

addition, what he may be able to show himself worth by certificate from past employers, or better still, from actual demonstration on trial. He should, in addition, get an allowance of firewood to be prepared during his off hours. The employer who gives him employed the free use of a horse or even the frequent use of the same other than for regular, not spasmodic, church-going purposes, is, as we see it, acting very injudiciously, as he is but encouraging his employed in Sabbath breaking and in various other forms of dissipation which are certain to react adversely on his own interests, else experience in the past has not told the truth.

Showing an interest in the direction of the material comforts of the employed would encourage them to locate permanently, especially where there is a family, and the desire of having it so would render the latter more attentive to the interests of his employer. The children too would grow up into the employment of the farm, where this was mutually desired, and the cosy little cottage would not only prove an anchor to the married nomad, saving them all the expense and annoyance of frequent removals, but also sparing the employer the risk of engaging untried workmen.

It is not creditable to the employers of the farm, the material provision that has been made, or we might better say that has not been made for the employed of the farm in the past. Men who labor in the capacity of the employed are none the less men for that, but rather the more. The toil that turns their hands into horn and their muscles into leather has been forever dignified by the labors of the Man of Nazareth, and where faithful to their trust they are worthy of double honor from the very lowliness of their position. Standing fully erect, with all the attributes of a full-grown manhood, they can demand of the farmers a shelter for her who left the world for them, and those whom God has given them, and they can demand it as a matter of right rather than as one of favor.

The number of holidays should be fixed less by previous arrangement than by the nature of the service rendered. The faithful workmen should have more than the few holidays given by law, and the man who tries to shirk his work should get none but such as the law gives him, in virtue of the universal law of retributive justice that pervades the universe.

In sickness the same rule should obtain. Custom here, so far as we can glean, allows the employed to lose his time for a longer or shorter period of duration. Where the service rendered has been faithful, the farmer should not be narrow in this matter, but if of an opposite character, the unworthy man should drink of the cup of his own mixing.

A sore evil prevails in reference to bargain-making, the remedy for which is entirely in the hands of the farmers themselves, and the application of which would prove very materially to the advantage of the faithful class of working men. As a rule, every man in hiring seems to think himself worth as much as every other man; it seems men cannot or will not see themselves as others see them. There is, therefore, usually but little difference made in the amount of wages paid, although there is a wide gap in the nature and amount of the service rendered. This course is wrong; it is unjust to the deserving laborer and unfair in the end to the farmer, as it puts a false premium on defective labor. Untried men should be engaged only on trial, and that trial should not be too short, as most men can be very useful during a short trial term; when found wanting they should be put upon a proper wage, not accepting which they should be allowed to go. The universal adoption of this plan would soon turn all those followers of the labor camp out of the ranks, or lead them to mend their ways, or else to recognize the justice of the principle which they now ignore, viz., that there is a difference in the value of the services of working men. These should be graded according to the nature of services rendered, but unless this is done by the farmer it will never be done, nor should the latter be slow to recognize merit and reward it; a faithful day's work in his absence should never fail to draw forth his commendation on his return; it does so much lessen the toilsomeness of life to know that we are appreciated, without the expression of this sometimes, from somebody, life becomes one long day of ever deepening shadow.

We doubt the wisdom of allowing the faithful servant to state the amount of increase that he expects at the period of re-engaging. It may be better for the employer to anticipate this by offering an advance where he feels that circumstances in justice warrant

the same. The impression that such action would convey to the employed would be, that the employer wishes to do the right thing, and when the day might come that he would refuse further advance, that he was certainly conscientious in such refusal. At all events, pay the worthy farm laborer an equitable sum, reward him suitably for his fidelity.

(To be continued.)

### Robbing the Land.

[This paper was read by the Editor before the Ontario Creamery Association, held in Toronto, 24th February of last winter.]

(Continued from September.)

But who have robbed our country of the elements of its fertility? Every one, we answer, engaged in the tilling of the soil. If an edict of banishment were pronounced on all who are guilty here, the land would return to its primeval wildness. The beaver might again build his dam on the silent stream in the meadow, and the wild fox dig his hole unscared. This may seem too sweeping a charge, but "things are not always what they seem." Who, we ask, has not allowed some of his manual resources to go to waste? Who does not allow some of the fatness of his soil to flow down the streams in autumn and in springtime, from lack of underdraining? and who has made the most of the bones that pave the pathway to his kennel, or of the contents of the cesspool with its concentration of the elements of growth?

But the offence here is one of degree; while some have sinned gently, scarcely chargeable with guilt, others have sinned greatly. They have sinned, and robbed and starved the soil that fed them, till, in its enfeebled condition, it cannot produce even half a crop, and yet uncomplaining nature, with a generosity that never fails, does what it can still to reward the efforts of its short-sighted oppressors. A motley crowd of offenders we have arraigned at this bar. The rank and file are sturdy yeoman, but amongst them are professional men and even legislators. Read to them the strong indictment charged with robbing the country of the elements of fertility, and of thus crippling its resources. Pronounce the stern sentence, every word of which is just—because ye have done this the land is cursed and will henceforth respond but feebly to your labours, therefore ye "shall spend your strength for naught, and your labour for that which is not bread."

In what way has the land been robbed? In many ways. The sins here have been those of omission as much as those of commission; of the former class is that indifference which allows the muck, where now the cattle are prone to mire, to lie amid its watery saturation instead of draining it and putting a share of it on upland soils. Of the same class is all waste in the handling of manures, whether in the solid or the liquid state, and indeed, the allowing of any material on the place in the shape of plant food to go to waste that will more than repay the handling of the latter class; in the growing of coarse grains, and selling them off the farms, or even of wheat in undue degree. A woeful mistake it is which cannot be practiced long in any country with out a retributive punishment being meted out. The return in such a case will be on the descending scale, until the farmer who follows it must abandon the lands which have helped to make him rich—a legacy to some successor whose life will be one long struggle with the unproductiveness of a plundered soil. A very important feature connected with this spoliation system in the past is this: that it has clothed itself in a magnificent garb, which, more than the deceitful mirage of the desert, deceives the would-be yeoman travellers by its false glitter. Men have grown rich by the process, and they have been set down in the estimate of onlookers as successful farmers, while the truth is those men grew rich by the energy with which they reaped and sold the crops of other years, produced for them by deposits that were being made in the soil when Columbus was searching for another world. The sons of many of those men are now to be found in the valley of the Saskatchewan, or what is more to be regretted, behind the counters of the dry goods man and the grocer. They say "the old homestead has lost its charms, the seasons have become so unfavorable of late that they cannot do more than make a living," hence the desertion of that old homestead, and the snapping of the cord that moored them to the dearest spot on earth. What is successful farming? Ordinarily it is considered to be making money on the farm, without any regard to the nature

of the process or methods. This definition, so universally accepted, is most illusive. A money-making farmer may be at the same time a land robber. Some of these experts have done their work of ruin in one place, and then moved away to do it again in another. These men are systematic robbers of the soil. We freely admit that they have been good neighbors, with many estimable qualities, but we deny that they have been good citizens in every sense of the term, and this paper will have done good work, if it only expose this delusion as to what constitutes a successful farmer. The fleecer of the soil has been assisted in his success as stated in another form, by the catering of the elements of forgotten ages, and he hands down a legacy—a robbed farm—to a successor, whose efforts during the whole of life will not undo the work of spoliation that he has accomplished. The idler who allows his lands to lie a common is in a sense a better citizen than the landspoiler, for he is at least allowing its producing capacity to remain unimpaired. If the grain grown on such farms were not exported, the loss to the country might not be so great, but we know that a great part of it is.

We must therefore fling down this common acceptance of the definition of a successful farmer from the pedestal on which it has long stood, and replace it by a true one. A successful farmer is one who has made money at his business, leaving his lands at the same time, at least as fertile as he found them.

Tried by this measure, how many successful farmers have we? They would form a less numerous regiment than that of the giants of the Prussian king, and yet we have some of this class, and what is most encouraging, the number is rapidly increasing. Yet, be it remembered, no one growing grain exclusively, remote from town or city, can enrol his name here. This corps is recruited from the ranks of stockmen, and although the standard of requirement is not severe, the grain-grower cannot come up to it.

Exporting grain may be a source of gain in the meantime, but what of the results? In the many millions of bushels of coarse grains exported last year, how much of the elements of plant food are sent across the sea never to come again? One could almost wish that the wheels of the exporting ships would crush one after another, if there were no other way of mending this practice, which reacts so ruinously on the productiveness of our country. And what mean those men who are selling store cattle, to be finished in other lands, and who send after them the grain to fatten them there? Let Mr. Moreton Frewing send over his Wyoming stores if he can get an outlet for them, but ours we want at home. Though he is anxious to send Wyoming plant food to Britain, there is no reason why we should desire to send Canadian. We have read somewhere, that once upon a time, the goose that laid the golden egg was slain by her avaricious owner, but, comparing this act with that of the sellers of store cattle, we fear he has an abundant following in Ontario. Cattlemen of Canada, keep those stores at home. Canadian phosphates and Canadian potash are required quite as much in Canada as in Britain.

We shall now say a word as to the method of sustaining fertility in our soils. We have already said that we think the fertility of a country may be sustained, and we add here, without the importation of manures. Nature in unoccupied countries has taught us this lesson. There is in these an accumulation of fertility, where the increase in quantity comes from, we do not now stay to enquire, but the fact just referred to makes it plain to us, that the store of plant-food may be increased, rather than lessened. If nature can, unaided, recruit her productive resources, and also increase them, without the aid of hidden stores locked up in the bosom of the earth, why may not nature, aided by the hand of man, who, in addition to the husbanding a right of the products of nature, can add to her resources by unlocking those buried stores, and utilizing them as plant-food, and all the more so where a filter is made in the form of under-drains, to retain the fertilizing elements in rain-water, and in the air which it contains; were it otherwise, the outlook for the future of the world would be grave indeed. Its growing population would some day have to face short supplies, and be put on an insufficient ration, the product of lands less and less productive. But, with the inherent power in nature to increase her stores, if man is only true to himself, this realization would not be feared. Various methods may be adopted, either singly or in conjunction; usually the latter course will prove the most efficacious. By it we mean having recourse to the growing of green crops to be