

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Push the plowing.

Keep the work horses in nights.

It is time the stables were ready.

The pot now boils in the Balkans.

The Kaiser is now trying to open his last road out.

If you have a sensible question, ask it: if your mind dwells on a foolish one, forget it.

What would be the story your farm machinery would tell could it speak regarding its care?

Give the boy some responsibility and watch him take an interest in, and develop a love for, the old farm.

It is about time to sell the chickens which Mary raised this summer, and Mary should see to it that she gets the money.

When apples are scarce it is generally the villages and towns nearest the source of supply that have fewest apples for the winter.

If it has not been done, a coat of whitewash to which has been added some good disinfectant will brighten and cleanse the interior of all the stables.

In starting the winter feeding it is just as poor policy to overfeed as to underfeed. Upon the care of the feeder a great deal of the success or failure depends.

The long winter evenings will not be half so long if an abundance of good reading is supplied and read. And besides this the Farmer's Club or literary society deserves support and gives wonderful value for time spent there.

School Fairs are great events in the lives of the children, but we are forced to the conclusion that the District Representative does his best and most effective and valuable work with the young men in his county.

It seems almost foolish to advise efforts for the conservation of soil moisture in a season such as this has been, and yet next year may be just as dry as 1915 has been wet. One extreme very often follows another.

Comparative figures show Canada behind in recruiting. Even though the country is young and thinly populated and men are urgently needed to do the work of development, the work of saving the world is more important and must be attended to first.

Readers should remember that our columns are always open for the discussion of practical subjects and public questions concerning farmers, and it is the duty of each to help in these discussions. Other farmers want the benefit of your findings, and mutual help will do a great deal to sow the best agricultural information broadcast on fertile fields. Write to day.

### Do You Want Your Boy to Farm?

"Do I want my boy to farm?" This is a question which every farmer father of a son asks himself as he watches the boy grow out of dresses into knickers and out of knickers into overalls. Naturally the farmer, "comfortably off" and in a position to do well by his son, would like that son to get a good education and farm the old homestead, and the boy, always looking to father as his ideal, throws out his chest and says with pride "I'm going to be a farmer like dad." But not all farmers are in the "comfortably off" class or at least not all have been in that class all their farming days, even though they may have laid sufficient by for a rainy day after years of saving and hard work. There will always be the farmer who must struggle along just as there will always be the business man, manufacturer, and the laborer who finds his work an uphill fight. There will always be hard work and worries and failure mixed with success in farming as in other enterprise, and in talking with a successful farmer some time ago—a man who through economy and hard work, had paid for a farm and had money besides before he was forty years old he said in reference to his only son: "My boy will never farm if I can prevent it. He'll get an education and be given a chance in the business world. Farming is too hard work for all there is in it." We fear that this sentiment is fostered by all too many of the fathers of our farm boys and it is, to say the least, discouraging for the boy whose mind in the making is sure to be influenced by what father says, and who, as he grows older and sees mother ageing from overwork and father stooping under the load of years of toil, begins to think there is something in what father says and little but work in farming, and, accordingly, he turns his attention cityward.

All are agreed that it is folly to try to make something of a boy that the boy himself does not want to be. Every lad should be encouraged in his own particular bent. If the father changes the bent of the boy he need not complain later if that boy fails to succeed at his makeshift occupation. If the father advises his boy against the farm as a life work he need not grumble later that his boy would not stay home and help him.

Last week we pointed out that the farm boy must be encouraged to farm through having his own interests in the farm or in the stock or a part of it. He must, if he is to be the farmer of the future, be encouraged also through the advice and council of his parents to believe in farming and the future which it holds in store for him. Of course every boy who shows a natural aptitude and inclination for some trade or profession other than farming should be encouraged to develop his own bent, but the average farm boy would make a better farmer than anything else in the world, and he will make it if encouraged to do so. You talk about education. Certainly, give him all he can get of it, but give him the kind intended to make him a better farmer. He can get, if he desires, an agricultural education which will put him on a par with the graduates of any other faculty of the university, and, moreover, he has the big advantage over the others of having been raised in the school of practical experience on the farm. If he does not feel that he can afford a college course, see him through the public school anyway and if possible give him a little high school or business training for the farm. This can be done

by helping his interest in the farm through daily conversation and ownership of stock or poultry. By all means educate, but for the farm.

If the boy does not like farming after the best side of it has been shown to him, then train him for something he wants to be, but if he does manifest a desire to farm why should he be induced to do anything else? What are his chances? True, boys from the farm have become leaders in all walks of life, but in almost every case they were boys who, from the start, had the ambition and the desire to do something other than farm. They got in their right groove and went ahead. The boy who really wanted to farm, but has been talked out of it by his parents and friends has little chance of such success. He may advance to \$15 or \$20 or even \$25 per week, and will require it all to keep himself and family if he chances to marry, or he may never get so high in the wage column. An odd one may meet success but the majority become mere helpers in mechanical or clerical work. And so it goes. On the farm such boys would work, and in a few years pay for their land and home. We know they could because their fathers have done it under much more trying circumstances. Surely this would be far better than a life of just as hard toiling for someone else in the city. Far off fields are always green. Remember, when next you talk with the boy about his future, that work is a continual grind in the city with more monotony and no more if as much money in the end as on the farm. Remember, also, that you in your daily conversation with Johnny are molding his ideas and be careful lest you influence him against his will as to his occupation in life. It is a serious matter this starting out in life; it is a serious mistake to influence would-be farmers against farming. How many boys are now in the cities because parents and grown-up friends advised them "never to farm"? And how many of these would to-day have been better off had they stayed on the land? Think it over. Do you want your boy to farm?

### What of the School Fair?

In our issue of October 7 an account of a School Fair was given—a Fair similar to 233 other Fairs of its kind held in the Province of Ontario this year. Every county now knows the School Fair, and if developments take place at the rate they have in recent years every township and every school section will soon have an interest in a local School Fair, and possibly grand round-up Fair where the winners at smaller shows compete for championships. It is the rapid growth of the work which must bother those in charge. Think of the work connected with 234 of these Fairs taking in 2,291 schools and nearly 50,000 pupils with their 57,246 plots of grain and vegetables to be inspected and their hatches of 6,868 settings of eggs to look after. Here is where difficulty must arise. Second assistants to the District Representatives in several counties are already required, largely to attend to School Fair work, alone.

As is well known to those who have followed the work the counties are grouped into groups of three to facilitate the judging and handling of the Fairs. In the counties of Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin, which form one group, there were this year, 21 School Fairs requiring the services of the men from the three Branches of the Department of Agriculture located in these counties for 21 days to look after the Fairs themselves to say nothing of the time necessary straightening every-

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