succeeding each other in smooth fashion, while his neighbors are continually fighting against time and conditions which they themselves create, the ignorant and shallow-minded, as I have already said, call it 'luck.' They do not reflect that this old world of ours, planned by him—

"—who through vast immensity can pierce,
See worlds on worlds compose one universe,
Observe how system into system runs,
What other planets circle other suns,"

has been too carefully fitted together to have within it such an erratic element as 'luck.' The matter simply resolved is that the successful man is the one who plans carefully and carries out conscientiously, the man who thinks before he acts, the man who thinks a long way ahead.

Every result is so from a certain cause, and every cause owes its existence to a certain authority. If we are the authority for the cause whose result is a failure, we are in immediate need of reform for the real failure is not in the result, but in ourselves.

It is true that there are forces which are beyond the farmer's control. As for instance the weather, or disease, or again unavoidable accidents, but if we cannot control the weather, or banish disease, avoid accident, or escape calamities, we can by careful consideration and looking a long way ahead so control our crops and farming operations, so entrench ourselves behind a protecting system, as to almost circumvent those forces which are seemingly hostile and assuredly beyond our control. Tile drainage for instance, can afford a certain protection against the weather, so can an abundance of light and cleanliness work in contravention of disease, so can vigilance and a preventive policy guard us from many an accident that the heedless and lazy call heaven-sent and unavoidable. It is the matter of giving a long look ahead.

It is the common failing of humanity to wish for immediate returns for whatever energy is expended, and yet how very rarely are we satisfied with what we achieve without due thoughtfulness. To act in a hurry and repent at leisure, is customary in more than a matrimonial sense. We plant trees and construct stone walls where no trees or stone walls should be, we build houses and barns that leave us wanting to the end of our days, we breed animals that are an eyesore to us until we see them no more, and all because we will not purpose or plan, or take the right precautions.

The long look ahead presumes an ideal. Too many of us live on with no special object in view. We are like the tramp—going nowhere in particular—and about as valuable, for if we give nothing to the world we are like the fruitless fig-tree—we but cumber the ground.

Every man or woman is a missionary who does something better than his or her neighbors. If a man grows the best corn, if a woman bakes the best bread, he or she demonstrates a possibility of perfection for others to emulate, and the world is the richer for their existence.

Scientific methods have of late years made so much headway into the farming industry, that the happy-go-lucky methods of the past seem now almost disreputable. Besides, the times, through the scarcity of farm help, have become more strenuous, and the standard of excellence, as quite compatible with all true advance, higher. Only if we plan and carry out carefully, can we hope for certain comfort and satisfaction. If we look far ahead and distribute our work as evenly as possible throughout the successive seasons, if for instance, we plant fall crops to lessen the rush of spring work; if we carry on winter dairying or stock-feeding, so as to engage our helpers by the year; if we practice diversified farming so as to guard ourselves from total failure, we shall, to a great extent, ensure ourselves against the untoward conditions of the present time.

It is a sad thing that we must often waste so many years before we acquire enough experience and moral force to settle on a system of work and adhere to it; that we must lose so much sub-

stance before we learn to look long ahead, and guide ourselves by what we can foresee. We lose the time of plowing while we mend the plow that should have been repaired in the fall. We lose the time of seeding, while we decide a question of seed that should have been settled months before. We lose our sons and daughters, because we drift on without plans to make them love the farm until they are ready to leave it. Ah, to be taught early to take the long look ahead, 'How much suffering would it save us,' 'How much regret.'

The long winter evening is the ideal time of the year in which to plan the proceedings of the ensuing months, and nothing is so helpful when so doing as to commit ideas and decisions to paper for future reference. There are certain days of the year when the rush of work is too great, the strain too heavy, to do more than fulfil the day's duties. It is then that the list becomes handy, and that we feel all the comfort of a well laid-out plan of action. It is of course quite possible that we may fall short of our written memoranda, for our faith is oftentimes larger than our possibilities, but we shall certainly accomplish more than if we had no plan to go by.

Carleton Co., Ont. (MRS.) W. E. HOPKINS.

Knowledge Beyond Personal Experience.

"Each one of us in life's business, whether in the office or in the store, in the factory or in the household, cannot help feeling a certain narrowing effect from his daily routine. That same experience which makes him more skillful in what he does may render his vision of the possibilities of life less broad. But the habit of reading books that deal with the subject which he pursues counteracts this tendency. Such books give him command of data a hundred times wider than his own."

"Science clearly developed and presented is but a summary of the world's experience in its several lines of observation. He who deals with the world's experience instead of his own, broadens his work and his capacity for observation instead of narrowing it."—A. T. Hadley, President of Yale University.

HORSES.

Pay particular attention to the colt's feet.

All exercise which a colt is given on the halter answers two purposes, that of exercise and that of educating him.

Take good care of the horse's legs. The greater portion of the body may be covered with a warm blanket, but the legs stand exposed at all times. Give them extra grooming.

Apply a wisp of dry straw vigorously to the legs of the work horse after the day's ploughing. It will clean the mud from them and dry them, leaving the horse more comfortable for the night.

In keeping the colt's foot to a good shape during the months of stable-feeding a rasping down is necessary every four or six weeks. Round the lower edge of the wall so as to prevent chipping.

Nothing is much more unsanitary than an old rotten plank floor with liquid manure oozing from all its cracks at every step of the horse. Plank on a cement bottom makes a sanitary lasting floor which is quite satisfactory.

The foot of the draft horse should be large and open at the hoof-heads. Too little attention is paid by some to this point of the horse. The feet are called upon to withstand concussion and strain as no other part of the body is subjected to.

Colts which do not get sufficient exercise may lay on fat and to all appearances may be making phenomenal gains, but their muscular development will not be as great, and the state of their respiratory system will not be so strong, as would be the case if regular outdoor exercise were given.

Sometimes by some cause the laws of breeding seem to work wonders, but more often their operation is simply "like tends to produce like." Once in a long time an exceptionally good colt is produced from an inferior mare or stallion, but this is not the rule. As the sire and the dam so the progeny. Select the best horse to sire the colts.