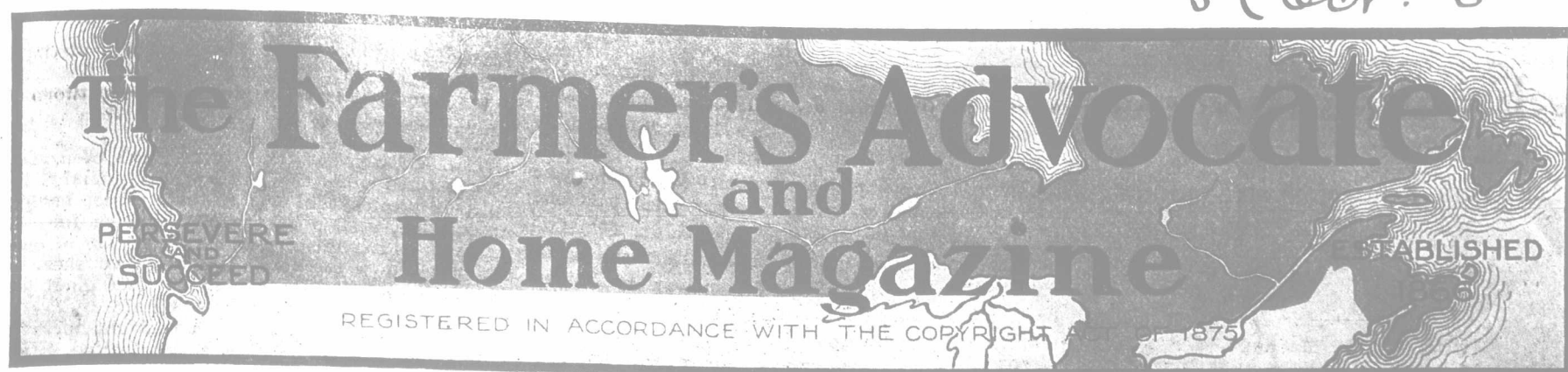


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EDITORIAL.

A great year for docks.

Thoroughness is the secret in the fight with weeds.

Nothing so much agrees with weeds or insects as to be let alone. Keep the cultivator going.

We must resort to other agencies than drouth or drowning, if we expect to subdue wild mustard or ox-eye daisy.

From the way mustard is spreading over the land, a visitor to the country would never guess it could be controlled with such a cheap and effective treatment as bluestone spraying.

For rural Ontario it will be the beginning of a better day when passing the High School Entrance Examination ceases to be the crowning achievement of the public-school course. A change is long overdue.

Before the beginning of the last week in June, cheesemakers were reporting that the milk flow had passed its maximum for the season. Extra feeding means extra cost in production, and the need for a stiffening in the price of all milk products.

American politics are being purged by disturbance. It is a wholesome condition and a favorable sign. Tranquillity is the opportunity of privilege and the danger of public interests. It is always encouraging to see old parties smashed, even though the formation of new ones is inevitable. New parties bring new policies, new purpose and new zeal. Moreover, in aligning themselves with one or another, men are forced to think, and independent thought and action is the salvation of responsible government.

Lord Kitchener, in his first report as Consul-General of Egypt, makes it clear that agriculture is the basic industry of that historic domain, and he is statesman enough to deplore the bookish character of the education imparted in their institutions of learning, by which the most useful faculties of the student are left undeveloped. He discerns the need for manual exercises that will train the eye to accuracy, the hand to skill, and the mind to a sense of the importance of truthfulness in the performance of work. He favors the half-time system of schooling—one-half in the dress-room, and one-half in field labor.

It is astonishing how old ideas and old forms of expression persist. The other day we looked over a new book in a public library, called "The Farmer's Boy Who Became a Bishop." Now, we have no words to say but those of esteem for the high calling of the ministry, but we do protest against the perennial conception of the author, which he crystallizes in these words, "Not content with his lot as a farmer's boy, he wanted to get an education and become a great man." Education is part and parcel of manhood, and there is no place quite so good to acquire it as on the farm, and there are few occupations where education is more necessary than that of the farmer. Nor is it necessary to leave the farm to be great.

Know How Before Learning Why.

The most interested and progressive of our rural population show a desire to know why certain practices are necessary to produce certain results, and it is well that such a desire exists. It is not enough to know how to cultivate. Greater satisfaction comes when we know why it is necessary, but we must not be led away by the latter until the former has been pretty thoroughly instilled into us. It is possible for a practical man, one who knows how and has learned how by years of practical experience, to grow good crops; to produce pork, beef, mutton, milk and poultry at a profit, without knowing all the theoretic connected therewith; without knowing all the intricate points connected with breeding, involving cell divisions, maturation, etc.; without knowing the proportion of the ten or twelve essential elements to plant growth best suited to maximum production and how they are dissolved by the different agencies and made ready for the use of the plant. It is well for all to know these things, but, for greatest success in the learning why it is necessary to know how.

Every year sees a number of people engaged in work other than agriculture become tired of their employment, and they seek to smooth their ruffled feelings, drown all their troubles and get rich quick by going farming. Now, there is no better calling—health, wealth and happiness all considered—than farming, but the average individual must see the money coming in if he is going to be happy in his work. To learn farming, some think, requires nothing but book-learning or a course of lectures on the particular subject in which one is interested. Books and lectures, as practical as they can be made, will never cover the elementary work made familiar to the student only by actual contact with the problems of the soil. Those who seek to know the ins and outs of agriculture, and who know little or nothing about the practical work connected with it, are at a great disadvantage. The agricultural student who has had practical experience in all phases of farm work is in a position to grasp and thoroughly understand and appreciate the education which he gets in college, or from Institute lectures, or from bulletins and books. His practical knowledge is the corner-stone, yes, the complete foundation of his education; and if he lacks that, unless he has a very considerable amount of ballast in the form of good common (rather uncommon) sense, his scientific and theoretical training is likely to fill him so full of airy ambition that he rises above the plane of sound judgment and principles, and his theories burst like bubbles over-distended.

A case in point, where practical experience proved its value was recently cited in these columns by "Scotland Yet." Three sons of a Scottish farmer named Malcolm received their diplomas from the West of Scotland Agricultural College, the two elder standing first and second in their class, and the third, a much younger lad, being well up towards the top. How did they accomplish this? They are sons of a good practical farmer, and knew by experience on their father's farm at home "how" to do things. The technical and scientific training at college was received by fertile brains ready to know "why," and to make the best use of it after gaining the knowledge. There is no place to learn agriculture like the farm, where the every-day problems must be met as they come. After becoming thoroughly

familiar with the practical, there is nothing better for the agriculturist than to study the reason for doing things; in other words, finds out the "why" of it. Reading may be and should be done in connection with the practical work, and after this has been mastered, a college course, a short course or a full course, is better appreciated, better understood, and the student gets far more out of it. College-training alone will not, as a general thing, make good farmers, but practical experience, rounded out, completed and topped off by a college training, should make the very best kind of a business farmer.

Patronize Canadian Records.

There is at the present time an organized effort in progress on the part of the Dominion Government and the Dominion Sheep-breeders' Association, toward the revival of the sheep industry in Canada. Many of our sheep-breeders, individually and collectively are putting their shoulders to the wheel, and are endeavoring to get the discouraged or indifferent breeders to take better care of their flocks, increase their numbers and improve their methods of breeding. A campaign of education is also in progress to help those already breeding sheep, and also to aid any who have had no experience with this class of stock to begin right, and continue to breed, with a view toward improvement.

There is a matter in connection with the registration of sheep which has been considered in the minds of Canadian breeders for some time. One which is of interest to all, as it is ultimately connected with our Canadian National Records, which it should be the aim of every breeder to foster and aid in every way possible. It is this: "Shall we or shall we not record our sheep wholly in our own Canadian National Records?" Opinions are still divided, and many breeders adhere to the idea that recording in the American flock-books is an aid in shipping to the United States. Other breeders, operating on an equally large scale, put forth identically the same arguments in favor of recording in our Canadian records. A fair discussion of all seems to favor the latter opinion.

Here is what the present conditions are: The United States Customs law requires that all pure-bred animals be recorded in the Canadian records before they can obtain free entry into the United States. Thus, if Canadian-bred sheep are not recorded at home, duty must be paid in shipping them to the United States. An animal which will trace in all its lines to a pure-bred recorded animal in the country of the breed's origin is recognized as pure-bred by the United States authorities. Some breeders claim that it is cheaper to pay the duty than to register here. This can scarcely be the case, as at least most of the animals registered here and sold to the United States, would, under existing regulations, be admitted free, and the registration fee is only 50c., whereas the duty is 75c. for a lamb, and \$1.50 for a mature sheep. Whether or not sheep are registered in the United States, should depend altogether upon the purchaser. When Canadian breeders import stock from the Old Land, they expect to record them in Canada themselves. They never ask the man from whom they make the purchase to record them here. Just so the American buyer; if he wishes to record his animal in the United States he should do so, or, if the Canadian seller chooses, he may make the bargain with his buyer to record them over there, as well as here. This is simply