

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and
Succeed."

Established
1866

Vol. XLV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 24, 1910

No. 909

EDITORIAL.

The rabies regulations are not only necessary in the interest of human safety and property protection, but are a kindness to the dogs themselves. Until the disease is stamped out, no dog is safe from infection.

Fight germs with germs. The lactic-acid bacteria in a specially-prepared diet of sour milk are claimed to be deadly foes of the putrefactive and disease-producing bacteria which swarm in the large intestine. For those to whom sour milk is distasteful, the lactic-acid bacteria are put up in tablet form.

The move to establish a Canadian pedigree register for Standard-bred Horses, in connection with the National Live-stock Records, has got the length of devising rules of entry, which have been approved. It has been no easy task. Particulars of the rules appeared on our Farm Bulletin page last week.

To prevent or regulate the organization of oppressive combines in highly-protected countries is like trying to keep a fallow field free of weed-growth—only a much more vast undertaking. The way to control trusts is to take down the protective tariffs which give them leverage to oppress consumers.

If the Canadian Seed-growers' Association could demonstrate conclusively in co-operative experiments throughout the country the superior yielding power or disease-resisting character of seed selected for several generations, as compared with common seed of grain, potatoes and other crops, it would do more to popularize the movement than holding half a dozen annual conventions.

The Georgian Bay Canal must be built at the earliest date financial prudence will allow, and it must be a Government enterprise. Corporation control would be a colossal blunder—selling a birthright for a mess of pottage, or, more probably, giving it away outright. Free canals, under public control, are required, not only for the sake of their own part in the scheme of transportation, but as automatic competitive regulators of rail-freight rates.

Lord Rayleigh, a well-known scientist, has had a profit-sharing scheme on his Essex farm, England, for some years, and it has proved a success. The sum distributed for 1909 was £1,000. There are 280 employees, and this gives £14 per head. The system has shown that the men take a strong personal interest in farming operations when they have a direct incentive. The financial result to Lord Rayleigh has been satisfactory, and a good percentage has been realized on the invested capital.

A corn crop offers a great field for work, was a remark made by President J. O. Duke, before the corn-growers of Essex recently. He told a story of a man who, when he came to cultivate a field of corn, got up on the fence and began to calculate how many miles he would have to walk before the job was completed for the season. He figured it out to be 1,000 miles, which so scared him that he thought he had better try something else. He forsook his fields and went to town, where he walked 2,000 miles before he got a job. A man can find a profitable job any day in a corn field. We should not wait for weeds to show before we start the cultivator.

To conserve the lives and improve the homes of the people bred in Canada, is a more statesmanlike policy than fixing up undesirables from abroad.

Correspondence submitted, and assurances personally heard by members of our staff, indicate that keen interest has been taken in the results of "The Farmer's Advocate" demonstration orchard. We have already heard of half a dozen men who have been led through it to undertake spraying this coming season, and no doubt there are hundreds of others influenced. Prune, fertilize, spray, thin, cultivate, sow cover crops, pick and pack carefully. Be thorough, and the results will surprise you.

In his closing observations to the Canadian Seed-growers' Association, at Ottawa, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, president, asked the members to co-operate with the Canadian Conservation Commission, by furnishing information that would be sought looking toward the improvement of Canadian agriculture, through preserving and developing natural resources and rural home-life. It was intimated that the Commissioners, who had voluntarily devoted themselves to this great work, are doing so without salary or monetary compensation.

Sow grain thin and clover thick. A thin seeding of grain will produce a moderate yield, while giving the clover a better chance to catch. A first-class catch of clover is of more importance to almost any farmer than a first-class crop of grain. The clover is produced at no expense, except for seed and harvesting. It is, therefore, profitable in itself; while, in addition, by way of clear bonus, so to speak, its growth and the decay of its roots and stubble are of benefit to the land, equal, at least, to eight or ten tons of farmyard manure per acre.

With practically free raw material, with the privilege, even, of importing partially-manufactured goods free of duty, and with a liberal tariff protection on their finished product, Canadian woollen manufacturers would seem to be favored with more than their full share of adventitious aid. If that is not enough, they had better shut up shop, and rid the country of an exotic industry. We believe, however, that if as much enterprise and study were devoted to the development of the business as to the seek for tariff aid, it might succeed, after all. The hopeful note sounded by the proprietors of a certain woollen mill in Amherst, recently visited by a member of the Dominion Sheep-breeders' special committee, would seem to bear out this view.

Penny-wise and pound-foolish is the policy of harvesting grain or hay crops from bearing orchards. Subtract from the crop thus obtained the value of the labor and seed required to produce it, saying nothing of the inconvenience thereof, and one does well if he has left \$10 profit per acre. Now, this is on land which has been devoted for ten or twenty years to the purpose of growing an orchard. The orchard is potentially valuable, capable of yielding an annual clear profit of anywhere from fifty to, say, a hundred and fifty dollars an acre. It needs all the plant food and moisture with which it can be supplied. In attempting to grow another crop, we are liable, for the sake of a net return of ten dollars in grain or hay, to sacrifice twenty to fifty dollars in the yield and quality of the fruit. It will take a new arithmetic to convince us that such a policy pays.

The concluding part of the agricultural statistics for last year, published by the British Board of Agriculture, has a review of international agriculture. Dealing with wheat, the report suggests that the world's wheat area is sufficient in normal harvests. During the last fifteen years 45,000,000 acres have been added to the wheat area of the world, making it not far short of 240,000,000 acres. The increase of population in the same time has been 101,000,000. In practically all countries, in live-stock matters, the tendency has been to keep more cattle and pigs, and fewer sheep.

During the recent British election, Irish agricultural interests were somewhat perturbed by a rumor that the Liberal party, if returned to power, would, in April, 1910, remove the embargo upon live stock from Argentina at present in operation at British ports, admitting cattle from that quarter for immediate slaughter, on the same basis as Canadian and United States stock now are. At present, South American stock is allowed into the country only as dead meat, which is not nearly so formidable competition to British and Canadian beef as fresh-killed Argentina beef would be. Confirmation of such intention on the part of the Asquith Government has not yet reached us as we write. Let us hope the rumor had no substantial basis in fact.

The Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, Hon. J. S. Duff, voiced the sentiment of the majority of people, probably, when he said to the Fairs and Exhibitions Association that consolidation of agricultural societies for show purposes is desirable. Some years ago, when the basis on which the amount of grant by Government was changed from that of number of paid-up members to the amount spent for agricultural purposes, it was believed and hoped that it would result in a weeding-out of the poorer and weaker societies. But the primal instinct of self-preservation appears as strong in agricultural societies as in individuals. They die hard. Two years ago, 361 active societies were reported; at this year's meeting, 350. At this rate, extinction of two-thirds of the existing societies would require forty-two years.

Two thousand dollars a year seems quite a princely salary to the average person on the farm who has never paid the bills in a city home. As a matter of fact, it leaves the professional or business man in the city, with a family to support, not such a very handsome surplus, unless he owns his house or has supplementary income. Two hundred and fifty to four hundred dollars a year for rent, water rates and income tax; forty to eighty dollars for fuel; two-fifty to three-fifty a year to run the table; two or three hundred for clothes, and as much more for miscellaneous expenditures, with a hundred or two, set aside for charity or the church, will purchase no more luxurious a living than many a farmer enjoys without realizing how well he is off. On the farm one has no house rent, no monthly water rates, in some cases no fuel to buy, much less outlay for the table, less expensive clothes for ordinary wear, and a general reduction in miscellaneous expenditure, which represents, in the aggregate, a large margin of saving. To be sure, many mechanics and other city residents (whose expenses are somewhat less than the professional man's) live on far less than the above figures, but they do it usually by dint of rather severe economy, denying themselves many things in which they are continually tempted to indulge.