

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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Vol. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 31, 1911

No. 988

## EDITORIAL.

To idealize one spot of nature is every farmer's privilege.

One of the best places to gain new ideas is at the fall exhibition. When visiting the show, be sure to see it to best advantage. To do this requires that the greater portion of the time be spent on the part of the show which holds the most that is of value to your particular calling.

Recent rains have improved the condition of the newly-seeded clover greatly. This crop is becoming a greater favorite each year, because of its value in improving the soil. If your catch is improving, give it a chance. Do not pasture it off this fall, and do not break it up until sure that it is not worth leaving.

Pasturing land for a number of years, without its being broken up, is not always a good method of keeping it clean. Canadian thistles seem to thrive under such conditions, and fields have been seen producing more of this pest than of grass. These thistles come on late, and in many fields are just blossoming, and should now be mown down to prevent seeding. It is discouraging for a man with a clean farm to have to combat the weed seeds which come to him from his neighbor.

Whether the expense of a corn binder is justified, considering on the one hand the scarcity and uncertainty of labor at silo-filling time, and on the other hand the closer cutting that is possible—though not always achieved—where short-handled hoes are used, is a question many farmers will have to settle for themselves this fall. The answer, as we see it, depends largely on circumstances.

How much per ton does your silage cost you to produce? This is a problem on which some very profitable figuring may be done. Of course, one should begin by keeping track of the cost of growing the crop, but even if this has not been attended to, it will still be very well worth while to ascertain the cost per ton of ensiling the corn. How many days' labor for a man, and how many for a team, with estimate of the value of this time at current farm wages, are questions that can be easily answered by means of a diary. Do it this year. The minute a manager begins figuring, he enters the highway of fact which leads to a gradual widening of that spread between cost and returns which spells profit.

Among many admirable features in the Contemporary Review (British) for August is a thoughtful paper by Andrew Carnegie on "Arbitration," in the course of which he says: "The majority of people now living will see the killing of men by men as a means of settling the disputes of civilized nations, a crime of the past. It's coming yet for a' that, God speed the day, and thus shall be banished from earth the foulest fiend ever loosed from hell." Long may my native and adopted lands (mother land and wife land), hand in hand, lead the world in its upward and onward march to higher and higher stages of civilization, tending to make earth a heaven, which is the mission of our race."

## Appeal to Young Men.

Thomas Carlyle tells us that the history of nations is the history of their great men. The two are inseparably interwoven. Men of courage, ideals and foresight, by qualities inherent and acquired, become leaders in local and national affairs, and shape the destinies of countries. In a country of the common people, like Canada, no artificial barriers exist that can prevent the young man who wills to do so from sharing honorably in public affairs. He may aspire to any and every position. Opportunities of service are not for the dreamer, but for those who qualify by doing common things uncommonly well; not for those born with a silver spoon in their mouths, but rather for those who graduate through the university of adversity.

There are two kinds of discontent. One is of the grumbler, forever being, as he fancies, "put upon," overlooked and slighted; and the other, who, in every lesson and effort of to-day, however trying, discovers something cheering and helpful for to-morrow. "I am not kicking about my work, or my hours, or my wages," says one of the latter, "but can I do this task any better? I want to understand this machine so well that, when something goes wrong, I can act as my own expert. I wish to avoid another failure in that grain field by discovering the reasons for twenty bushels to the acre, when across the fence the yield was forty bushels. I am glad to work hard, but I do not propose to be a cipher, absorbed in the small talk or worse of the neighborhood, when from good men, good books and periodicals, and good thinking, I can increase my knowledge and ability to do things. I can work among the earth clods without being one. I will shape them and make them serve me, but they shall not govern me."

## Individual Equipment.

Here and there throughout Canada, and particularly in country constituencies, election managers have been scurrying to and fro lately for suitable candidates to represent the people in Parliament. Good material for this purpose is reported none too plentiful, and more of it ought to be available. Every country and every age needs leaders, and history tracks the greatest and most of them back to the soil and the farm. If any young man reading these lines wishes to share in the honor of being one of the "makers of Canada," there is no better place to start learning the business than right on the farm. A perfectly legitimate and commendable aspiration, it is no child's play, but a call to the best that is in you, and you must be equipped for the task. Unprepared weaklings fall down when Opportunity comes knocking at their doors. The late Dr. John A. Williams, a Methodist divine of prominence, one day fell into conversation with a young railway machinist travelling on a train. He had given up a lucrative position in Chicago to return for a college course to Canada. Dr. Williams ventured an expression of surprise at this rather unusual spending of time. But, like a flash came the young man's reply: "Why, sir, don't you think I owe something to my manhood?" He was not ashamed of his work, but he proposed to be more than a nonentity or a mere machine.

Andrew D. White has written a book called "Seven Great Statesmen," which further illustrates the point that equipment is the prerequisite of achievement. A scholarly and dis-

tinguished American, who was for years president of Cornell University, and Ambassador at several leading capitals of Europe, Mr. White took advantage of his unusual opportunities to make a specialty of historical studies. In this remarkable book he analyzes the careers of Sarpi, the distinguished Venetian, who wrought for intellectual and ecclesiastical freedom; Thomasius, the German, who fought against trial by torture and barbarities against witches; Grotious, of Holland, the father of international law; Turgot, the greatest constructive genius of France; Stein, probably the greatest of all Prussian statesmen at the time of the conflict with Napoleon; Cavour, the regenerator of Italy; and Bismarck, the father of modern Germany. It is significant that, of these seven mighty statesmen, the two who did most for the material progress and general well-being of their people, Turgot and Cavour, were devotedly attached to the soil, and saw in an enlightened agriculture the sure pathway of national progress, though not neglecting other great independent industries. The devotion of Bismarck to farm life is also well known. All of them were men of learning, ripe scholarship, and thinkers. To the disgust of his friends, Cavour abandoned a military career, secured permission to take charge of one of the family estates and became a farmer. At the first, unacquainted with even its rudiments, his power of thought and work soon showed itself, and his success attracted attention far and near. He applied scientific methods under control of strong common sense, which were afterwards factors in his statesmanship and diplomacy. Even during his most strenuous political life he cherished his devotion to farming and its improvement. Caring little for money, his activities were boundless and successful.

The great Turgot, in France, pursued a correspondingly enlightened policy, concentrating his efforts in the direction of improving the wretched agricultural conditions of the country. He founded agricultural clubs, published articles and reviews, got thinking men together, stimulated study, improved roads and transportation, and introduced new food plants and grasses.

As Mr. White has done to American students, so "The Farmer's Advocate" would commend to Canadians the example of these great men. Qualify yourselves. Begin sharing in public duties. Think independently. Study men and methods. While keeping in relation with everyday duties, keep also abreast of highest thinking on political and social questions. Be prepared to lead, if need be, when the time comes. Avail yourselves of the advantages of superior education in farming and other subjects. College courses and degrees will not necessarily make a man of you, nor yet an encyclopaedic knowledge of facts, but they will vastly improve your chances of profiting by the experiences of life. Individual equipment, with moral stamina, is the endowment that a young man most needs.

## The Education Commission.

Notwithstanding strenuous preparations for the reciprocity election and silo-filling, "Farmer's Advocate" readers will be interested in following the progress of the Canadian Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, which is still very much alive, gathering information that will have a momentous bearing upon future schooling in this country. In fact, a capable body of men were never despatched by the Government of Canada upon a more important