Good Roads Versus Hydro Radials.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Are you, "Mr. Farmer," prepared to back the note of a neighbor, who wants to borrow money to invest in railway stocks. If the railway pays, you're safe, but if it does not then you will have to pay the note you have endorsed. This is practically the principal of the hydro-radial by-laws, about to be submitted to the various municipalities.

Let us consider this question carefully and see if radials should have the first call on our credit. If we mortgage our credit by endorsing radials, and should want something else better, we would not again mortgage our credit until we are sure that radials can pay their own way. Now let us apply this commonsense business principal to the question before us to-day.

Good Roads are, to-day, the greatest need of our farmers, and will do more to make them prosperous and more to increase the cities' trade than hydro-radials possibly can. One dollar expended in good roads will benefit four times as many people as one dollar spent in hydro-radials.

Now, in view of this, is it wise to endorse hydro-radials when we need good roads so badly to reach markets? If we endorse radials which call for millions of dollars to be expended on a doubtful venture, then our good roads will have to wait for years. Why? Because farmers are shrewd, careful business men, and are not going to load themselves with debt until they see that they will not have to pay for the radials, which, if they do, is like paying for a dead horse. It may take ten years to find this out, and in the meantime we are wallowing through the mud instead of having many miles of macadamized roads for every mile of radials, which might have been built with the same expenditure of money.

Thousands of farmers are buying motor cars and using them successfully to market their produce. Farmers who now are 20 miles from a first-class market, with good roads and a motor car can market their goods more easily than a farmer less than 10 miles from market who travels a mud road. We must not mortgage our credit for radials and let good roads go by.

Furthermore, is the hydro-radial of any use to you where you live? Does it serve your neighborhood?

In the proposed route from Port Credit to St. Catharines passing through Hamilton, this section runs through a thickly populated district which already is well served by steam and electric railways, and does not open up any new territory or serve the people that most need transportation. In order to secure this line, the farmers back in the mud (who have neither good roads nor radials) are asked to mortgage their credit so that these people, already well provided with transportation, may have more railways.

Farmers, are you going to endorse this scheme to give the villages and towns along the lake shore of Lake Ontario another railway, when you have neither radials nor good roads in your district? Vote against it, and then demand of your Government good roads for yourselves. Then farmers all over the country may enjoy the blessing and prosperity that good roads will bring them. Then will our cities have relief from that awful nightmare—"the high cost of living."

Wentworth Co., Ont. W. H. FORSTER.

Why Some Fail and Others Succeed.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The majority of life failures are, I believe, due to lack of "stick-to-it-iveness." Daily we see people all about us who are nothing but human failures. By failure I do not mean, necessarily, financial disaster or broken health, but merely the eking out of an existence which neither brings joy and contentment to the individual himself nor leaves the world better and benefited by his presence. On the other hand, we are accustomed to meet dozens of people who are making successes for themselves in their professions. And by success I do not mean, necessarily, the amassing of wealth or the attainment of pleasure, but the realization of ambitions and the satisfaction and riches that such accomplishment bestows on the individual and the world at large. Some of the world's cleverest people have developed into mere human driftwood, while others, with seemingly no special ability, have won their ways to positions of comfort and power. Can it be that some have aspired to success and the others have not, or that some have attempted worthy projects while the others have not? It seems to me that the answer lies in the fact that the successful have stuck to one job long enough to make it a success, while the others, with just as much ability, have quit just because they saw what they considered to be brighter prospects for success in some other line of work. The world owes its riches to men who did not know when they were beaten and stayed on the job in spite of all discouragement and temptations to try other things.

I know a young farmer whose father died, leaving him the owner of a splendid hundred-acre farm. First he decided that he would raise none other but pure-bred Holstein cattle. He bought a couple of the most famous Holstein cows he could find, and built a large, concrete silo. Before long his cattle standard flagged and he turned his attention to breeding Percheron horses. Not being satisfied at the rate at which he was making money he sold out and bought a larger farm. While on this place he specialized first in one thing and then in another, with the result that in a few years he was forced to sell his property, and he is now out of the farming business altogether. Had the fellow persevered in any one of the projects on which he set his mind there was no reason why he should not have made of it a splendid success. As it was, he made failures of them all.

I know that a great many young chaps are "tied down" on their fathers' farms, and have little or no say in the management of the work, and almost invariably have to submit to their parents' superior wisdom, which is often not in keeping with modern ideas of farm management. It is little wonder that they feel that their day's duties should end with the day's work, and that they hurry the evening chores, in order to get away to town as early as possible. From what I know of farmers and farmers' sons, I think that if many of the latter were to show more real interest in the planning of future work and were to evince a willingness to bear more responsibility regarding the farm management, they would find their "bosses" not so stubborn after all, and the way would be paved, in many cases, for the introduction of more up-to-date methods.

For the young man who is starting out on "his own hook" it is different. Probably he has his farm to pay for. Anyway, there are hundreds of things he would like to have for the improvement of his property if he could only afford them. Under these conditions sometimes it is good policy to make as few costly improvements as possible and to "pull through" without up-to-date machinery for a few years until the means for working out the supreme ambitions, with more efficient equipment, are at hand.

Perth Co., Ont. E. LONEY.

Canada's Young Farmers and Future Leaders.

A Farmers' Club Which Made Money For Its Members.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

A few years ago a great many farmers became utterly dissatisfied with the unreasonable prices that some merchants, the feed stores in particular, charged for goods they sold. Some farmers met and discussed means of overcoming these difficulties and finally formed an organization known as the Farmers' Club. A general meeting was called and every farmer in the community was invited to attend. All who wished, joined the club by paying the yearly fee of one dollar. A secretary and treasurer were appointed to look after the business. They receive a salary which is paid from the membership fee.

A meeting is held once a month and members attend and tell the secretary the amount of feed or provisions they want. When the orders are all taken, there may not be enough for a car, but, generally, some farmers who are not members, will order enough to complete the car. The secretary then writes to a number of firms for quotations on the goods wanted. According to the prices quoted and the quality, he decides where to place the order. When the car or cars arrive every farmer is notified. The day of unloading, the secretary and treasurer are on duty to fill the orders and receive payment. The club has reduced the cost to the farmer of many commodities, and reduced prices in general. Not only does the club assist the farmers financially, but in attending the meetings a great many things are learned by having discussions. One may describe how he feeds hogs for the most profit and another cattle. When more farmers realize the benefit that may be derived from such an organization, the membership will swell considerably.

The first error that I have noticed in the operation of the clubs in this community is that non-members get their goods at the same price as members. I think that wrong, as members pay the fee of one dollar, which goes to pay the running expenses of the club. The non-member does not pay at all. Then why not, in the case of potatoes say, charge non-members 5 cents more per bag? Even by paying this added charge, they would receive the potatoes cheaper than if bought elsewhere. This extra charge would be credited to the account of the club, and by so doing it will be kept sound financially.

Another error, and the most important, is the system of handling the orders and cash. No system at all practically, is in vogue in our clubs here. As I worked in a bank a number of years, I know exactly the state of affairs. I am now farming and intend to join a club shortly. The system I would put forward would be to have an order form on which is one column for name of member, a second for non-member, a column for each article handled, one for price and another for cash.

When the order is taken, the name and amount wanted will be placed on the sheet, when delivered and cash received, the amount written down. Some go to the car without the cash or cheque to pay, but those who do should be turned away as it should be a strictly cash business.

Northumberland Co. Ont. W. D. LOCKE.

Benefits of a Kent County Club.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

How was the great strike on one of our largest railroads settled last month, other than the company's coming to the terms of the Co-operative Union of conductors and trainsmen? How does any class of working people get more fairly and squarely dealt with than through the means of a co-operative organization to which they belong? The reason some farming communities are not getting squarely dealt with is because they don't co-operate and work together, and until the farmers co-operate, one with another, in selling produce, they will never be able to fill the place to which they so justly belong, nor will they be able to do justice to their calling.

We, in this community, have organized a Farmers' Club with the assistance of the District Representative, in which farmers may meet once every two weeks to discuss farm topics, and where all may benefit from some study or experiment that other farmers have made. In order to keep members interested we have debates on farm topics, two or three on each side, which prove very interesting, and the members have something to look forward to from one meeting to another. We also have the District Representative of this county come out, and besides giving us lectures on better ways of farming, he keeps us posted on what is being done in other communities where Farmers' Clubs exist.

An organization of this nature is invaluable to any farming community. Some advantages may be outlined as follows:

1. It encourages the younger farmers to take a greater interest in farming, and not only makes them better farmers but does a great deal toward keeping the boy on the farm.

2. It brings the farmers closer together, making them feel that they are a united body with the same object in view.

3. The greatest object this organization has in view, is the co-operation of farmers in this Club and in other clubs in buying the things that are necessary for a farmer to have, and that farmers may co-operate in selling their produce, thereby saving the middleman's profit.

Take the initiative, young farmers, and get your community organized and encourage other farming communities to do likewise, for not till then will you get the respect that is due you as a farmer, nor the profit on your produce that should be yours.

Kent Co., Ont. W. P. C.

A Successful Farmers' Club in Haliburton County.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

We have one of the most difficult districts in this North Country in which to form a successful Farmers' Club. A great many of our people are illiterate and have been exploited for years by the local merchants, drovers, buyers of forest products, etc., until they have become very suspicious of any proposition placed before them. Notwithstanding this heavy handicap we have organized and now have a very live Club of nearly 50 members. Our Club was organized on July 22, 1916, with a membership of 15. At our initial meeting it was decided to form an association in affiliation with the United Farmers of Ontario.

The immediate cause of our Club springing into existence was that early in the summer of 1916 several settlers had hogs ready to ship, and the best offer the drovers would make was $9 per cwt., when they were quoted at over $11 per cwt. in Toronto. So a few clubbed together to ship them. After the car was ordered, one of the drovers came in and offered $10.25 per cwt. for them but he was then too late and we shipped them to Toronto, clearing $10.35 for them. This opened the settlers' eyes to what was taking place, and although we had our little difficulties from local jealousies, and the local storekeepers have reduced their prices, we shall keep on and endeavor to widen our co-operative efforts in different directions as occasion crops up.

We decided to adopt the rules of the United Farmers of Ontario "en bloc," with the proviso that we could add thereto if we saw fit. We have as yet not seen any cause to add to these rules. We also decided to subscribe for one share in the United Farmers' Co-operative Company.

We meet every two weeks for the transaction of general Club business, at which time our secretary-treasurer takes orders for groceries, etc., for which payment is made in advance, and as soon as goods arrive the secretary notifies all interested and the shipment is distributed. For this service the secretary-treasurer receives a 2 per cent. commission. At this meeting we also enquire who has stock ready to ship, and arrange for shipment of same. We are endeavoring to market our forest products in the same co-operative manner.

We have had some very laughable experiences, also some which show the deplorable ignorance of some of our settlers as regards markets and conditions under which business is done. One man said he would not join the Club as long as Mr. T—— had anything to do with it, because Mr. T—— offended him some years ago, in this way:

There were some few settlers collected in the post office one evening, waiting for the mail, and conversation drifted to potato bugs.

Mr. R—— I never use Paris green.

Mr. T—— how do you handle them?