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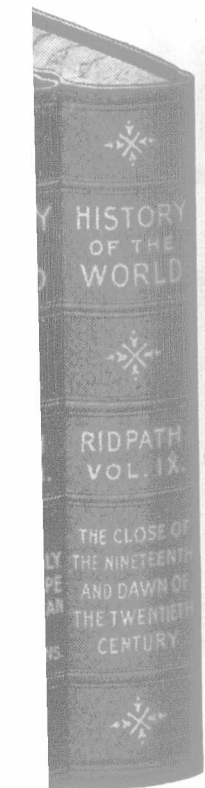
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EDITORIAL

Consolidated Schools and Good Roads

A general improvement in roads is said to be one of the benefits of the consolidated school system. The West needs better clay roads and in some districts more thoroughly organized effort at keeping the highways passable in winter. In a few localities good work has been done. If a consolidated school system ensures better roads it would be a good thing for many districts from that standpoint if from no other.

Gasoline Tractors for Farm Work

A close student of agricultural affairs in Western Canada says that the cultivated area is increasing faster than means are being provided to work it properly. Farm labor, he says, is decreasing in quantity and is becoming less efficient. The improvements being made in farm machinery are not keeping pace with the demands made upon the mechanical equipment to cope with a larger cultivated area and with a continually decreasing labor supply.

What is to be done about it? This observer states that two solutions to the difficulty are possible. The first is to go in more for mixed farming, and the second is to use manual labor more economically. The first suggestion needs no comment here; the second is rather more interesting. It is in brief to increase the usefulness of manual labor by increasing—doubling or trebling—the capacity of the machinery with which men work. There is a limit to the work one man directing a horse outfit can do in a given number of hours, but according to this authority, increase in grain farming can be carried out only by making the maximum amount of work one man is capable of accomplishing, greater than it is under existing methods. This suggestion

is the more general use of mechanical power in farm work.

In connection with this some interesting matter is being published just now in our columns on the use of the gasoline tractors. Readers may be surprised at the number of contributions recently published on this question. As a matter of fact the gasoline tractor is coming into use more generally than had been supposed. And from what users say seems to be giving pretty general satisfaction. Gasoline power seems to offer what the authority quoted above states is required in the further extension of grain farming. From the number of farmers who have recently added gasoline tractors to their equipment, it would appear that this opinion is concurred in to quite an extent.

Summer Fallowing Suggestion

A correspondent in another part of this issue draws attention to what he considers important points in connection with grain growing. One of these is fall cultivation of the summer-fallow. The usual practice in summer-fallowing is to let the land lie after the previous crop is removed until such time next season as it is convenient to begin plowing and cultivating it. Cultivation immediately after the crop is removed, or some time during fall, would serve two purposes: Land so cultivated would retain more of the winter's moisture, and would be in the best possible condition to stimulate weed growth in the spring. Such system of summer-fallowing would entail more work than the system ordinarily employed, but it would undoubtedly pay, that is if farmers could find time in fall to cultivate the land intended for summer-fallow.

Over 1000 Clydesdales Sold

So far in the year 1909 the sales of pure-bred Clydesdales in Scotland have totalled over one thousand. A goodly number of these have come to Canada. With climatic and crop conditions such as we possess there is no reason why we should not supply at least part of this great annual demand for superior specimens of this worthy breed. Canada already has a fair reputation for producing good animals, but the numbers are not large enough to attract leading buyers from other countries.

Prices that have prevailed at the leading Scottish sales show that the horseman does not go unrewarded. For animals of merit high figures available are awaiting. The sooner Canadian farmers develop the horse raising industry to such an extent as to attract buyers from other countries, the sooner will they get a share of the handsome returns. Canadian stables should supply at least a part of the export demand for heavy horses.

Details of Drainage

Perhaps no line of work on the fields requires more regard to details than drainage. Experts with special instruments are well equipped, but the average farmer is not inclined to pay the cash demanded by these trained drainage men. On another page of this issue a description is given of handy instruments that are designed to be of valuable assistance to those digging ditches or drains. The information is supplied by Prof. W. H. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, a man who has done much to impress upon farmers the necessity of thorough drainage, if maximum crops are to be harvested.

Up to the present farmers of the West have given little attention to draining their land. Government ditches have done much to bring low places under cultivation, and in most instances farmers are satisfied to wait until the land is dry enough to make it safe for horses to haul the necessary implements over its surface. To those, however, who have realized that intelligent drainage will make it possible to get the seed in earlier, and thus, generally speaking, give an increased yield, the suggestion given in Professor Day's article may be interesting. All will do well to study it.

Agricultural Reading

At this season of the year members of families in rural parts are prone to discuss the question of suitable reading matter dealing with agricultural affairs. In many cases there is a long list from which to select. Even general newspapers announce a special agricultural page. Then there is a host of books and the truly agricultural journals.

Every intelligent purchaser of any article likes to get value for money given; he wants reliable goods; he wants goods that are not secondhand. A supply of reliable agricultural reading matter first hand is found only in carefully edited agricultural journals. They have trained agriculturists in their offices who keep in touch with all phases of the farming industry, and obtain particulars regarding methods and practices of practical farmers. Other publications are valuable from a news standpoint; from the standpoint of the agriculturist seeking reliable information, however, they cannot be depended on.

Several books dealing with the different branches of farming operations are valuable. Experts have written on the feeding, care, management and breeding of the different classes of live stock. Others have made a study of soils and crops and put their observations in book form. Then, there are special books on dairying, poultry raising, horticulture, etc., all of which have a place.

But to be up to date and in thorough touch with agriculture in your province or country an agricultural journal is essential. There-