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EDITORIAL.

Near the door of the living room on a successful Kansas ranch is a motto, "The reason men succeed who mind their own business is because they have so little competition."

How true!

In figuring the profit of alfalfa, do not forget to allow a liberal entry for its soil-improving virtue. If skeptical, break up a piece of old run-out alfalfa, plant to corn, potatoes, or even oats, and observe the resulting crop.

So it appears that defective scales have been responsible for no small part of the trouble over weights of cheese consigned to Montreal. Bad scales play the mischief with business, and there are too many cheap ones on the market.

Of all modern conveniences is there a greater one than water on tap in house and stables with bath, closet, and a satisfactory system of sewage disposal? Those privileges are almost priceless, and not beyond the means of the majority of Canadian farmers. Look into the question.

As referring to the mixed-farming sections of Canada, it is safe to characterize as a mismanaged place that farm where the help necessary in summer cannot be kept busily employed the year round, allowing for a week or so of well-earned holidays some time during the winter.

If, as Prof. Wm. H. Day estimates, thirty dollars a year would buy the gasoline necessary to do all the grinding, pumping, cutting, pulping, washing, sawing, cream-separating and churning on a hundred-acre farm, the Hydro-Electric Commission will have to do some figuring to beat it. Of course, hydro still has it on the score of convenience, greater adaptability, and probably on durability of motors. Between the two, it looks as though the day of cheap and convenient farm-power had certainly arrived.

Commercial fertilizers may pay you, but not your neighbor, or may pay your neighbor without proving profitable to you. Moreover, and more especially, the kind which pays your neighbor best may not be the kind which your soil particularly needs. Nature of soil, systems of cropping and manuring, and various other factors, enter into the problem. That a farmer may employ fertilizers with best assurance of profit, he must needs do some individual experimenting on his own fields.

A wealth of information comes to light at the important Provincial and National Conventions held numerous every year and especially at this season. The gist of it, gleaned with care by our editors, assisted when necessary by picked correspondents, appears promptly week by week in "The Farmer's Advocate." With, perhaps, the single exception of the Weekly Sun, no other paper covers these events anywhere nearly so thoroughly, and none ranges the field of the whole country in such a comprehensive manner. As a record of what develops in organized agriculture, "The Farmer's Advocate" invites comparison, as it does on all other points.

Financing Agriculture.

The young and progressive State of Western Australia has, in recent years, been making marked economic progress, which Hon. Sir Newton J. Munn, formerly premier, attributes in large measure to the fact that agriculture has been succeeding dependence upon mining as a productive agency. Railways, for the purpose of agricultural development were constructed, and the land-settlement conditions were liberalized. A third direction in which the State undertook to aid the industries of the soil has been by means of the Government Agricultural Bank, which lends money on approved holdings in sums ranging from £25 to £2,000 for improvements, water conservation, stock, farming implements and any other approved purposes. The success of this policy has been completely demonstrated. The amount advanced by the Bank last year was £400,000, the next heaviest year being that immediately preceding, when £300,00 was lent. As showing the careful way in which the institution is managed and the caution with which advances are made, out of a total amount of £3,000,000 loaned the arrears of repayment have been quite negligible. Last year the profit on the Bank's transactions was £8,061, which brought the reserve fund up to £35,900. There are now 7,101 accounts current on the books, representing as many customers, and the number continues to increase. Last year 461 accounts were closed and 1,334 new accounts opened, leaving a net increase of 873 accounts. The effect of the policy pursued, writes Mr. Reid in "The Empire Review," has been to induce other banks and financial institutions to come into the field for the purpose of lending money on Western Australian agricultural land.

Land-Poor with Ten Acres.

An eye opener truly was the discussion on intensive farming, which took place at the Ontario Experimental Union meeting held two weeks ago in Guelph. To hear one man tell of deriving a net income of \$3,500 a year from 25 acres devoted chiefly to beekeeping, fruit culture and poultry raising, while another told of selling \$2,750 worth of produce from 2½ acres devoted to bees, poultry, fruit and vegetables, and of finding ten acres too much to work properly, was inclined to make a farmer with one or two hundred acres feel bankrupt. At first blush it would look as though the men with large holdings must be entirely on the wrong track. As usual, however, there is another side to the question. In the first place it must be confessed that the men who achieved these results were of the exceptional class, who are reasonably sure to succeed in whatever they undertake. In the second place, let no one assume that their work is easy because their acres are few. Daylight to dark, with an occasional experience on duty all night, is a strain which only a constitution like that of Mr. Krouse could endure, and his, probably, not for long. There is, too, the element of differences in seasons, which, with the beekeeping business in particular, vary greatly. In such lines the conspicuous success of one year is ever liable to be averaged down by the failure of another. The importance of convenient markets and the necessary limitation of demand are other factors which will tend to prevent a universal rush into bees, vegetables, poultry and fruit. Beyond all this again is the question of inclination. Profit is

not the whole thing. There are men who would rather work with bees, chickens, and truck farming than with fields of grain, hay and corn. There are many others whom nothing but an immediate prospect of sudden wealth could induce to embark in these minor branches of husbandry. Many would fail if they did.

We have no fear, therefore, of an early general movement away from the staple lines and broader acres of general farming, but we would commend a consideration of the experiences on page 88 of our last issue to those farmers who are struggling to wrest a living profit from the staple lines of husbandry. The possibility of enlarging cash returns and net profits per acre by adding one or more sidelines is hopeful indeed. In some cases it may be done by selling part of the land, working fewer acres, and looking after them better. In other cases it may be possible by employing a growing family to advantage, or in some instances by hiring more help. Details are for the individual to solve. Certainly there are many land-poor farmers in Canada. We do not begin to realize the possibilities of an acre.

How to Earn More Per Day.

In these days of such extreme scarcity of experienced farm help, it becomes necessary for most farmers to accomplish a great deal of work per man. One cannot afford to be doing very much dollar-a-day work. A day's labor must yield a larger return than that if he is to add much to his bank account. How can he spread himself over a great variety of tasks without denying to any the numerous little attentions so important to success? An everlasting study of convenience at every turn is one requisite, and for illustration we commend the colony-system of rearing poultry, watering with a barrel and feeding once a week by filling hoppers, as described by J. W. Clark at the Ontario Experimental Union. Short cuts can likewise be made to whittle down the labor of cattle and hog feeding, while in crop production a big margin of saving is possible through the use of four-horse implements in place of two-horse ones and two-horse scuffers instead of single ones. Some of these changes entail capital expenditure for equipment, but prove sound economy in the end. Cut down labor cost and earn more per day.

New Use for the Silo.

It was once a current observation in the Canadian West that every season was an exceptional season, in respect to the weather. This involved no end of variation in adapting methods to conditions. In Western Ontario one of the unusual features of the farm practice of 1913 is filling silos in January. This does not mean that the corn has just been ripening under a salubrious winter sky, but it indicates the varied uses to which our old friend, the silo, can be put in the hands of resourceful owners. Men with probably one silo of medium size had far more corn last autumn than could be converted into silage, so it remained shocked in the fields until the first filling was fed out, and the silo was refilled on exceptionally fine days. This is believed to be a safer practice than undertaking to store large quantities of corn fodder, run through the cutting box, into mows, or on the barn floors where a great deal of it is liable to be spoiled through excessive heating. During the past season prob-

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