

# The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established 1866.

Vol. XLII.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 22, 1907.

No. 778.

## EDITORIAL.

### TRAINING OF THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHER.

The letter from R. Stothers, published in this issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," brings within range of discussion another phase of the public-school question. It is not enough to improve the rural-school building and grounds, erect a belfry, and complete the internal equipment of the school-room, nor even to accomplish such a revision of the curriculum as will utilize and emphasize subjects bearing upon the pursuits of the farm, and awaken appreciation for rural life, instead of deliberately educating the youth away from the country, as our school courses have been doing. We must reach the springs, if the character of the stream is to be affected. It is gratifying to find that a teacher of many years' experience both in Public and Collegiate school work, like Mr. Stothers, has not become so enamored of the system with which he has been identified as to grow unconscious of its radical defects, and when he touches the normal training of the teachers who will interpret a reformed curriculum in a reformed school, he is getting down to the real needs. The whole spirit and type of the teacher's work will naturally receive color and tendency in the normal training received, whether in existing institutions or the new ones being established.

Ontario has been jogging along in a self-satisfied educational rut for, we might almost say, generations. Following the inauguration of the public-school system, under the guiding genius of Dr. Ryerson, the institution of county model schools was probably the next notable change until the introduction of the nature-study and manual-training idea in the regulations a few years ago; but since those subjects had no specific bearing upon the results of the High-school Entrance Examinations, and for other reasons, we are not surprised if their advent were productive of but little tangible result. Even the continuation classes, established with the idea of meeting the rising demand for improved public-school work, have not thus far been made what is desired. For a couple of decades the whole end and purpose of the public schools appears to have focussed on the High-school Entrance Examination. The measure of the teacher's success was the rate at which she or he could hustle pupils through that so-called educational ordeal. Once in the High School or Collegiate Institute, they were gravitated along toward professional or commercial life, while we have instituted costly emigration agencies abroad and elaborate immigration machinery at home to fill up our depopulated country. It is certainly time for a change. People have so long vaunted themselves upon the Ontario public school that disillusionment comes in the nature of a shock, and reform correspondingly difficult to achieve. But men on the farm and elsewhere discern the need of the hour, and their insistence will hasten the desired change. As in Canada, so in the United States, the demand for modified educational methods is being voiced. In that progressive journal, the New York Christian Advocate, Eugene A. Noble, D. D., President of Centenary Collegiate Institute, protests against the traditional courses of the secondary schools. Without relegating cultural subjects out of sight, he favors studies involving manual training in the "arts and crafts" for every student. "When 80 per cent.

of the people receive only secondary school education, why impose upon them courses designed by educational theorists for the one-fifth?" he asks.

In the Province of Ontario, as Mr. Stothers points out, agriculture is the industry of industries. Apart from moral education, we can do nothing better for the people than to provide an educational system that will conserve and advance agriculture. Let the viewpoint be Nature and her methods, and give a generous place to the natural sciences. This is not going to set aside the old principles of pedagogy, but they will be applied by means of facts and subjects more directly related to the concerns of agriculture, whereby the community, as a whole, will be advantaged, and the rising generation will realize within them the pulsation of a new spirit, because their eyes have been opened by the teacher upon a new vision.

### ATTEND THE FAIRS.

The unusual lateness of the harvest this year may make it less convenient than ordinarily for farmers and their families to attend the earlier fairs; but as these are the earliest on the list, and in many respects the most important, owing to their attracting the cream of the products of the country in live stock and general agricultural and horticultural lines, as well as in manufactured articles, those who would keep up with the trend of the times cannot well afford to miss the principal exhibitions, and will make special efforts to get the home work into such a condition that a day or two may be spared for that purpose. The prospect indicates that the leading shows will be unusually attractive this year in many of their features, considerable improvements having been made in buildings and in the prize-lists which should bring out a better display than commonly of the resources of the country.

Toronto opens the season on August 26th, the fair continuing to September 9th, the second week being the most interesting for country people, generally, though the dairy breeds of cattle will be judged on Friday and Saturday, August 30th and 31st, the Ayrshires and Holsteins on Friday, and the Jerseys and grade dairy stock on Saturday. The beef breeds will be judged on the first two days of the second week, the Shorthorns on Monday, September 2nd, and the Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus and Galloways on Tuesday, September 3rd. The sheep and hogs are generally judged on the first two days of the second week, and the breeding classes of horses on Wednesday and Thursday of that week, though we hope, before going to press with this issue, to be able to state definitely the days on which the various classes will be judged.

The Dominion Exhibition at Sherbrooke, Quebec, and the Western Fair at London, Ontario, follow the Toronto event the next week, the dates named for Sherbrooke being September 2nd to 14th, and for London, September 6th to 14th. The stock-judging in connection with both of these interesting and important shows will take place in the first days of the second week. The Central Canada Exhibition, at Ottawa, follows, its dates, September 13th to 21st, being wisely chosen to avoid clashing with London and Sherbrooke. Ottawa will doubtless gain much by this arrangement, as the harvest will be well out of the way before their fair is on, and the best of the stock at Sherbrooke and London will come together again at the Capital. The more local fairs, being held later, will have the advantage of a more leisurely time for farmers, and will no doubt be loyally patronized, as usual, if not with greater enthusiasm.

### FOOD AND WATER SUPPLY FOR STOCK IN HOT WEATHER.

The money loss sustained by many farmers each year in shortage of milk and flesh production, owing to insufficient water and food supply in the summer and early autumn months, is doubtless much greater than they have realized. If they would experiment to ascertain how much more milk a cow will give when abundance of water is conveniently available, where she can take it at will, as compared with what she will produce when she has to travel a considerable distance on a dusty road for a drink once or twice a day, where her stomach is overloaded and her digestion liable to be deranged, they would have a clearer understanding of the importance of providing a constant and convenient water supply. On farms on which there is no running water, small lakes, nor any surface springs, wells and windmill power afford the readiest solution of the problem, and unless boring to great depth for water be necessary, the expense of such provision is not so great that the farmer in average circumstances cannot afford it, while many could well afford to arrange the supply so that water could be on tap in the kitchen as well, to lighten the labor and economize the time of the women, to whom the scarcity of efficient help is now as serious a problem as to the men on the farm.

There are many cases where springs, which render the land of little use for crop-growing, could by tile draining, be so improved in production as to pay, in a very few years, for the cost of carrying the water by gravitation to a tank in the barnyard or lane, readily accessible to stock. And where the lay of the land does not admit of this, we have seen a cheap and satisfactory supply provided by means of a hydraulic ram, forcing the water to house and barn through iron pipes underground, the water being first brought by tile drains to a certain point in the lower ground, where the ram is installed. Cement-concrete water troughs and tanks are now in use on many farms, and proving entirely satisfactory, as well as being durable and practically indestructible, so that the rotting wooden trough and the tiresome hand pump may well be dispensed with, and time and money saved by the adoption of these improvements. Of course, we understand that in many cases farmers are not in circumstances to afford the outlay for such conveniences, but there are numerous instances of men having money lying in the bank at three per cent., or invested otherwise, which could be more profitably utilized in improvements which would amply repay the cost in saving of time and labor, to say nothing of the comfort they bring to all interested, and the increase in the returns from the cows in milk, and from gain in weight of meat-producing animals, which alone may repay in one season the entire cost of some of the improvements we have indicated.

Provision of a supply of succulent food in the form of fodder crops, or of ensilage carried over to supplement the pastures in times of drouth in the summer months, is another question deserving of far more general attention than has been given it. The loss from allowing cows to shrink in their milk flow, by reason of dried-up pastures, is vastly more serious than farmers seem to realize, as it is impossible, once a cow has gone back in her production, to bring her up in the same season to what she would have done had she been kept in condition to produce a continuous flow. And the same may be said of the beef animal which loses flesh through lack of nourishment, as the loss has to be made up before gain can be made, and time and money—no one knows how much—is lost which cannot be regained.