The Jarmer's Mavocate and Home Magazine Established 1866.

"Persevere and Succeed."

Vol. XLIII.

EDITORIAL

Reading That Educates.

Many subscribers will be reading this page on New Year's Eve, and, while we do not propose to mar the Happy Season by suggesting a burdensome list of New Year's resolutions, there are a few thoughts which may be offered with special propriety at this time. Here is one which, if adhered to, would benefit every farmer from ocean to ocean. It is to farm better, to live better, to think broadly and deeply into the problems of one's occupation and the questions of the day. Clear thinking, wide knowledge, and thorough understanding, together, of course, with moral principles, are the secrets alike of successful agriculture and good citizenship. Knowledge, understanding and thought presuppose sources of information and a constant supply of thought-food, for the mind which has nothing to think about cannot think. Thought-food is most readily and abundantly obtained by most of us in the form of reading, combined with close observation. Travel is a great educator, but few of us can travel as much as we would like.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross remarked in a recent address that if our young people read more we would have less need of universities. It is, indeed, quite true, providing the reading be wholesome, thoughtful and good. But what shall we read-local gossip, fiction, sensation, trash? It would take a long time to educate one with such a pabulum. Not that we despise fiction, for it has a place, and a large place, in our libraries. Not that we would have people oblivious, either, to the events of their neighborhoods, nor that we would shut their eyes to the panorama of human activity as reflected in the newspaper press. But he who is satisfied with these things, without ever delving into deeper, systematic reading, will never count as much of a force in the world of action or the councils of men. Let us also read books which induct us into the economic and social problems of men, books which enable us to understand the science of our occupation, books which cultivate habits of clear and systematic thinking. Light reading may serve to lead us through the gate of literature, but let us not Let us reach out remain always at the gate. for heavier and more instructive reading that will satisfy our minds.

Confining ourselves for the present to two lines, economics and agriculture, may we suggest a very few standard works which every intelligent farmer should have. In economics, Henry George's two books, "Progress and Poverty" and "Protection and Free Trade"; Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations"; the works of John Stuart Mill. In agriculture, "Feeds and Feeding," by Henry; "Feeding Farm Animals," by Shaw; "Live-stock Judging," by Craig; "The Horse Book," by Johnstone; "Physics of Agriculture" and "Ventilation," both by Prof. F. H. King; also several splendid works by Prof. Shaw, notably, "Clovers" and "Soiling Crops and the Silo." To these, many others might be added, but those enumerated will afford an excellent start. Let a man once get interested in this class of reading and his interests broaden, his understanding increases, his mind expands, and his soul rises above petty neighborhood gossip and chitchat. Let him supplement this by the reading of first-class periodicals—not only the best agricultural journals of general circulation, but leading magazines-and he will have laid the foundation for an efficient and satisfying education that will grow and develop as the years

LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 31, 1908

ing, better living, broader interests, nobler life.

Vanishing Timber Supply.

In the whole of Canada it will be difficult to find as much as 600 billion feet of saw material, although there are unmeasured quantities of pulpwood. If the present mill capacity only is to be supplied, this stock could supply them probably for more than a century, but a growing demand is to be anticipated. Our neighbors to the south are rapidly nearing the exhaustion of their timber supplies. When we are informed that their annual demand at present is for 40 billion feet of saw material, we may realize that our supplies are indeed scanty. We may double the estimates, and yet, with the increasing use of wood materials. we could not supply the needs of the United States for more than twenty or thirty years. This means that prices for timber are bound grounds, the farmer must take an interest in

So wrote Dr. Fernow in the Christmas Number focus was concentrated on the Canadian farmer's interest in forestry by H. R. McMillan, of the Dominion Forestry Department, who, speaking at the Ontario Experimental Union, pointed out that there is no hardwood in Canada save in Ontario, Southern Quebec, and a little in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Already, hardwood is being brought in from Michigan.

These facts bring home to us with telling force the pregnant words of President Roosevelt in his last annual message to Congress, delivered on December 8th:

"If there is any one duty which more than another we owe it to our children and our children's children to perform at once, it is to save the forests of the country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of the natural resources of the country, especially the soil, the rivers and the forests. Any really civilized nation will so use all of these three great national assets that the nation will have the benefit in the future."

Exempt Farm Woodland from Taxation.

The outstanding facts brought out in the foregoing article spell two injunctions in bold letters: First, the supreme and urgent necessity of farseeing, energetic and comprehensive public forest policy; secondly, the prudence of every farmer preserving at least a portion of his land, more especially that not well suited to cultivation, in what promises, ere many years, to be the best and most profitable crop of all-timber. That such land, preserved from injury, and well cared for, will prove profitable in its returns from timber alone, is a reasonable expectation, as Dr. Fernow shows by a conservative calculation. Besides this, we must not forget the beautification of the farm and countryside, the value of the woods as a wind-break, rendering the climate more agreeable, and protecting neighboring fields of springs, equalization of the flow of streams, of other districts are impelled to pronounce fruitand affording harboring places for our valuable growing a failure. friends, the birds.

tion of a wood-lot is a general advantage to the pruning and thorough spraying, insure a fair community in which it is located, the Ontario crop of high-grade fruit, which is disposed of to

silver his head. This, then, is our New Year's Legislature, in 1906, passed a law (amended in wish: More good systematic and periodical read- 1907 so as to give effect to the original intention), empowering township councils to pass bylaws exempting from taxation unpastured woodland up to one acre in ten of the farm area, but not to exceed twenty-five acres held under a single ownership. A few easy conditions are specified as to thickness of stand and character of growth thereon. We believe there is urgent need and ample justification for such a by-law in nearly every township in the settled parts of old Ontario, and in some of the other Eastern Provinces as well. Ontario readers should agitate the matter, and have the necessary exemption bylaws passed at once.

No. 849.

Farm Accounts.

New Year's Day is a good time to commence keeping accounts. While a complete system of bookkeeping is not easy to work out on a farm, it is at least practicable to keep a few elementary to continue to rise, and here, if on no other accounts. For instance, a cashbook would be of much service as showing just what the money is being spent for and whence the income flows. And it would often be of value for reference in provof "The Farmer's Advocate," while a still sharper ing the payment of a disputed account. In law, the odds are strongly with the party who can show a record in black and white.

Then, there is no reason why one should not have a household-expenses account, a poultry account, and approximate accounts for all the other stock on the farm, from cows to pigs. While it is, indeed, difficult to determine to a nicety the debits and credits of such, a record may be kept that is of great value in determining what branch of operations is paying best, and discovering what line or lines should be curtailed or amended. Again, everyone should have a precise memorandum of debts, notes, interest charges and other obligations owing to others or due to him. It would save many a reproach, inconvenience and impairment of credit as a result of tardy payment. Every farmer needs to keep a grip on his business, and some system of farm accounts is essential to that end.

To Popularize Apple-growing.

Throughout the farming sections of Ontario are apple orchards ranging in size from half an acre to ten acres or more that are not returing sufficient fruit each year to warrant the farmer in leaving that land planted to orchard trees. Occasionally a big yield is obtained, due to an extra favorable season. But even with the big yield small returns are derived, because the local market soon is glutted, and, buyers taking advantage of this condition, prices are low. Under such conditions, the unanimous verdict is that it does not pay to grow apples.

Contrast this with the enthusiasm that prevails among farmers in the vicinity of Forest, Simcoe, Chatham, Oshawa, and several other points, when apple-growing is the subject under consideration. There is little difference in the average areas planted to orchard; the varieties grown are no more suitable; the men in charge are not more capable. Everything considered, there is no sound reason why those of one district from evaporation, the preservation of the flow should be cheered by paying returns, while those

Why is there this dimerence? Co-operation is Every consideration points to the advantage the main force in making certain districts satisand wisdom of each farmer taking care of his fied with their apple orchards. With perfect orwood-lot without special monetary inducement; ganization and a competent man whom all trust but, in recognition of the fact that the preserva- in charge, skilled cultural methods, judicious