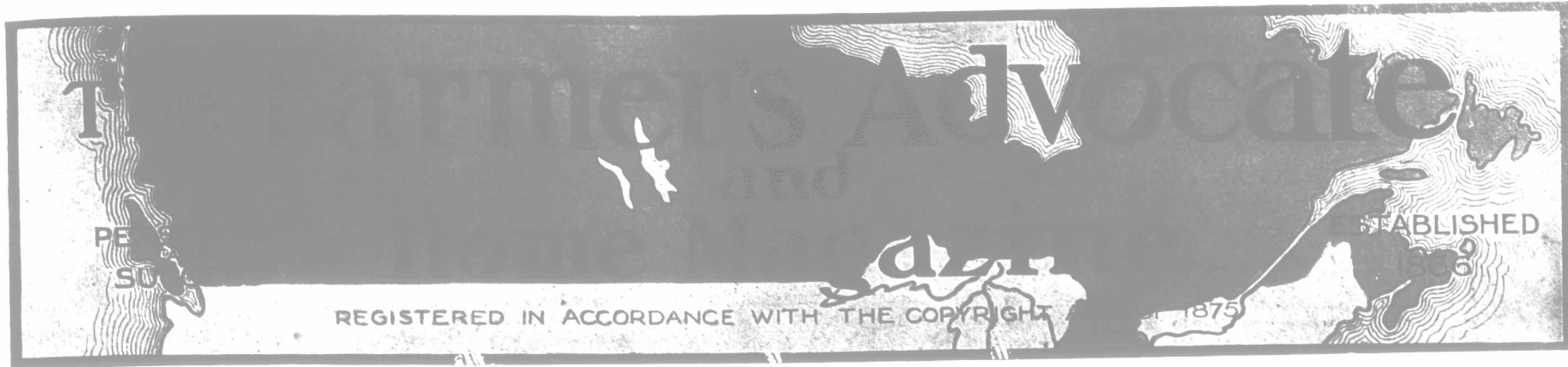




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EDITORIAL.

Farmers in Eastern Ontario and the neighboring regions of Quebec should take full advantage of the Eastern Ontario Winter Fair, to be held in Ottawa next week. The Winter Fairs are, of all our agricultural exhibitions, the most valuable from an educative point of view. Attendance is repaid manifold in practical knowledge, breadth of outlook, mental quickening, and pleasure. Take in the Winter Fairs.

In 1890, notes Sir Edgar Speyer, in the *Globe's* annual financial survey, the world's gold production was only twenty-four millions sterling. In 1899 it had risen to sixty-one millions. In 1909 the amount was not less than ninety-two millions sterling, and for the year 1910 it will probably exceed this figure somewhat. Abundance of gold is thus again indicated as one of the several factors tending to high prices of the commodities which it is used to purchase.

A most gratifying rate of expansion is shown in the receipts of live stock at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, during the past two or three years, the number of cars having risen from 4,654 in 1908, to 7,093 in 1909, and 9,456 in 1910. Taking the several classes of stock separately, we find an increase of 50,778 head of cattle in 1910 over 1909, an increase of 2,370 sheep, 28,132 hogs, and 960 calves, horses alone showing a decrease to the extent of 842. The Union Stock-yards are attracting an increasing proportion of the Ontario live-stock trade.

Manitoba farmers are wheat-mad, says William Whyte, of Winnipeg, Second Vice-President Canadian Pacific Railway. "If ever there was an agricultural country in the world, that country is Manitoba. Our sole resource is agriculture. Yet this year there were imported into Winnipeg over twelve million eggs. For our dining cars, we are now bringing in chickens from Chicago. We are also importing cream from the United States." Mr. Whyte is right. Exclusive wheat-growing is not farming; it is soil-mining. The West must come to mixed farming sooner or later, and the sooner the better, for more reasons than one.

The influence of a continued protective tariff policy, and its bearing agriculturally, is well instanced in the United States. Through the agency of protection, industries and cities have been built at the expense of the rural communities, permitting agriculturists to carry the burden without sharing in the results. But in time the urban population has so grown that consumption is outrunning production; bread, meats, clothing, the necessities of life, have become high-priced, and now the cry is for a reduction of the tariff on foodstuffs. The agricultural population objects (and who can blame them?), but the cry of the needy for cheaper bread and clothing will prevail, as it did in Britain. Thus, the farming population has been the last to benefit from such a policy, and will be the first to have its benefits cut off. Plainly, the system is wrong, and from an agricultural standpoint has little argument which should enlist support.

In view of current impressions about comparative quietness in Cobalt during the past season, it is encouraging to read the calculation that Coleman Township, in which Cobalt is situated, has during 1910 exceeded its own previous output to the extent of about 11 per cent. in tonnage shipped, while the value of the silver and affiliated minerals shipped was probably 14 per cent. more than in 1909. Cobalt is evidently not worked out. It is well to remember, though, in connection with this showing, that Cobalt stocks, like all other mining stocks, are still a treacherous investment for any but those who are strictly "on the inside." The sooner ordinary investors make up their minds that stocks known to be good do not have to be peddled around the country to dispose of them, the better it will be for many thousand small pocketbooks. Let the shoemaker stick to his last.

We are gradually losing our old-time fear of fresh air. With it is passing the familiar superstition about the peculiarly deadly properties of "night" air. Up-to-date physicians now laugh at the idea of night air being harmful. One prominent Canadian medical man has been waging an educative campaign, urging people to open their windows at night and close them in the day time to keep out germs and dust. This latter point, of course, would apply chiefly to city homes in summer, but the gospel of open bedroom windows during sleeping hours is being enthusiastically endorsed by tens of thousands of people, both delicate and rugged, who find the fresh night air invigorating as a draft of wine, without the reactive consequences of indulgence in alcoholic beverages. Fresh air, pure water—what priceless blessings of nature are these! And how afraid of them so many of us have been!

The million dollars' worth of cream, or thereabouts, shipped from Canada to the United States, from April 1st to November 30th, last, is a slight indication of the trade in butter that would develop under reciprocity. Our good friend Mr. Rice has been indulging no mere pipe-dream when suggesting that the future market for a good share of our dairy produce lies across the international boundary. Of course, our American dairy friends may protest, and not unjustly so, but the cry of the consumer is likely to prevail. One reason the American market for butter and cheese is better for us than the British (if equally stable) is that prices rule higher, owing to the exclusion of foreign competition. Even without such exclusion, we would still have an advantage in transportation over most foreign competitors—an advantage we do not possess when catering to the British market.

The *Christian Guardian*, of Toronto, a journal of national repute, whose chief editor is a man from the farm, thus sizes up the "Yellow-backed old Advocate": "The *Farmer's Advocate* and *Home Magazine* is the ablest and best of the agricultural journals which come to our office. Every number has something in it of more than ordinary value to rural readers, but it makes a specialty of its Christmas Number, and every year this number is one which deservedly attracts wide attention. This year's Christmas Number has just been issued, and is a credit to the editors. There is an able editorial on 'Canada—A Nation,' an article of interest to horsemen on 'Draft Horse Opportunities,' a good story of pioneer life in Canada, and many other interesting articles."

Agricultural Education in the United States, 1910.

The Commissioner of Education for the United States, in his summary of the educational activity of the year, lays emphasis on the attention which the relation of agriculture to education is receiving in the public and High Schools. At the great national meeting, held in Boston, one department devoted two whole days to rural and agricultural education, and then met with the science department and devoted a day to the discussion of the "practical aspects of science with reference to the introduction of material from agriculture." The discussions on whether the subject should be taught in the schools have ceased; they are now concerned with how it should be taught.

He gives a list of thirty-one colleges throughout the Union that conducted summer schools in agricultural studies primarily for teachers. The Maryland State Board has bought a farm of 178 acres for one of its Normal Schools, and has passed a law authorizing the county boards to make agriculture a required study. Louisiana, he says, has made this subject a required study in all its schools, and has voted an appropriation of about \$1,200 to each High School that conducts a demonstration farm of at least five acres, provided with a barn having stalls, bins, haylofts, etc., according to specified plans, and employing a teacher who is a graduate of an agricultural college, besides having had practical experience in farming, and who must give his whole time to agricultural subjects.

Virginia, by an act approved last March, is establishing a public High School in every congressional district, which must give at least one-fourth of the time to agriculture, household science and manual-training. Five acres of land is the prescribed minimum for field-work in teaching agriculture.

We do not suppose that agriculture, as an art, is to be taught in these schools, but on five-acre plots, properly managed, for demonstration, the sciences subsidiary to agriculture can be very practically illustrated.

Imperial Preference and Canadian Wheat-growing.

The application of two shillings per quarter (eight bushels) preferential duty on imported wheat, not grown within the Empire, has been the crux of the "Tariff Reform" (protection) agitation in Great Britain. That it has not been popular is evident from the efforts made to persuade the people that it would not raise the prices of food. It was urged during the recent election that the tax would so stimulate wheat-growing in Canada, and other parts of the Empire, that the supply would be greater than ever, keeping prices down. But in that event, what would become of the preferential benefit to the wheat-grower? Both results certainly could not be accomplished. In reality, it is not seriously believed that the vast needs of Britain could be supplied by the annual exportable surplus of wheat grown in Canada, India, and other overseas dominions of the Empire. Buying the temporarily-excluded foreign wheat would be resumed when the price of wheat in Britain had risen high enough to permit the dealer to pay the world's price, f.o.b., with freight, commissions and duty added. "Illimitable areas of new land to be brought under cultivation for wheat-growing" is just a fine mouthful of words, and so far as Canada is concerned, we