

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most
practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

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LONDON, CANADA.

We have no intention of eulogizing this North
country, to the disparagement of the South. There
is a warmth in the Southern landscape, with its
deciduous trees, a geniality in its climate, a pleas-
ing variety in its agriculture, a solid attraction
in its well-organized social institutions that no
one should forsake lightly. For the man with a
few thousands of capital, Old Ontario to-day of-
fers advantages in farming and farm life that
probably cannot be surpassed anywhere on the
globe; but, for the young man with small capi-
tal, and for those adventurous pioneer spirits who
ever lead the vanguard of civilization, New On-
tario might invite comparison with any region
now bidding for settlement. See New Ontario be-
fore going to the West.

Safety and Profit in Variety.

"Mixed farming," "specialty farming," and
"intensive farming" are three terms often used to
describe the systems and methods by which farms
are worked. The first is most general, and de-
scribes the usual practice of growing a great vari-
ety of crops, a large part of which is fed to live
stock, which, with its products, is also sold. The
revenues are, therefore, derived from many sources,
and usually spread over the year. In the second
class, the farm is devoted to a specialty, like
milk, cream, fruit, poultry, vegetables, or some
particular crop of grain, from which practically all
the revenue is derived. Proximity to a great
city market, or particular suitability of the land
and climate, usually determines the specialty.
Where the conditions are favorable, and the busi-
ness is pushed with energy and skill, the profits
may be great, but it is much more risky for the
average man. There is no fixed line between these
two classes of farming, and in many cases the two
practices run together some particular product or
class of stock, like beef cattle, milk for the fac-
tory, or hogs, being made a special feature. "In-
tensive farming," however, may be applied to
either mixed or specialty farming, and implies the
utmost thoroughness in soil culture or any other
operation, so that the very greatest results pos-
sible will be secured, with profit, both in quantity
and quality. Every man who works a piece of
land should be an "intensive" farmer, using the
best modern practice known.

It is not proposed here to discuss at length
the comparative merits and methods of mixed and
specialty farming, but to point out a few reasons
why the former has grown most in favor on the
majority of farms like those in Eastern Canada.

In the first place, it is natural and economical
to produce on the farm the bulk of products for
home use or live-stock feeding; and markets also
demand variety.

Then, there is also something for sale prac-
tically all the year round, and avoidance of bor-
rowing for current expenses, or running store bills
for domestic supplies. "Pay as you go," is still
a good old motto.

This plan of farming also avoids the risks of
slumps in prices in special products, such as hap-
pens when everybody rushes into hogs or some
particular crop.

Where some fall wheat, barley, alfalfa, clovers,
as well as other field crops, are grown, all are not
ripening at once, swamping the farm with work
at certain times, idleness prevailing at others. In
case of destructive storms, which visit various dis-
tricts from time to time, some early crops will likely
be saved, and others not far enough advanced to
be seriously damaged, so that the loss will only
be partial, at worst.

In a general way, it may be said that the ad-
vantages of mixed farming over specialty farming
are like those which induce most farmers to prefer

a good dual-purpose cow, if they can get her, to
one whose specialty is either milk or beef alone.

Mixed farming, carried on intensively, no doubt
requires a good general knowledge of all branches
of farming and close oversight, so that there will
not be loose ends in our practice, and consequent
losses; but, if it forces us to be studious and
careful in many directions, this surely will be
broadening to the mind, and more beneficial, than
narrowing down to one particular line of practice.
Farming cannot be run by maxims or proverbs,
but there is a good deal of sense in the old saying
that it is not wise to have all the eggs in one
basket, in case of mishap. As a general rule,
therefore, it would seem safest and reasonably
profitable, and, if done intensively, probably more
profitable in the long run, to pursue a system of
intensive mixed farming, with some specialty as a
leader.

On the question of keeping up the fertility of the
farm, mixed farming, which implies the keeping
and feeding of live stock of different classes, in-
volves the feeding of roughage and grains, part of
which goes into the form of products that now
sell at such satisfactory prices, and the residue is
returned to the land in the shape of manure.

Practical Idealism.

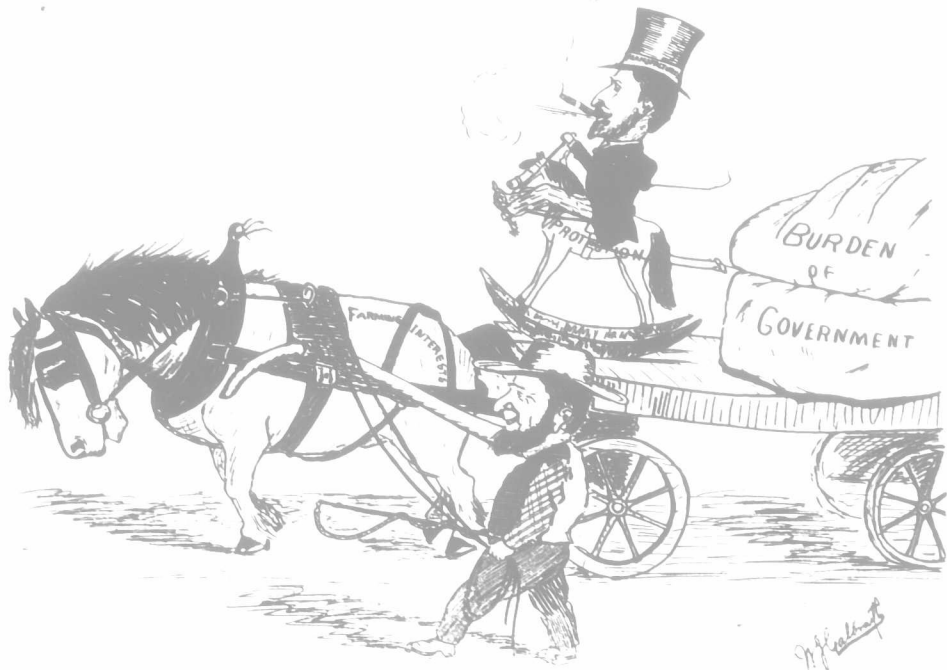
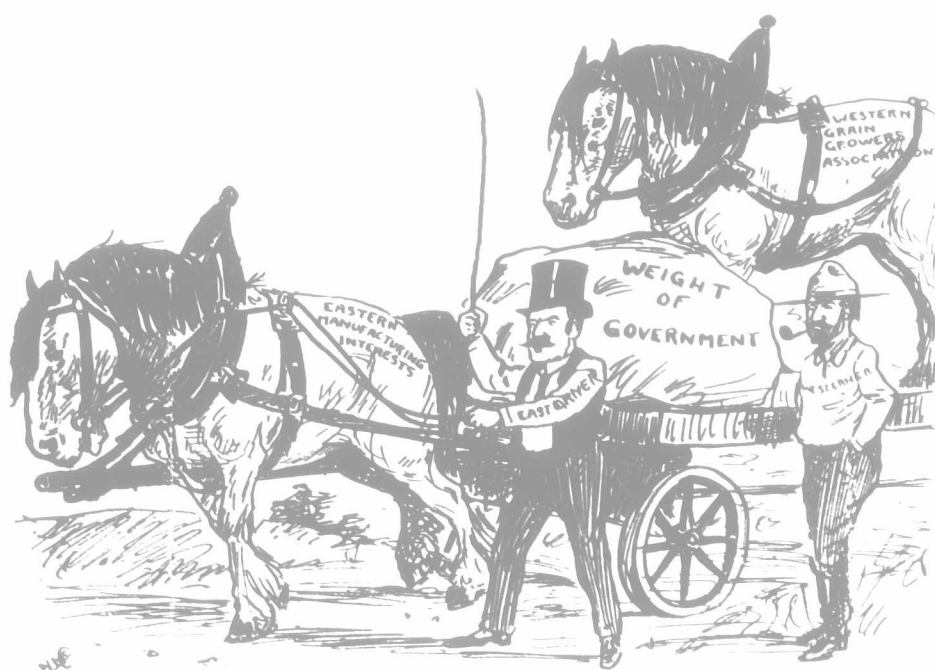
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"Born a man, buried a farmer." The fore-
going inscription could with propriety be placed
on the monument of many a man who follows the
farming vocation to-day. I refer to the man who
knows nothing but farm work, and says that flow-
ers are all foolishness and will not fill his barn,
or that lawns are all right for city people, but
have no business in the country.

Such a man is missing most of the pleasures
and sweetness of life. It is true he may derive
some pleasure and satisfaction from a full barn
or a bursting pocketbook, but what is it in the
end, anyway, but selfish pleasure? It is all right
for a farmer to be pleased with his year's opera-
tions, but that is not all life is for. "Man does
not live by bread alone." There is something
else necessary to complete man's happiness to the
fullest extent. It is the occasional letting go of
the things that are purely material, and getting
in touch with those of the Spirit. Oh, no, I do
not mean to draw you into the realms of religion,
for, although religion of some kind is necessary to
man, it is not the only avenue through which we
can get in touch with the Spirit; and he who
sees nothing but foolishness and waste of time in
the beautifying of the farm, sees and has nothing
but the mere husks of life.

There are few farms on which improvements of
some kind could not be made, such as picking
stones, building good fences, draining wet places,
or grubbing out scrub trees along the fences. If
these improvements do not help to increase the
crops, they certainly increase the value of the
farm, and what the farmer does for the farm he
does for himself. Clean, tidy fences set off the
farm in the same way as a good frame sets off a
picture, as also does a beautiful lawn set off a
house.

So far we have considered improvements on the
farm from the material benefit standpoint. But
there is something else in beautifying the farm



Who Carries the Load?

(a) The Western Free-trade spirit, as depicted in a recent issue of Industrial
Canada, official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

(b) The situation as it appears to "The Farmer's Advocate" artist. Which more
nearly characterizes the case?