

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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### EDITORIAL

Butter is frequently spoiled at the milkpail.

A new expression in agriculture is—the lost art of stacking.

It is to be hoped that the tribe of successful turkey raisers will increase in this ideal turkey country.

Are the hens on your farm a nuisance just now owing to their liking for the garden and fruit patch, or are they confined to a limited area by wire netting?

A careless railroad official can scare up lots of trouble in the dairy industry—by forgetting to put off the cans at the right station.

'Killing the goose that lays the golden egg' aptly describes the policy of railroad officials, who persist in neglecting to forward promptly to destination, the raw material of the butter maker.

It is a sure thing that if the big railroad men knew the damage many of the small fry of the profession do to an industry as valuable to the country, as is dairying, that somebody would get their walking ticket.

When clover is fairly well in bloom it has attained very nearly, if not quite, its maximum growth and weight—certainly its maximum weight of digestible nutrients—and, though it may require a little more labor and time to cure the crop, the better quality of the hay and the greater aftergrowth more than makes up for the difference.

#### Another Daughter to the G. T. P.

The government of the United States is having trouble of a very chronic nature in its endeavor to regulate rates upon the railroads operating in the coal bearing territories. The difficulty lies in the fact that the railway companies own the greater part of the coal and can regulate the supply not only of what they own but of that which must depend upon their roads for transportation.

The man or government is wise that can profit by the experience of others and it is no surprise that some Canadians seeing the snug thing the coal barons of Pennsylvania have acquired should make attempts to emulate them. It is a wonder though that our legislators granted a charter to a company the personnel of which represent the managing body of one of our railways and thus establish a state of affairs similar to that which the Americans wish to destroy. The situation is one over which a pessimist loves to gloat.

The earth and the fullness thereof is the Lord's but the Grand Trunk Pacific Terminal Elevator Co. seems bound to get the overflow. The charter of this company carries with it permission to engage in almost every imaginable industrial enterprise. In fact the company is empowered "to carry on any other business which may seem to the company capable of being conveniently carried on in connection with the business or objects of the company, or calculated to enhance the value of, or render profitable any of the company's property or rights."

Some of the details in which this new company will employ itself are, erecting, leasing, main-

taining, operating, etc., grain elevators and warehouses, handling and storing goods and chattels of all kinds; grain milling and flour dealing, building ships and carrying on the business of a navigation company and wrecking company, wharfing, forwarding and ship brokering, raising, fattening and dealing in cattle, sheep, horses and swine, developing water power, furnishing the public with electrical energy, light and heat, carrying on a general lumbering, pulp-making and paper business; coal dealing; banking and conducting a trust company business, and lastly, if no profit can be made from the combination of all these efforts the company may amalgamate, be bought out or buy some other company and so extend its field.

We have been calling for capital to develop our resources and here is the promise of it for it is certain that the Grand Trunk Pacific Terminal Elevator Co. can command practically unlimited funds since its merely nominal capitalization is placed at \$5,000,000.

Welcome the day of big companies, they may destroy competition, create monopolies, raise the cost of necessities, make work more monotonous, and do a thousand and one other things to add to the general sum of human misery but in return we have big institutions, multimillionaires, investigations and scandals. As the philosopher says "there is universal compensation" and like humanity if we must grow big as a nation we must sacrifice our childhood innocence and like humanity we have no other choice.

#### Shall it be Increasing or Diminishing Returns?

Officials have begun the work of ascertaining some facts, of collecting some data with regard to the wealth and strength of western Canada. They are taking the census. Census returns often furnish interesting reading and in countries where agricultural progress and industrial development go forward with such strides as we have been experiencing often give legitimate cause for jubilation. Every progressive man takes an interest in making an inventory of his goods at least mentally, and it is equally interesting to learn how well the average man fares as is revealed in the census returns. The prairie provinces should make a good showing when the final figures are submitted to analysis and the amount of wealth produced per capita determined.

In this connection the figures given by Professor Knapp at a convention recently held in Lexington, Ky., are of significance. The professor undertook to demonstrate that the exercise of mental power in connection with manual labor is extremely profitable and cited examples to prove it.

The Iowan is taken as an example of the higher educated more intelligent class of farmer. In Iowa agriculture yields to each man who works at it one thousand and eighty eight dollars annually, Vermont four hundred and seventeen, South Carolina one hundred and forty seven and Alabama one hundred and fifty. Nor is this due to any particular or relative difference in the fertility of the soil. Iowa has four horses for each of her farm workers to use, while South Carolina has one mule for every two men. Five times the amount of power is used for cultural purposes in Iowa as in Carolina and the returns are eight times as great. Unconsciously the Iowan conducts his business in accord with the law of increasing returns, that is, he is demonstrating that the returns for his work go on increasing out of proportion to the value of the labor he expends and that course is open and imperative for us if we are to attain to greater average productiveness.

The Carolinian is an example of the poorer class of farmers who invariably do a little less

work on their land than will result in even average returns and from the fact that they have only half a horse to each man we must conclude that very little mechanical ingenuity is called into play.

#### Uses and Value of Paint.

Nature teaches us some pointed lessons. We are thinking just now of her intimations upon improving appearances. When a tree falls and begins to decay she covers it with a thick green coat of moss, when the earth is laid bare by the act of man or the force of the elements she at once sets about to conceal the wound by spreading over it a mantle of grass. Green is her favorite color, but she uses many shades. The provisions of nature for concealing unhappy conditions are everywhere about us and suggest emulation. They are a perpetual injunction to use the paint brush.

Only a short distance from this office two houses stand on opposite corners of the street. On one there is the brightness of new paint; around it is a level lawn and a few trees. The other bears the marks of weathering, the trees are poorly tended and the fence is breaking. This house is actually worth more than the other and yet it is in the market to-day for nearly one thousand dollars less. The value of a product depends largely upon the demand for it. The demand depends on appearances. Beauty may be only skin deep but it makes a great impression, nevertheless. A few gallons of paint would cause a great appreciation in the value of property in every locality.

Paint up during summer. Paint the house and the outbuildings. Paint the machinery. Then paint the yard about the house with a coat of nature's green. If there is an old unsightly rookery around the place cover it with a trailing vine and let the whole scheme blend in one picture of beauty and harmony that will fill the home with light and prove an uplifting influence on everybody in the country round about.

#### Have We the Capacity to Co-Operate.

It was only to be expected that our comment upon the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the Society of Equity should result in protestations of disapproval from those who foster these organizations. Elsewhere in this issue we publish comments from some of our readers upon our attitude. Mr. Spence cannot understand our position and thinks us contradictory, but it should always be remembered that there is a difference even in the Society of Equity between the method of an institution and its ideals. The ideals of the Society of Equity as we understand them are, that the producers of wealth shall have a greater portion of what they produce for their own purpose; with that ideal we are in sympathy, but we do not approve of any suggestion to curtail the production or hold off the market produce with the object of raising its price.

As for the practicability of the scheme of either of these organizations our fears are founded upon good and substantial reasoning, from the facts of known economic laws, from extensive observations at first hand and from reliable reports. Through co-operation farmers may expect to improve conditions as others have done, but a co-operative system must necessarily begin in a small way and develop. Of course we realize that size and proportions are relative and what may appear large to one may not impress another as being very great, nevertheless a farmer judges of the greatness of any particular commercial enterprise by the extent of his own operations and his knowledge of business practices and it is not over estimating the case from such a standard to say that the proposals of the organizations under discussion are large. Ultimately an or-