

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
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Commission's bargain with the Ontario Power Company involves a breach of faith with the Electrical Development Company, which is controlled by the "electric ring." While this may or may not be technically correct, there is no reason to fear that the Ontario Government will be a party to any scheme to depreciate the legal franchise of any corporation without reasonable and adequate compensation. But, whatever real arguments there may be against the project, as outlined, the literature distributed and the arguments used were designed to appeal, not to the people's intelligence and fair-mindedness, but to their ignorance, prejudice and timidity. The reply is a well-deserved and stinging rebuke. The long-overridden citizen has found champions at last, and is coming into his own. This is the people's age.

### STANDS FOR WHAT IS BEST.

In renewing my own subscription, I am pleased to be able to send you two new names. I would like very much to have you send each of them a copy of the Christmas number, if it is not asking too much. As farmers, I think we should all read "The Farmer's Advocate," no matter what branch of farming we are most interested in, and I believe that a goodly number of citizens who are not engaged in our occupation would benefit by its perusal. "The Farmer's Advocate," it seems to me, always stands for that which is best, not only in agriculture, but also in its attitude in political and moral questions which make for a better citizenship. Wishing you a happy and prosperous new year.

Ontario Co., Ont. PETER GILCHRIST.

### WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD.

Enclosed please find \$1.50 for renewal of "The Farmer's Advocate." I consider it is worth its weight in gold to every farmer. Wishing you a prosperous New Year.

WM. SINCLAIR.

### THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

It was with a peculiar glow of pleasure that we perused the manuscript of Mr. Sutton's article, headed, "Rural Conditions Must be Improved." His words of appreciation of "The Farmer's Advocate" were particularly gratifying, because they evince faithful reading, intelligent interest and thoughtful reflection upon the views that have been advanced in our columns during the past months and years. Mr. Sutton must be a student of rural conditions, and his sizing-up is fairly comprehensive.

There is, perhaps, in his letter, a vein of pessimism as to the prospect of bringing about those changes in the farmer's estate which we are all agreed in demanding. This is scarcely surprising, in view of the chronic national habit of regarding the farmer as a man to be exploited, and farming as an occupation to get away from. So long have these notions prevailed, and so fertile are the beneficiaries of our tariff and subsidy systems in monopolizing natural resources, and devising means, direct and indirect, for their own aggrandizement, at the expense of the great producing agricultural class, that it is no wonder if some of us despair, at times, of ever seeing the farmer given a square deal. "The Farmer's Advocate" has no desire to disguise facts, to paint agriculture more glowingly than it deserves, or to exaggerate the prospects for its advancement in favor among our young people. We realize fully that there is a peculiar gloss and glare about city life, as well as certain more estimable privileges, that render it seductively alluring to all except the more level-headed and reflective young men and women. Hence, it is doubly important that our rural-school education be so conceived as to awaken an interest in and understanding of the scientific, the romantic and the pleasurable phases of the occupation of farming, in order that they may not become weighed down with a sense of its drudgery, but, while fully cognizant of its stern realities and drawbacks, that they may perceive its compensations, and be stimulated and enabled to minimize the disadvantages, by bringing as many intellectual and social privileges into the farm home as it is possible to secure. Our correspondent is right in asserting that Canadian farm boys and girls must be liberally educated so as to hold their own with any other class, but it is only proper and healthy that they should be educated in such a way as to quicken an interest in agriculture, instead of dulling what they have and exciting their ambition solely in the direction of city pursuits. The suggestion that public-school inspectors should devote a portion of their visits to lectures calculated to inspire, instruct and enthuse the pupils about things pertaining to the country and the farm, is highly commendable, indeed. Incidentally, they might point out that it is as easy to live on three or four hundred dollars a year in the country as on a thousand dollars in a city like Toronto or Montreal.

For the man who likes a free and comparatively natural mode of living, close to Nature's heart, who likes to feel that he can stand upright before God and man, knowing that he is a producer of wealth, instead of a parasite living on the greed, the cupidity or the innocence of his fellow man (as not a few business and professional men do); who knows that when he applies enterprise to his business it is not for the primary purpose of rivalling a competitor, but that it adds directly to the sum-total of man's well-being; who likes to feel free to assert and exercise his manhood, and rear a family to a high standard of industry, principle, health, and, above all, to high-minded, virtuous manhood and womanhood—for the man who prizes these privileges, the farm must ever hold strong inducements, and just in proportion as we modify our rural education, so as to give our pupils sane ideas of things, they will come to appreciate the advantages of the farm, and the rural population will include an ever-increasing proportion of those who farm, not from necessity, but from choice. As their example and influence become more generally felt, improvement of rural conditions will gain headway, and increase with cumulative force. There never was and never will be an eddying boom in the promotion of agriculture, but we are encour-

aged to believe that conditions are steadily improving, and will improve much faster once we get at the main root of the difficulty, which is our incomplete, unbalanced and irrational rural education.

### RURAL CONDITIONS MUST BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I think the editorial department of "The Farmer's Advocate" was never better conducted than at the present time. More power to your pen! Your fight for agricultural teaching in the schools is worthy of every encouragement. If the theory is put into practical operation, it may have a great influence in creating and maintaining a taste for the pursuit of agriculture as a profession among the pupils of our schools. I, for one, hope so. Under present conditions, it seems uphill work to make farming and country life generally sufficiently attractive to keep the young people on the farm, to say nothing of inducing any considerable proportion of the urban population to choose farming as a profession. The amount of hard, dirty, disagreeable, and apparently never-ending work, which, in spite of improved methods, will require to be done on a farm, always is a potent reason, in the minds of the young people, for choosing some other more congenial occupation. As I remember reading once, in one of our most conservative and reasonable journals, it has always been so, from the beginning to the present; while people can make a living in town, the majority will choose town life, where, for the strong and capable, the brightest prizes are to be obtained. The young people of the country, influenced by what they see of the city, and by the conspicuous success of the young men from the country, sometimes their former neighbors, whom they cannot but know had no more natural ability than they themselves, feel that what man, has done man can do, and see no reason why they, too, should not win the financial success, the social recognition, and all the pleasures, luxuries and opportunities for cultivation which follow success in the city. The number who fail, they won't consider, feeling within themselves that they have, as compared with the city youths, generally greater physical, mental and moral stamina, and consequently greater chances of success. Besides that, I am afraid there is no use trying to deny that, even for those who are only very moderately successful, the perfection and cheapening of modern appliances has brought within their reach conveniences and comforts which even those who are conspicuously successful in the country can scarcely hope to obtain, if they live at any great distance from the city. All this only has its natural effect, whether it is best for the country as a whole or not.

But what we do want in the country (for those of us who remain from necessity, strong love of nature, or independence, or other cause) is a fair chance. We want as small a percentage of protection in the tariff arrangement as is necessary to enable our manufacturers to get along, and no more. We want that element in the protective tariff which would build up and enrich the cities at the expense of the country done away with. As agriculture is the greatest industry in the country, if Government money is to be spent in encouraging industries, we want an amount spent in the encouragement of agriculture proportionate to its importance. We want money spent on roads, and as prizes for good-roads competitions; incidentally, we want the automobile nuisance stopped. We want prizes, and plenty of them, and at regular intervals, for the cleanest and best-kept farms. We want cheap money for municipal and private land draining. We want and must, if possible, have better, cheaper and more prompt transportation and delivery of goods and produce. As an instance, a very much larger and more profitable trade could be done in the Northwest Provinces with Ontario fruit but for the uncertainty in delivery. We need cars specially planned for the carrying of fruit in the winter. Our Government should investigate the probabilities of profitable trade being done with any other country in the world in any line of products, report upon the same, and, where necessary, provide the facilities for trade being done.

We want, wherever possible and reasonable, rural-mail delivery, and either Government telephones or arrangements with private companies, by which every individual in the more thickly settled rural parts of the country will have the opportunity of having telephone connection in his house. The two conveniences alone would prove among the most powerful counter-attractions to city life among those brought up in the country; and the delivery of the mails would be followed in natural course by some plan for keeping country roads open in the winter, when they are closed by being blocked with snow, and prove one of the greatest causes of the isolation complained of in the country.

Our Government has done something, and will