

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established
1866.

Vol. XLV.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875
LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 1, 1910

No. 949

EDITORIAL.

A State-controlled service between Toronto and North Bay, the present southern terminal of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, has been urged as an effective safeguard for Northland interests and solution of transportation problems.

Dr. H. M. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry in the United States Department of Agriculture, states that the recent fluctuation downward in meat prices is fictitious, and a manipulation of "the interests" to get a fresh grip on the market.

To double the agricultural output of the portion of Ontario already farmed by better and more intensive methods is probably well within possible accomplishment, but it will require a much larger population at work on the land than at present. In bringing about this condition, a regenerated rural public school will be a prime factor.

Before the Empire Club, of Toronto, Senator J. P. B. Casgrain, Chairman of the Railway Committee of the Canadian Senate, ridiculed the idea that Hudson's Bay could ever become an important commercial highway, being only navigable three months in the year; with the 500 miles of straits never free from icebergs, the huge insurance premiums would eat up any reduction in the cost of transportation. The building of the Hudson's Bay Railway, however, might be justified on the ground of opening up new territory, and giving access to such an immense sheet of Canadian water, with its splendid fisheries.

Canada has absorbed about £300,000,000 of British capital. In the last five years, according to a recent investigation by the Monetary Times, we obtained from London, through the medium of public flotations, more than \$600,000,000. The extent of these investments indicates in a gratifying manner the confidence of British financiers in our country's prospects. We must not forget, however, that, in borrowing so extensively abroad, we are mortgaging our future. It behooves us to see that we are not infatuated by the semblance of prosperity which the dispersal of ready money produces, but that we obtain full value for every dollar invested.

High interest and rental charges, due to the enormous price of land in the fruit districts, running up as high as a thousand dollars an acre, is one of the factors to which Canadian fruit-raisers point as limiting their profits when undertaking to justify maintenance of fruit prices by means of duties. This throws a brilliant side-light on the whole question. The inevitable result of good profits in agriculture, whether due to natural or artificial causes, is to shove up the price of land until the diminishing of net returns checks the upward trend. So, unless fruit-growers can combine, and, probably in spite of possible combination, a doubling of the price of fruit would not permanently increase the reward of the fruit-grower. It would, however, increase the price of fruit land, thus enhancing the rental charges or interest received by those real-estate owners who hold land secured before the inevitable rise of values. Is it, for the sake of enhancing the property value of land-owners in the fruit sections, worth while artificially increasing the cost of wholesome fruit to struggling consumers the

Looking Forward.

Recently, the centenary of American Foreign Mission Board was celebrated within the confines of Boston. The continuous thread directing and uniting all the addresses of the occasion was "Look Forward." The participants in that jubilee might easily have found much pleasure and gratification, and employed all their time in looking backward over the growth of that great movement, whose first meeting was held under the edge of a haystack, and was attended by five poor students. But the plowman glancing behind to admire his furrow can scarcely avoid breaking it at that very point; so these missionaries did not glance backward.

Farmers, like missionaries, must keep everlastingly looking forward to the opportunities awaiting their undertaking. Though farming has made tremendous advancements in the past fifty years, the fields have as yet only been scratched; farmers have thus far been only getting ready to farm and to live on farms; the outlook offers many things, tried and proven, awaiting the advance of the progressive. Alfalfa and corn are two crops that are not generally grown by Canadian farmers; a few have appropriated them, but they are of the future yet for most farmers. And yet their adaptability cannot well be doubted. Alfalfa is being grown in almost every county, and corn is yielding 80 bushels shelled to the measured acre at Macdonald College, while it has been the prominent crop of Essex for many years. The possibility of growing these two crops should start every man at trying to grow them; the high probability of these being successful crops on most farms should cause every man to resolve that next season will find at least five acres of his farm planted to corn for grain, and a start, at least, with alfalfa. These two crops can furnish their growers with the greater part of feedstuffs needed on the farm. Corn is an unequalled source of carbohydrates; it cannot be excelled as the chief part of a fattening ration for hogs, cattle, sheep or horses; it can be fed moderately to milk cows, and generously to work horses; it has spelled prosperity to the corn-belt area of the United States, and has supplied the grain from which has been made the beef, pork and mutton for the greater part of their eighty millions of people.

Alfalfa is without peer as a forage crop. Belonging to the legume group, possessing the power of fixing the free nitrogen of the air, it is a wonderful soil renovator. It has no equal amongst the hays as a producer of digestible protein, while it is quite rich in mineral matter. It is rich in bone and, especially, muscle-forming material required by all young and growing animals; it supplies the feed required to stimulate high milk production in dairy animals. It serves to balance the carbonaceous tendency of a corn ration, and, together, these two feeds may be used largely in making up the rations of most farm stock. Thus does their production eliminate large expenditures upon feed bills; they are heavy yielders, thus enabling expansion along livestock lines; their production cleans and enriches the land. It is no far cry from present farming operations to conditions wherein Eastern Canada farmers will be producing corn as regularly as the corn-belt farmers, and alfalfa to equal the irrigated regions of the far-famed West. Looking forward will do it, if we will but have faith in

The Old and the New in Institutes.

The conference of Farmers' Club and Farmers' Institute workers, recently held in Toronto, was essentially a stock-taking and plan-forming meeting. G. A. Putnam, in his opening address, admitted the failure of Institutes to arouse the interest of and to call into attendance or active participation, the young men of the Province. This sentiment was reiterated by numerous representatives from various parts of the Province. The conspicuous absence of young men in the gatherings was ample proof that they were at least not occupying any prominent or important positions in the organizations. It is a fact attested in many parts of Ontario that the Farmers' Institute is in great danger of extinction, as far as serviceableness is concerned. Deputy Minister C. C. James very accurately and tersely diagnosed the case when he stated that Institutes are being talked to death. The work of the older workers has been very valuable, but the methods formerly practiced must be radically changed if the Institutes are going to continue to be useful. The Agricultural Representatives from the various counties are indicating the new methods that must be adopted, viz., the short course of three days or a week, in which practicable demonstrations in grain-judging, livestock judging, orchard management, and the various other practical farm operations, form the main part of the programme, with lectures properly interspersed.

Our young men need education on the points of live stock, on the grains and grasses, and on the soils, by an instructor acting as an informant, with the real articles immediately before them. After such education, they will be able to appreciate and get some good from lectures. Not only do they need it, but they are keenly seeking such information, and show a full appreciation of the same whenever given.

To give the younger men an interest in Institutes, the manning of such organizations must have on their executive staff young men, thus making them feel that they have a personal responsibility, and giving them an opportunity to express their wants in the arrangement of programmes. With no disrespect to the venerable older men who have so faithfully served in Institute work, the Institutes have been too much manned and directed by the older men, with the result that the needs of the young men have not been catered to in the programmes, nor have they felt that in any way were they responsible for the success of the work.

These readaptations have rapidly been accomplished in Iowa, and many of the Central Western States, in their system of Institute management, and in this way they are leading the Province of Ontario, which has blazed the way in Institute work.

There is need for enlargement and reorganization of the work of the Institutes. Otherwise, it is likely to become a defunct organization, and be superseded by new systems adapted to the young men. This would be regrettable, since there are many good features in the present methods, but it seems imperative that they be considerably reorganized, and that right speedily.

Beyond any question, fruit-growing is the most lucrative branch of Canadian agriculture—but the day of the inexperienced grower is past.