

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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GENTLEMEN,—I enclose herewith cheque to cover amount of account for advertising, and as soon as I have more stock to dispose of, I will not forget your advertising columns. While I do not wish to flatter, the advertisement of my sale in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE brought more buyers than any other paper, and for several years past I have had an advertisement in three Canadian agricultural journals, and the advertisement in your columns has usually brought me three times more buyers than any others.

Wishing you much success, and if I can be of any service in furnishing information re crops, etc., I will be pleased to do so, I am,

Yours truly,

W. F. STEPHEN.

"Brook Hill Farm," Quebec,
Nov. 6th, 1899.

The Great West.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE BY J. M'CAIG.

A good deal has been written and said about the center of equilibrium of the Dominion of Canada being shifted rapidly westward; and not without reason. Ontario has up to the present time been considered the industrial, commercial, political, and intellectual hub of British North America. The country vaguely called "out west" has been regarded as a land of semi-exile, where the buffalo was monarch of the waste, and the redskin the only interruption to his sway. White men living in the country—except outcast or broken-hearted Englishmen looking for big game, danger or death in the mountains—were thought to be living a kind of life-in-death on the prairie, alarmed almost at the sight of a fellow creature, and constrained to hibernate like the bears against the fatal and irresistible blizzard.

This conception of the loneliness of the West is being rudely modified. Ontario, though capable of the support of a much larger population than it has at present, has enjoyed a populousness in advance of what it deserves, relative to the opportunities afforded for support in other parts of the Dominion. Previous to the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway our surplus population found its way across the line. At present it is surging into our own West; and not only that, but many who have been experimenting in United States for some years are returning to find homes in New Canada, and are bringing Americans with them. So great is the increase of population, from near and foreign sources combined, that it seems not beyond reasonable expectation that we shall have a population of

TEN MILLIONS TEN YEARS HENCE.

There is good reason why this should come about. The feverish growth of population in the United States from immigration is rapidly approaching completion, and consequently the chances for an easy living from the free use of the forces of natural production, on the other side of the line, are rapidly lessening. The existence of good commercial highways through our own country, the reputation of Manitoba wheat, western cattle, and western gold, are all in our favor. The next decennial census will doubtless be a gratifying surprise to ourselves, as well as to the world. Winnipeg alone, with its fifty thousand souls, and its continuous rapid growth, is a good start. It is supported by solid immediate agricultural interests, as well as by large manufacturing and distributing interests. Its chances for growth are multiplying, its inflation and boom period is over, and its growth is stable and sure.

SOME EASTERN ILLUSIONS.

There is a lingering idea in eastern minds that though the speculative opportunities of the West are large, the social and intellectual atmosphere is somewhat raw. This arises simply from the idea that the West is far away; from either local prejudice or local patriotism. Though it is true that the West has absorbed a larger proportion of persons of small means than it has of persons of comfortable means, and that the part of eastern population representing the largest degree of culture and intellectual acquirement is, on this account, left behind, those who have come out represent great energy, susceptibility, and capacity for improvement simply by reason of the change from the deadening routine of hopeless competition to surroundings offering the fullest return for energy, ability, and ingenuity. Historically, colonies have shown a capacity for progressing at a rate relatively more rapid than the advance in the mother country. With regard to social progress, too, it may be said that the graces of life are not neglected. Artificial class distinctions do not run high; but this is an advantage, rather than a disadvantage, as far as the solidarity of society is concerned. Social sympathy in the West is large and spontaneous, and the energy of social feeling is not dissipated in endless deadening organization. Deprivation in the shape of scarcity of articles of luxury, or of books for recreation and improvement, is not so prevalent as is generally supposed. The confidence that westerners feel in their business enterprises extends to their purchases for the satisfaction of their own wants. If they want a thing they generally get it quick. In dense populations people decide as to a good deal of what they want by what their neighbors have. Western population is sparse, and, consequently, fashion wants are fewer than in the East, but their satisfaction relatively greater. I feel that in presenting to your readers my impressions of the characteristics, limitations, and capacities of the West, the above general treatment is necessary before dealing with the agricultural and stock interests of the country.

The Farmer's House.

A writer in the New York Weekly Tribune asks the question: "What sort of a house should a farmer have?" He intimates that farmers all over the land are building better houses, indicating a return of prosperity, but still he thinks that farmhouses are not improving as they should, because they are too often designed by men who do not understand the real needs of the farmer or the de-

mands of the farm. It is certainly not wise to embark in extravagance by presuming upon "better times" or to try to imitate upon the farm the flashy city or town residence, though the dwelling house of the farmer and his family should be a good and a comfortable one and reasonably attractive, for no one deserves it better. The writer in question points out that a farmhouse, in the first place, demands a great deal of roominess. It requires, above all things else, an abundance of storage room. I include in the term house a good deal that some farmers would associate with the idea of barn. The farmer has it at his option to associate much of his storage room with the dwelling house or the barn; but somewhere he must have it, and somewhere he very seldom does have it.

The one thing notable about our farmhouses, as they are now built, is this lack of room. There are parlors and other appurtenances of the sort, but there are no fruit rooms, and even the cellars are rarely much more than dugouts. There should be in all cases a toolroom in rear, where the house repairs can be carried on, and there should be something very much like the old kitchen where weaving and spinning were performed. The modern farm kitchen is a meager affair, modelled after village homes. In the second place, the farmhouse needs a good deal of what we might call outdooriness. People who live in the country need verandas and balconies, so that they can enjoy the air and the landscape without restriction. These should command every possible outlook that is attractive and restful. No house in the world requires less of the indoor comforts and more of the outdoor comforts in proportion. Yet I do not know a half dozen farmhouses where the verandas are anything more than a meager attachment, intended more for show than use. Build your house with broad, capacious outdoor rooms, and let these be well supplied in summer with hammocks and reclining chairs.

The third thing that a farmer's house particularly demands is plenty of water. This is the last thing, unfortunately, that is attended to. You will find a single well, as shallow as possible to secure water at all. It is sure to be dry during a protracted drought. Yet a very large proportion of our farmhouses can be easily and cheaply supplied with an abundance of water, carried inside to nearly every room in the house. The cost is not great, and should be attended to above all other requirements. There should be a bath-room in every farmer's house, for no man's work requires the refreshment and purification of a bath more than that of the land tiller. In many cases running water is easily secured, to be carried by pipe at no great expense, or it can be elevated and conveyed considerable distance by windmill power. Heating by furnace or hot water is preferable to an array of stoves.

The fourth point, all-important for the farmer's house, is good drainage. To neglect this is either pure shiftlessness or it is recklessness. Nearly all the disease associated with our farmers' homes comes from imperfect drainage. Filth in one direction breeds filth in another. Having occasion recently to drive through the back yard of a farmhouse, I found the well twenty feet below the out-house, on a slope, and near by stood open milk-cans with the bedding of the household flung on top to be aired. The whole business of sanitation and purification needs attention, but it does not need a large amount of expert knowledge. The farmer rarely needs to introduce the Waring system, or any other system, to carry away impurities from his house and place them where they can be utilized. His house should be, if possible, on a rise of ground; his supply of water obtained from above, and his cesspools and privies always on the lower ground. But why should any farmhouse have its outhouses for the family out of doors? Now that the fact is noticeable that much finer houses are being erected, let us have attention paid to the few points I have noted.

When about to build, ask the question: What is it I particularly want? What sort of a spot have I to build on? What do I want a house for? If you study neighbors' houses, do so to get hints and broaden your views; not to imitate. No two farmhouses should be alike, as no two farms or farmers are. In general, a house ought to grow out of two things: the personality of the owners and the peculiarities of the position. So it follows, you have not got a fine house because you have modelled it after what is fine somewhere else.

The Development of Canadian Pork Packing.

Pork packing in Canada dates back over forty years, the Wm. Davies Company being the pioneers in Toronto, and Mr. F. W. Fearman in Hamilton, Ont., the latter establishing his first factory in 1854. In Toronto it is estimated that there is now invested in this business between \$300,000 and \$400,000, giving work to over 600 persons; the yearly output of bacon and products being put at about \$3,000,000. Besides the Davies establishment, there is also the Park-Blackwell Company and the Wm. Ryan Company in Toronto, the Lawry establishment in Hamilton, the great Ingersoll Packing Company, the Canadian Packing Company at London, the new Palmerston packing establishment, the Brantford concern, together with a new one projected at Stouffville, Ont., the R. Y. Griffin establishment in Winnipeg, and those in the Maritime Provinces, besides numbers of smaller concerns throughout the country. The growth of the industry has been phenomenal.