

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

ESTABLISHED

No. 978

Vol. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 22, 1911

EDITORIAL.

As a rule, hard-fisted men are the easiest "suckers."

Quality, rather than speed, should be the paramount consideration in hay-making. Choice hay means lighter feed bills next winter.

An Iowa contemporary sapiently advises its readers that if they want to "fill their belly with the East wind," it knows of no quicker way than to read the speeches now being made in Congress on the subject of the tariff, and sown broadcast at the public expense, the Government paying for the paper and printing, the postage and mailing.

In Canada we have been agitating for a plan of rural education that would conserve and develop child interest in the farm. In Germany they propose to go one step further. At a meeting last February, the German Board of Agriculture adopted a resolution referring to the grave consequence of rural depopulation, and recommending agricultural instruction in the army as an efficacious need for maintaining a bond between rural recruits and their original profession.

Why is it that, if a farmer walks into the shop or store of the man in the city at this season of the year, the first question he will be asked will be, "How are the prospects for crops this season?" All business men in our towns and cities are interested in this important question, because they know well that when the farmer is prosperous they are prosperous. It is from the land that the living of all is obtained, and it is well that the man who operates our agricultural lands be well paid for his labors by reaping an abundant harvest. When the man in the country closes the year with an empty purse, the business man is often in much the same state. No wonder, then, that the townsman is interested in crops, for, in an agricultural country like our own the success of all business depends largely on the prosperity of the rural districts which are directly dependent on the crops from year to year.

In connection with the reciprocity proposals, it is unwarrantable to assert, as some of the anti-reciprocist press have undertaken to do, that the Canadian farmer would be ruined or disastrously affected by free competition in his home market (through the operation of the Favored-nations Treaty) from the farmers of Japan, Colombia, Sweden, France, Venezuela, Russia, Switzerland, Bolivia, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Argentina, Spain, and the United States. The fact is that he already competes with the farmers of those countries in the free market of Great Britain, where his wheat, cattle, cheese, pork, apples and other products abundantly hold their own and command sale for whatever quantities may be forthcoming. If we can compete in Britain, reached by a long railway journey, surely we can compete in Canada, where transportation gives us a natural protection. The truth is, Canadian agriculture has little to lose by the opening of her markets to all the agricultural countries of the world, but considerable to gain by the opening of the American market to dairy products, live stock, barley, fruit, and other articles.

Farming with Ten Acres.

The story of one year's returns (1910) from a five-acre farm, related by an esteemed contributor, was a feature of the last Christmas "Farmer's Advocate" greatly appreciated by its readers. It set people thinking about the unrealized profits of small farms thoroughly worked, advantage being taken of the best available markets. The clear receipts from vegetables, milk, poultry, fruit, not reckoning what was consumed at home, and all the satisfaction and enjoyments of the year that could hardly be put into figures, amounted to \$564.82, or considerably over \$100 per acre. Now comes another record, "Ten Acres Enough," to prove that intensified farming on small areas can be made not only to support a large family, but yield a handsome profit, health, freedom and happiness, as well. It is a matter-of-fact account by Edmund Morris of his practical experience with a ten-acre farm. Up to 40 years of age, Mr. Morris had been in business in Philadelphia, but it had proven unprofitable and unsatisfactory in every way, and happily, at last, his misfortunes drove him to the land. Finally he secured for \$1,000 eleven acres of fairly good New Jersey land, but the premises were in a ramshackle state and a wilderness of weeds. The location was advantageous, not far from a smart town of some 5,000 people, and Mr. Morris made the best of his situation. The introduction to the little book in which the story is told is written by our old friend, Dr. Israel P. Roberts, formerly director of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, whose occasional visits to Canadian dairy conventions, years ago, were appreciated for the Yankee humor and concise, inspiring talks he gave on cow-improvement, salvation by tillage, and on saving manure to apply where it will do most good. He endorses the teaching of this book, that the mistaken ambition for owning twice (often ten times) as much land as one can thoroughly manure or properly cultivate, is the great agricultural sin of the United States. Dr. Roberts has spent several years making a careful study of Californian conditions, and is thoroughly convinced that permanent prosperity can only come to the farmers of the Pacific coast by breaking up the big ranches into small holdings. The four factors for a highly-productive farm are set down as good seed, sufficient moisture, abundant available plant food, and rational tillage.

Mr. Morris appears to have followed this plan of campaign on his little farm, and he started with \$2,000 cash, one-half of which paid for the place, and the other half for stock and outfit. He had a sensible, cheerful wife and six children. He lived on the farm, which he and the family worked, with extra hired help when needed. He bought good, necessary implements, and spent on the start \$200 for rich stable manure, which he spread over ten acres. Peaches did well in that locality, so he planted six acres; then raspberries and strawberries between, besides other fruits and vegetables. He let his wife pick out the first cow, but for once she got badly cheated at \$30, for no one could milk the beast, and they were glad to get rid of her at \$20. The next one cost \$50, but she gave as much milk as two ordinary cows, and only ate as much as one. Clover and corn were grown in abundance, and the cow was coaxed along with bran, sliced pumpkins, cabbage leaves, pulped roots, and other dainties. To use up the skim milk and other waste products profitably, a stock of pigs were kept, the latter thriving particularly well on green corn in the stalk. They proved to be real money-makers.

In town, the family milk bill had been a dollar per week, and now it did not cost them over 60 cents per week to keep the cow. They used a lot more milk, too, and better milk, doing away with a great deal of tea and coffee drinking. In fact, Mr. Morris describes the cow as the uncannily saint of the barnyard.

The weeds were, of course, his most serious problem—hot-weather weeds, cold-weather weeds, wet-weather weeds, and dry-weather weeds—in endless succession. These being beyond the capacity of the hoe to conquer, a \$6 cultivator was secured, which, with one man and a horse, did the work of six men, and saved hundreds of dollars. Plenty of books and papers were found indispensable, but it was discovered that observation is decidedly necessary, also, because of the many variations arising in the conditions under which work is done.

Mr. Morris kept alive to the needs of the market, and made many hits by supplying customers with fancy sorts of strawberries, blackberries and other products, like early tomatoes, on which he grew an acre or more of tomatoes. Sweet corn made a clear profit of \$120 per acre. Speaking was found to be another money-maker. Speaking of strawberries, after 30 years' experience in growing them it was found impossible to surfeit the human stomach. The more people got, the more they wanted.

His outlay the first year, not reckoning what was chargeable to capital account, amounted to \$155, and his sales of products amounted to \$791, leaving a net profit of \$336. They lived well, did not owe a dollar at the end of the season, and had enough fodder, etc., to carry the son, and had enough for the second year his stock through till spring. The second year his expenditures amounted to \$709.80, and receipts \$1,734.86, over \$800 being from strawberries off the six acres where the peach trees were growing, leaving a surplus of \$1,025.06. At the end of the second year, when every store bill was paid, they had \$458.06 in cash left. The third year his outlay ran up to \$806.06, but his receipts totalled \$2,133.08, leaving him a profit of \$1,327.02. And so it went on from year to year, and, in spite of wet and dry seasons, and occasional total failures with some crops, he never lost money on a year's business.

One season he tried a special venture by buying in twenty heifers at \$22 each, to calve the following spring, for the purpose of making a big manure pile. They were wintered in a cheap, rough shed. Counting every item of expense, including \$60 paid for corn stalks, and \$40 to a boy for helping to attend to them, the total ran up to \$708, and he sold them for \$710, leaving a cash profit of \$2, and \$250 worth of manure on his own premises, ready for use, a clear saving with which to begin the next year's operations.

Now, everybody cannot go into small fruits and truck farming, and there is no danger that they will ever try to do so, for it means a good supply of energy and skill; but, speaking generally, Mr. Morris has observed that the smaller the farm, the more thoroughly it is worked, and the greater the profits and more comforts enjoyed. He does not believe in staying in debt long. Economize and hurry out of it, is his advice. If misfortune overtakes you, he says, do not sit down and mope, but put on more steam, go ahead. If obstacles are met, climb over, dig under, or go round, but never turn back. Be good-natured; do not pull a long face, for the sun will shine to-morrow. Be happy, and impart happiness to others. Be as prudent as you please, but do not pucker your countenance into wrinkles