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## EDITORIAL.

One of these days the human family will become a reality.

With Ontario silos filled, and the new fall-wheat fields beautifully green before Sept. 10th, 1911 is keeping up its record as a fast season.

Despite the value of the fairs in educating towards improved equine types, we notice that the same old pair of jades draw the leveller around the race-track.

"We may have failed to develop a national art, or music or literature," observes the New York Independent, "but we have developed a national game—baseball—and are proud of it."

The town housewives in France have organized a demonstration, with boycotting and rioting, over the high prices of butter, eggs, milk products and fruit. Why not move to the country?

Australia is strong on organization, having a Farmers' and Settlers' Union on the one hand, and a Rural Workers' Union on the other, the latter a registered body with a programme for wages and working hours.

Dairymen and cattle feeders who increased their acreage of corn this year are able to congratulate themselves upon the immense crop now pouring into silos or rising in battalions of lusty shocks across the fields.

Belgium, which is said to have formed more co-operative agricultural associations in recent years than any other country in Europe, has a population of 7,000,000 people, an average of about 614 to the square mile.

Disquieting rumors are afloat that the Millionaires' Club on Capitol Hill, Washington, will amend out of usefulness the Peace Treaties with France and Great Britain, although they embody the best thought and spirit of the people. One of these days the American Senate, like the British House of Lords, will commit political suicide.

Not his dislike to dying rich, but an unalterable hatred of war, is declared to be the unity of purpose underlying all the gifts of Andrew Carnegie, now amounting to over \$185,000,000. The founding of libraries, peace funds, hero funds, and college endowment, are all conceived directly or indirectly for the promotion of knowledge and brotherhood among individuals and nations.

As a result of official inquiry into the reported scarcity and high prices of meat in Germany, it has been found that the numbers of cattle, calves and sheep were each smaller in 1910 than in 1909, but greater than the averages for the preceding ten years, while more pigs were marketed in 1910 than in five of those years. These figures relieve farmers of responsibility for high prices, and other tables show that the consumption of meat per head of population had increased. Wholesale and retail prices had both advanced in 1910, but the latter more than the former, so that the chief advance did not go to the farmer.

### Agricultural Australia.

Although at present occupying an insignificant position among wheat-producing nations, Hugh Pye, President of the Dookie Agricultural College, believes that Australia is destined to become in that respect one of the great granaries of the world. Broadly speaking, Australia is now regarded as a meat-growing country. But there are vast tracts of the continent used as sheep-runs that will, with closer settlement, irrigation schemes, and improved methods of farming, both scientific and mechanical, be brought under the plow. All three agents are already at work. If Australia is to take her place as a great wheat producer, President Pye points out that the Australian farmer must recognize the necessity of conserving, unimpaired, the fertility of the soil. No nation can become permanently great without it. No people can commit a greater crime than to rob posterity of it. The time for the people to consider ways and means of conserving it is now. He bids Australia beware of neglecting the settlement of this question till too late.

Of the measures to be taken to promote cereal husbandry, he recommends co-operative experimental work, citing in support of his position the excellence of the work done by the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, with which, by correspondence, he has been in touch. He believes that such enterprise and interest in their life-work must prove of lasting benefit to Canadian farmers, and have great influence in furthering their material interests. He also advises the farmers of Australia to make seed selection an integral part of their farming operations, believing that there is no more powerful agent in the work of improvement.

Considering soil fertility as so much capital, he questions the wisdom of Australians in boasting of their export trade, which amounts to some £15 per head of population, said to be exceeded by only one other country in the world, New Zealand. It depends, he argues, greatly upon the nature of the goods exported. The products of factory and mine are a less drain upon the natural fertility than of raw farm products. Fortunately, a large proportion of the exports of the Commonwealth are in the form of animal products, which are, of course, a less serious drain upon the soil.

In a general way, he contends, it is desirable to so regulate exports as to retain in the country the greatest possible amount of plant food. In the case of wheat there are two ideals at which statesmen might aim in achieving this object—the first, that none but good milling wheat be exported, retaining for their own use in other directions all small and cracked grain unfit for milling; the second, that all export wheat be milled in the country, retaining the offal for their own use. In each case the retained produce would eventually be exported in other forms, very much to the advantage of farmers. The small grains and offal he would have used in the development of two greatly neglected lines of farming in the Commonwealth, pigs and poultry. To this end he advises greater attention to wheat-grading and the feeding upon the farms of all the lower grades. President Pye counsels the milling in the country rather than the export of grain. Australian wheat stands high in the estimation of the millers of Europe. This is due to its texture, its high gluten content, and its good milling qualities, and in the British markets it commands very high prices.

In concluding his observations upon the subject, President Pye emphasized what he considered to be the point of greatest importance to farmers. "We hear," said he, "a good deal about new and improved varieties, about selecting seed, and about the necessity of using artificial manures to supply deficiencies in the soil. These matters are important. But their importance is certainly not greater than that of one other essential in good farming that we are sometimes liable to forget. I refer to the thorough cultivation of the soil, combined with a good system of rotation. In the raising of good crops, the physical condition of the soil, I believe, plays a part, the importance of which cannot be overestimated."

### Ontario as a Field for British Immigrants.

One of the events of the summer in London, Eng., was a gathering of British agricultural editors at the Ontario Government offices, to hear an address from C. C. James, C. M. G., Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who was making his first visit there since being honored by the King for his work in the interests of farming. A more lucid, well informed, and yet concise presentation of the opportunities of the Province it would be difficult to conceive, and that it made a very marked impression upon his hearers is not surprising. In view of the richness and variety of her farm resources, her peculiarly favorable transportation situation, and the increase of her town and city population in recent years, land values, Mr. James pointed out, were steadily rising in many sections. As a matter of fact, the farming possibilities of older Ontario are just beginning to be realized, and when the magnificent heritage of New Ontario is also taken into account, it will readily be seen how great are the needs of the Province for men and women from the British Isles to aid in the development of these resources, and at the same time advance their own material and social conditions. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. James was tendered a cordial resolution of thanks.

### Value of Manure.

Nothing is much more certain than that farm manure has been grossly undervalued. The chemical elements, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash would alone be valued at around \$2.60 per ton of manure if occurring in commercial fertilizers. Such commercial value may be in excess of the real agricultural value, especially for nitrogen; but there is also to consider the perhaps greater physical benefit of the humus—greater in so far at least as immediate returns are concerned—not to mention the stimulation of bacterial activity in the soil. Only a fraction of the manurial value is recovered in the first year's crop increase. The benefit is reaped in decreasing ratio for many, many years, as Rothamsted experiments indicate. While the value of manure varies with many circumstances, we believe Prof. Cumming, of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, was not beyond the mark in estimating average mixed manure at \$2.60 per ton.

A recently-issued bulletin of the Pan American Union gives an interesting account of the condition and trade of the Argentine Republic during 1910, its centennial year. Happily, peace ruled in all its foreign relations, and a great exposition, held at Buenos Ayres demonstrated to the world that the fame of the country is due to the success of its agriculturists.