The Farmer's Advocate
AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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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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mopolitan? We favor the national idea. While similar forces are at work in various countries, their relative importance is very varied owing to the particular adaptibility of countries to certain lines of endeavor, and also to the condition of the people. Canada, for instance, should develop her internal resources, making opportunity for all. Progress will come industrially, commercially and agriculturally with the development of these resources. Land, mines, etc., must be opened up and such, of course, tends to increase the productive capacity of the laborer.

The greatest natural resource of Canada is agricultural land. The economic enviroment of this country is peculiarly agricultural. Agriculture should be dominant. Mineral, forest, and other resources are immense. What should be done? Develop these and at the same time be careful to put the products on the market, in so far as possible, in a finished state. This means development not only of the production of raw material, but of its manufacture. The balance must be maintained in accordance with the importance of the various industries to the country. The balance has not been maintained; the cost of living has increased; farmers have not been making returns to compare with those of protected manufacturers; home production has not increased as it might have done.

Infant industries ask protection and when they grow up they ask more. European nations argue that they require a tariff because they must compete with new countries where land is new and rich and taxes low, and the new countries claim they must have a high tariff to compete with older countries where labor is cheap and civilization not so highly developed. There you have it. Where does Canada stand? We leave it with you. What of our tariff and its relation to the present economic conditions in this country? would it not be wise to, from a non-partisan standpoint, consider a reduction of the customs duty against British goods as well as some new developments leading towards a gradual removal of the duty on foodstuffs, agricultural implements, farm machinery and the necessaries of life. We believe that Great Britain should get the preference and that she should be the first to be extended any tariff concessions made.

At the last session before the great war the duty on certain harvesting machinery was lowered from 17½ to 12½ per cent. When the tariff was revised in 1915 and 7½ per cent. increase was made in the general and a 5 per cent. in British Preferential these were exempt from the rise. To meet the unnatural conditions caused by the war, it was necessary to increase revenue at once, and the Finance Minister naturally chose the tariff. It is doubtful whether any other Minister would have done otherwise under the circumstances. But conditions are changing, the great war will end possibly within a twelve-month. Conditions which were developing before it started must be met. Canada cannot afford to have agriculture neglected. Canada cannot afford to make it hard for the laborer to make ends meet. We want no party controversy over an economic question, but what we have outlined would bear some thought by our leaders in public life, as well as by citizens of Canada generally, and then it might be found advisable to take this old party football out of politics entirely where it never belonged and place it in the hands of an efficient, non-partizan, economic commission.

The Life Insurance Question and the Farmer.

"Time passeth swift away;
Our life is frail, and we may die to-day."
MARLOWE.

How true are the words of the poet! "The fleeting moments of too short a life," as Shakespeare put it, leave no doubt in the minds of those who have experienced several years of sojourn here below that Burns, when he wrote: "Life is but a day at most," was entirely correct. In childhood weeks seem as years; in early youth months are twelve times too long; in middle age years are all too short; and travelling down the western slope toward the setting sun, decades are as a single day. He who has tasted life in all its fullness knows how short and uncertain it is.

But "life is real, life is earnest." Every man desires the best possible in life. As a boy he is eager to be a man among men in the affairs of the world. As a man he plays no unimportant part in these affairs, be he laborer, mechanic, engineer, conductor, manufacturer, businessman, farmer, teacher or what not. He depends upon others and others depend upon him. No matter how independent the individual may be, his life cannot be independent. Every man is a link in the great chain and owes certain things to the community and deserves certain considerations of people in general. But it is not of the man and his relationship to the community that we wish to write, but of the man and those directly dependent upon him, be it father, mother, sister, brother, wife or children, and we wish to confine our remarks largely to the man on the land.

The farmer builds a house or barn and if he builds it well it will probably outlive him and his children as well, yet he insures that house or barn against possible destruction by fire or lightning, that is if he is a wise farmer. He profits by placing the risk on his buildings upon collective capital in the hands of some sound fire insurance company, and he knows they are much better fitted to carry the risk than he is himself. But this same farmer neglects to insure his own life, which is daily exposed to many dangers more imminent than the fire danger to his barn. If the barn went up in smoke another would arise on its foundations; if his life is snuffed out no power under Heaven can replace it. It is infinitely more important that a man, upon whom someone directly depends, insure his life in favor of those dependents than it is that he insure his buildings in favor of himself, and he does the latter because he knows that it is a wise safeguard of his own interests.

Life insurance, judiciously taken, is of even more importance to the farmer, and particularly the young farmer, than it is to some other classes of men. We would advise all to insure in early life, because it is cheaper but it would not be wise policy for all middle-aged men to turn life insurance down because of age.

Take the case of the young married man starting on a farm. His money is needed for farm stock and implements. He is often in considerable debt on his investment in the farm. He has no ready cash. If anything happens to him, and he is by no means exempt though he may be strong and healthy, his widow or other dependents could make very good use of a thousand or two thousand dollars ready cash, which would come through a policy in a standard life insurance company. Aside from the ready cash consideration of the question, the money would help those left behind as an addition to the estate. The young farmer can scarcely afford to be without a policy in a good company.

The boy at home might, to his advantage in many cases, take out a policy, for sooner or later he will marry and anyway the policy is a nice nest egg to induce him to save money, and he gets it cheaper while young. Long-term endowment, or even short-term endowment, may interest him, although we favor straight life or twenty-pay life policies over the short-term endowment, largely because the risk is carried at a lower rate per thousand per annum.

The middle-aged farmer may not be out of debt, or if he is, he may feel that he can carry a small policy at a rate which is cheap considering the risk and there are forms of policies particularly suited to his case.

Let us get down to figures. In a straight-line company, on the non-participating basis, a twenty-year endowment $1,000 policy would cost, at 25 years of age, in the neighborhood of $42 per year; at 30 years of age, about 50 cents per year more; and at 40 years, about $45. The figures are only approximate, but will be found reasonly close to the actual.

On a straight-life policy, at the same three ages, the cost per thousand of insurance would be in the neighborhood of $17, $19 and $26, respectively. This policy could be cashed at the end of 20 years at considerably over $200 per thousand, if taken at 25, or the holder at that time could stop paying and have over $450 paid-up insurance, or he could take about nineteen years' free insurance. When these amounts are considered the risk on the life of the holder of the policy is carried very cheaply. After the third payment is made all policies have a cash-surrender and paid-up value; that is, the insured does not lose all he has paid in, provided he, through circumstances, cannot continue paying. Many in the country are against straight-life policies because some man among them has lived to an exceedingly great age and has paid in more than his heirs can ever get out. Policies, nowadays, give the insured many chances. He can, for instance, pay for twenty years and then stop, leaving a fine sum of paid-up insurance, or he can collect then if he so desires. We know a man who has a $5,000 life policy which costs him about $85 per year on a special plan. If he stops paying at the twentieth pay he will have $2,500 paid-up insurance; that is, he will not pay any more in, and at his death his heirs will get $2,500. His risk is carried cheaply during the earning period of his life.

A twenty-pay life policy in the same line of company would cost around $25 per thousand of insurance, at the age of 25; $27 at 30, and $34 at 40. This is paid up at the end of twenty years and would have a cash surrender value then of from $450 to $630, according to age.

Rates on profit-sharing or participating policies are a little higher at the start, but premiums are reduced each year. At the age of 25 they will run around $21 or $22 per thousand. A twenty-pay life at the same age will cost about $30 per thousand. A long-term endowment, say 40 years, will cost in the neighborhood of $25 per thousand, and a short-term or twenty-year a little less than double that amount per year. It must be remembered, however, that in the best companies the second pay will be about $4 per thousand of insurance smaller than the first, and these reductions increase year by year. Supposing the first payment were $30, the second would be $26; the third $25.50, and so on. The reduction is always figured from the original premium. We know of men who are actually drawing money each year from the company in which they are insured. Profits on their policies have reached the stage where they no longer pay premiums, but the company owes them a small amount each year. Instances have been known also where young men, on endowment policies, have got their money back when the policies matured, and with it three per cent. interest. This of course was on profit-sharing policies.

But we did not start out to prove insurance valuable as an investment. Its main worth is in the risk carried. Analyze the figures. We cannot go into more details. Every good policy leaves the holder the chance of many different desirable courses—cash surrender value, paid-up insurance, loans, free insurance for so many years—all these chances are good. For a small annual outlay every sound man can have banked for him at the maturity of his policy, or at his death, $1,000 or $2,000 or more. Deduct the cash-surrender value from amount paid in, and note the small annual premium at which companies will carry $1,000 risk on your life. Few farmers can afford to be without this protection.

How much insurance should a farmer take? It all