

AGRICULTURAL.

How To Make Farming Pay.

BY E. E. ROCKWOOD.

Yes, even farming may be made to pay if rightly managed. In the first place not every one can be a successful farmer. It takes brains and a liking for the business to make farming pay as well as anything else. Next to be considered is the adaptability of the farm. Study its possibilities. If it is best suited to the raising of wheat then raise wheat for the main crop. If best suited to potatoes, then let it be potatoes. Should your farm be grazing land mostly that only with difficulty can be cultivated let your energies be bent in the direction of obtaining the best possible results from the keeping of stock. If stock, then consult your individual tastes as to whether you will make a specialty of raising horses, cattle or sheep.

I think one is certain to do better at that special branch of farming to which he takes most naturally. Some men like best to take care of horses. All other stock is handled only under protest. Horses they like and with them they will best succeed. Another man may think nothing of horses except for the work he requires of them. He probably will feed and water them regularly but to clean off a horse—ugh! he can't bear to do it. That man will never make a success at raising horses. His natural taste goes to something else. Possibly in a good dairy cow, now, he takes great delight. That then is his line of work. Let him engage in dairying. If near a large city, he will probably make more money by selling milk than by selling butter. Or it may be he can sell cream, which leaves the sweet milk on the farm to feed the pigs and calves and without which they can not be successfully reared. But, whether it be milk or butter, or cream, let it be the very best of its kind, and never for a single time lower the standard of excellence. Make a reputation for your product that will assure it a welcome in the great world of trade.

A fit companion for the dairy business is poultry keeping. They go well together. What milk the calves do not need will be welcomed by the hens and speedily converted into eggs.

Or, it may be that our farmer sees money in sheep—and there has been for a number of years. Then let him look well before investing, and be sure to get the kind in which he thinks there is the most profit, whether fine wool or coarse, and if coarse, then what particular breed. Fine wools do well for some farmers. They combine wool with pedigree (two parts of the latter to one of the former), and depend chiefly upon sales to bring the profit. The wool, although much heavier, does not bring so much per pound as the coarser grades, on account of the amount of oil and gum which it contains. Coarse wool sheep are very prolific, and the chief profit in raising them arises from the sale of the lambs, of which the ewes will often raise three pieces, two being the rule.

Pure bred sheep are preferable to grades, the same as pure bred horses or cattle are superior to grades. There is a money value attached to a pure bred animal of any kind which a scrub can never possess. If one's purse will not allow of an extensive purchase when buying, be content with a few well-bred animals, which in a few years will probably so increase that you will be well supplied, and far more satisfactorily than would be the case with a larger number of less valuable ones. This rule applies to all animals. If buying a cow, let it be a thoroughbred if possible, and if you cannot afford that buy a heifer calf, which may be the nucleus of a valuable herd.

Next in consideration for our farmer who would make money on his farm comes the item of expenditure, for no matter how good a farmer he may be, how good crops he may grow, or how much he may make, if he spends more than his income his years of prosperity are few.

Living within one's income may mean a great deal of self-denial. It may mean going without many things to which we have always been accustomed and which have always been considered indispensable. It may mean wearing last year's clothing and riding in a lumber wagon. But to the man or woman who is bound to succeed these are small matters compared to going into debt.

"Poverty rides on debt's back," poor Richard says, and it is sure to come true sooner or later. Pay day may be put off, but it is sure to come some time. It is easy to mortgage the farm, too easy indeed; but oh how much harder to pay it off.

Interest must come whether crops are good or bad; whether prices are high or low, it must be paid. Sleepless nights and anxious days are the inheritance of him whose home is mortgaged and no prospect of payment. It is not much, a few hundred dollars, perhaps, but it seems ten times as much when expectations fail and the plans we laid so surely, as we thought, for payment, come to naught. Beware then of debt, you who would make money on the farm. Buy what you can pay for and therewith be content.

Another consideration to which our farmer must give heed is hired help. More or less help must be hired by the average farmer. None is blessed with a family of boys it seems, perhaps, hardly economy to keep them in school and pay for hired help. Yet that is the best thing to do. Until the boy has at least acquired a common school education he should not be required to stay out of school to do work on the farm—except, perhaps, for an occasional day.

In hiring help it is always economy to hire a good man. One that can be relied upon, one who will work just as well alone in the back lot as he will when with his employer's eye upon him. For such a man you will probably have to pay good wages, but it will pay in the end.

Our successful farmer, too, must look well after his farm implements. They must not be left out in wind, or storm, or sun. A slight shelter is all that is necessary, but under that they must go as soon as they are brought from the field each time. A wagon left out to the weather one season is damaged more than it would be by a year's wear if kept under cover.

He must also look out for possible happenings which sometimes eat up a year's profit. A mire hole in the pasture may mean the loss of the best cow. The cow due to calve should not be exposed to cold or stormy weather; milk fever may ensue and make short work of her.

A craving for young pigs. Better look out for such things. Perhaps the horses are turned into an enclosure with cattle. It is an easy matter for one of them to be gored—and there goes your horse—laid up for weeks entailing an expensive veterinary bill if not killed outright.

Many, indeed, are the ways in which the profit may be quickly knocked out of farming, and it behooves the owner to keep a sharp eye on possible happenings. Don't expect to have "good luck." He who does is he who attends strictly to business—there is no luck about it.

And, finally, be cheerful and happy. Don't be so eager to make money that you can see no pleasure in life. Don't let the dollar in front of your eye obscure the beautiful world around you. Take recreation, not necessarily an expensive trip, but just a day off with your family, perhaps. Keep yourself in touch with the world. Laugh—keep young-hearted and you may be a happy as well as a money-making farmer.

Dry Corn Fodder.

Lewis Clark of Beloit, Wis., recommends dry corn fodder for small farmers who have not the means to build a silo. He thinks that much failure in the use of dry fodder has been occasioned by not cutting early enough, by too small shocks, and by not having them well balanced or well tied at the top. In the winter he cuts the fodder, mixing the grain with it and stirring in enough water to stick the grain to the cut corn fodder. If it stands and soaks a little before feeding, all the better. He says it is always sweet with no loss and no injury to butter or cheese. He lets the corn stand out till late into the cold weather.

The question of an antidote for an electric shock is now being agitated. An amateur investigator is reported to have found that the insertion of aromatic spirits of ammonia into the body of a bird which had received a shock from an electric wire brought the animal back to life after all signs of animation had disappeared.

The postal telegraph system of Great Britain and Ireland is now, it is said, the most gigantic and complete organization for the transmission of messages in the world. Its staff number 3453, the annual amount expended in salaries and wages is \$322,900, and the total number of telegrams passing through the office per annum is 32,537,779.

The electric power plant at the World's fair is to be made up of all the principal American makes of boilers, engines and dynamos, the units being of all sizes up to 1000 horse power. The design call for the delivery of over 30,000 horse power in steam, which gives some idea of the size of this power distribution station.

How to Get a Good Herd.

Prof. Eastman at a recent dairy conference said: There are not good cows enough for us all, even if we have the cash to pay for them, which many of us have not, but we may have them much quicker than we think if we will but make the effort. The expense will be found small. Time is the chief factor. All, or nearly all native herds contain one, two or more cows that are not only persistent milkers, giving milk nine or ten months, but a good flow of it, and containing four or more percent of butter fat. The scale and test will introduce you to them. Then purchase a thoroughbred bull from a good butter-family of a butter-making breed. Then breed these tested cows to him. Take good care of the heifers; have them come in milk when they are 22 to 24 months old; use the scale, Babcock test and pencil. Then, if you find they are an improvement upon mothers, keep them and breed them one more to the same sire. I would not inbreed further. If these heifers do not prove to be better than their mothers, change the sire and begin again with the old cows. I have pursued this course, and have raised the production of my herd of 50, from less than 150 pounds of butter each to nearly 300 pounds. I am using a thoroughbred Guernsey, and I have a number of his daughters that are giving much promise.

You may dog a cow, sheep or pig out of your grain field, meadow or garden, but you will never succeed in dogging the codling moth out of your apple orchards. You will have to spray him with some of the insecticides to dislodge and rout him out.

Any strange motion or noise that attracts the attention of the cow away from the operation of milking has its effects upon the secretion of milk, which is now pretty well known goes on during the time of the drawing of the milk.—(The London) Dairy.

Feeding for a Purpose.

In an address at the Ontario dairymen's convention Prof. J. P. Roberts said: "The calf should be kept growing from the day of its birth till maturity, and the two extremes of over and under-feeding should be intelligently avoided. Lack of nutrition must always be distinguished from healthy growth, and healthy growth from fatness. As between over-feeding and under-feeding the latter is preferable. A calf overfed until two years of age is almost certainly ruined, always injured, while a calf underfed will have its milking qualities only slightly injured and its normal size perceptibly reduced. This in some cases may act beneficially in reducing the size of animals which are inclined to be too large, and if the after-feeding is correct and the quantity of food fed liberal, no serious injury will occur, especially if the heifer is bred young and correctly fed through her entire first milking season. The skill in feeding the heifer in her two or three-year-old form, especially the former, will determine most certainly the character of the future cow."

Not Guilty.

Teacher—Who was Christopher Columbus?
Fritz—I dunno
"Who discovered America?"
"Well, I never did. You can't lay the blame on me."

A Good Reason.

Mrs. Takem: "Hub! Pretty condition for you to come down in! Been drinking have you!"
Mr. Takem: "All (hic) mistake, m'dear. Iah shonily—"
Mrs. Takem: "Hub! Haven't, eh? Then why do you talk as if your mouth were full of mush."
Mr. Takem: "Caush a shoft ansher turnsh away wraht, m'dear."

Forest Preservation.

It cannot be denied that the Toronto Globe is doing good service to Canada by the series of letters it is publishing regarding the market for our farm stuff in England. Its latest has regard to hay and the question is very fully discussed as to whether it would pay to ship from this country to Great Britain. Two or three weeks ago Sir Charles Tupper addressed a circular letter from the High Commissioner's office in London to a carefully selected list of firms dealing in hay, in which, in view of the high price likely to prevail during the next few months, he asked whether a ready market existed for Canadian hay, and for any suggestions as to the lines upon which such a trade might be developed. By the courtesy of Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Colmer, the secretary to the High Commissioner's office, the Globe's correspondent was permitted to examine a number of the replies received in response to this request.

Messrs. Henderson and Co. of Westminster, state that in their judgment Canadian hay of good quality is worth eighty shillings a ton and that there is practically an unlimited demand for goods of the best character. Prices they think, will rule fairly high between January and May. They favor Canadian hay being delivered in lighters at the London wharves and urge that the bales should be tied up with strong cord, and they should not be over 112 pounds in weight. As this firm had some experience years ago with American hay their advice is specially valuable. Messrs. Allnut of Nine Elms say that a good mixture of timothy and clover is worth about £4 10s per ton at the Albert dock, Tilbury, good grass hay will fetch £4 per ton. They endorse Messrs. Henderson's preference for smaller bales, in favor of which they say there is a difference of two or three shillings per ton in the market prices. They find that the freight charged by steamers from Montreal is £2 per ton; the dock charges amount to four shillings a ton, for a week, and the cost of lighterage from the dock to the riverside wharves averages from three to five shillings per ton. Messrs. Cleve Bros., Liverpool, who have received several large consignments of Canadian hay think that the most suitable kind is clover, with a very little timothy mixed. They, too, advocate small bales, and write:—"We are buying at 75 shillings per ton, c. l. f., at Liverpool, but even at this price there is no great demand." They write, too, that the shipments of Canadian hay should have a distinctive mark. Another Liverpool firm writes that the best sort of Canadian hay has fetched from £4 to £4 10s per ton. The packing, however, is rather too heavy, and they suggest a wide banding similar to that in use with United States hay. Messrs. Mair & Marquis of Glasgow, who have also had some experience with Canadian hay, suggest that the hay should be certificated and graded. They have had a good deal of trouble on account of the irregularity in the quality of the shipments sent over. Real good timothy is in demand, but their letter points to their belief that the trade has been much injured by some inferior shipments which have come to hand. The top price fetched is £4 per ton.

From these typical replies one or two conclusions can certainly be drawn. One is that reasonably low freights are essential to the permanent success of the trade. If the steamship companies' charges amount to 60 50, or even 40 per cent. of the selling price on the English side of the Atlantic there is very little prospect of satisfactory business being done. Similarly dealers in Canada must base the whole of their shipment on the fact that only the very best quality of stuff will fetch here more than £4 per ton. Reasonable prices must prevail in Canada if there is to be any profitable business in the trade for those concerned. Again, it is all important that the requirements of the market, as regards the packing and size of the bales, should be carefully studied. It is of no use to pitchfork Canadian hay on the English buyers without paying the least heed to well-established conditions and practices which regulate the business there. As with regard to the Anglo-Canadian egg trade, so with respect to hay. Properly managed, a profitable business might in time be developed, but any attempt to cajole the English buyer will assuredly fail, and permanent success can only be secured by careful attention to the practical requirements of the market.

Extracts from the diary of the informer, Le Caron, who appeared so prominently as a witness for the Times in the Parnell commission inquiry, have been published. They prove conclusively that the man rendered valuable service to Canada at the time of the Fenian raids in the sixties and that the secret service money, about which his opponents raised such a hue and cry, was well spent by Sir John Macdonald. They also prove that the United States president of that day, Andrew Johnson, who succeeded poor murdered Abraham Lincoln, if he did not actively aid and abet in the desperate and diabolical raid upon this country by General O'Neill and his miserable Fenian cohorts, he at least winked at their preparations and wished them success. But President Johnson's course was nothing strange, for the same thing has been repeated more remotely. Neither hand nor foot was stirred by Secretary Blaine, President Garfield or President Hayes to check the dynamite conspiracy against Great Britain. O'Donovan Rossa and his dupes were allowed to continue their cruel and he ribble practices without so much as even a warning voice being officially raised in America. But the vigilance of the British police succeeded in landing some of the fiends in jail, and, now, foremost, President Harrison's government has interceded with the British cabinet on behalf of the prisoners. Of course Mr. Harrison's move is a piece of election strategy, but the worst feature of the incident is that the Gladstone government appears to have turned a more or less willing ear to his representations, and an amnesty is freely spoken of.

ROASTED ALIVE.

The Result of Tossing a Burning Match on the Oil-covered River.

A despatch from Philadelphia says:—At Point Breeze this evening William Miller, Albert Krumbach and Warren Hilt were crossing the river in a row boat. About 150 feet from the shore one of the men lit his pipe, and carelessly tossed the blazing stick into the oil-covered water. Instantly a burst of flames shot up alongside the skiff, and the surface of the river around the boat was blazing fiercely. The flames of the burning oil licked up the boat, and the men plunged into the burning fluid and started to swim ashore. The fire circle grew large and spread more rapidly than they could swim, and they found that they were being roasted alive. Hilt sank beneath the blazing surface, and was seen no more, but his two companions, by repeatedly diving and swimming, managed to save themselves.

Both men were horribly burned about the shoulders, head, face and arms. They were taken to the hospital, where, it is said, their condition is critical. The fire spread down the river, and the wrecking steamer Maryland caught fire and was damaged \$15,000.

"I have lots to tell you about," said the real estate man, meeting an old friend on a street.

One Definition.

Mrs. Jason: "Jehiel, what is an agnostic?"
Mr. Jason: "W'y it is a feller that don't believe in neither doctors nor preachers as long as he is in good health."

CANADIAN HAY IN ENGLAND.

Le Caron's Diary.

To the Editor:

Sir,—Some of your readers may be interested in hearing what is proposed to be done in the way of establishing a large forest reservation in Ontario. It is expected to comprise over twenty townships. The place settled on lies northeast from us, principally in the Nipissing territory. It has been chosen because at that point we find the greatest number of the head waters of many rivers which flow through Ontario, it being a maxim in forestry to keep such places protected from drought. Another reason for the choice is that the land in question is generally unfit for agricultural purposes, while those portions which contain better land are so isolated as to render the prospect of farming a gloomy one. If such land were ever needed for the purpose, there is plenty available outside the limits.

It is not supposed that though the forest be reserved it would render the cutting of timber impracticable. It might very well be placed under such supervision as many European forests, where the mature trees are regularly cut and the rest carefully preserved to maintain a constant supply of timber. Such a reservation also might form a valuable preserve for game, fish and fur-bearing animals. It would be necessary to have a certain number of persons resident there who would be useful for many purposes. For instance, many young pine trees—in fact valuable trees of all descriptions—will be found growing in clumps and choking one another. These could be easily separated and planted at proper distances. If fishing or shooting were allowed, care should be taken that it should be limited to proper seasons, and that no person be permitted to kill any more than a certain amount. The channels of the various streams also would require some attention, and, of course, hush fires should be checked as soon as noticed. Many sections, also, would be much improved by the adoption of some system of drainage. Where open spaces exist they might be partially replanted, so as to form beautiful forest glades and charming vistas of light and shade. In all these endeavors to improve the natural conformation of the surface, broken as it is by hills, rivers and succession of level and rolling ground, would afford great assistance. In fact with no greater expense, the whole reservation, if properly managed, would form in a few years a very large, beautiful and valuable park and might continue so for all time to come.

It would not, I think, be advisable to allow settlement within its limits, but it would afford many excellent camping grounds, where the citizen and his family, weary of the life of towns, might find during a part of the summer agreeable relaxation and pleasant repose. Many descriptions of birds, which are now being wantonly extirpated throughout the rest of Ontario would find, as a large proportion of them are valueless to the hunters, comparative safety there. Excellent driving roads and many pleasant walks might also, at slight cost, be constructed. It will be seen that this can be done with much greater ease than the construction of roads through an ordinary country, as there is no necessity that they should be straight or should cross rivers or ascend mountains, the principal object being to render all sections accessible and to afford the best opportunities for observation of the surrounding scenery. It is noticeable in the highlands of Scotland and the large English forests, such as the New Forest, the Forest of Dean and that of Windsor, much care has been taken in these respects, and has been indeed for centuries past. Everywhere one finds shady paths, rustic bridges and here and there groves hewn out of the rock.

Our original forests contained many valuable trees, many descriptions of native herbs and wild flowers of great luxuriance and variety. In the progress of clearing many of these have become almost unknown. In the proposed reservation it should be endeavored to perpetuate those which exist, and to add to their numbers such as are suited to the climate. A forest park should have nothing to do with gardening, and is only defaced by flower beds. The object should be to preserve the former beauty of the forest and to perpetuate the trees and flowers with which nature originally clothed the ground. Of course to carry out this idea it would be necessary to exclude domestic cattle, as their presence in any number would be injurious to both wild flowers and undergrowth.

I have here roughly sketched the principles I consider necessary to success in such an undertaking. We would not, of course, expect to realize our ideas until a number of years had passed. But the plan once laid down, advances in the direction of perfection would continually follow, and the result would be that in time it would rank as one of the chief ornaments and most valuable possessions of Ontario. The examination of the district in question is now being proceeded with, and it is expected that shortly a definite plan of management will be determined on.

Toronto, Oct. 22. R. W. PHIPPS.

DAHOMY FAILS TO FRANCE.

The Capital and the Towns of the Kingdom are Captured.

A despatch from Porto Novo says that Col. Dodds captured Cana on Saturday and Abomey on Sunday.

There is little doubt that this ends the campaign of France against a powerful African nation, the Dahomeans. The French column, numbering 4,000 infantry and cavalry and several canoes, set out from the coast on Aug. 16, and the campaign has therefore lasted two and a half months.

The usual route to Abomey is by road, almost directly north from the coast town of Whydah. This route, however, involved crossing a wide lagoon, which would be difficult for the artillery, and Col. Dodds therefore chose the route along the Wheme River.

His artillery went ahead and broke a road along the river bank for the troops to follow, and the cavalry and a part of the supplies were towed up the river on transports, while 2,400 native porters carried the remainder of the provisions.

The advancing force had a number of skirmishes with the enemy and three had fought battles before it reached the neighborhood of Cana and Abomey. The French loss on all occasions was trifling, but the Dahomeans suffered severely in killed and wounded. The Amazons or women warriors fought with ferocity, but their shooting was very wild.

Cana, the place that was captured on last Saturday, is eight miles from Abomey, and has a sacred character in the eyes of the Dahomeans, as it is the burial place of a long line of Dahomey's kings.

The capital, Abomey, could not possibly offer any resistance to a well-equipped force, though the King has for many years possessed cannon of a more or less modern type, and a roughly disciplined army, the most formidable members of which are the Amazons.

The city is about eight miles in circumference, protected by a ditch five feet deep, filled with a dense growth of prickly acacia. It is entered by six gates, which are simply clay walls with two openings built across the roads leading into the town. Altogether the place does not contain more than 12,000 inhabitants. It is probable that, unless the King is captured, he will, like Koffee-Kalkoff of Ashanti under similar circumstances, retreat into the bush.

The campaign somewhat resembles the English invasion of the neighboring kingdom, of Ashanti. The British force, however, were nearly all European soldiers who suffered terribly from the climate, while the present invaders are for the most part Senegalese troops with Porto Novo allies offered by Frenchmen.

The French will now doubtless seize Whydah, the Dahomey seaport. The country is now at their mercy, and they will probably turn it into a French colony. One good result will be that we shall hear no more of the terrible human sacrifices that have marked the annual religious festivals at the capital.

King Behanzin, a young man very much puffed up with his own importance, has brought his downfall upon himself. He has been on the throne less than three years. When he became King he made a treaty with the French, promising to recognize their rights to the Port of Kotonu and to cease the customary raids into the French territory of Porto Novo for slaves and sacrificial victims.

The French agreed to give him an annual subsidy, and lived up to their engagement. Last year, however, Behanzin resumed his raids into Porto Novo, and when the French protested he repudiated the treaty, said he would raid where he pleased, that the French had no business in the country anyhow, and that he would drive them out of Kotonu into the sea.

The rainy season was coming on, and as the French were utterly unprepared to assume the offensive, they utilized this period to make preparations for the war. They spent about seven months getting ready to fight, but after they were ready they moved with celerity and have had an unbroken series of successes.

A TERRIBLE DEATH.

Frank M. Conroy's Awful Death in the Mountains of Utah.

An Ogden, Utah, despatch says:—J. F. Barklow of Brooklyn, N. Y., who with Frank M. Conroy, also of Brooklyn left there two weeks ago to examine the territory of the extinct cliff dwellers along Nic Mill creek, returned yesterday. He tells a horrible story of Conroy's awful death. "We were picking our way along the edge of what looked like a bottomless gorge," said Barklow, "the path was a narrow one, a perpendicular rock wall on one side and the bleak precipice frowning below us on the other. Our burro became fractious and knocked Conroy off the ledge and fell with him a hundred feet or so down the precipice. A flat level part of the rock jutted and formed a sort of platform. On the outer edge of this the burro struck and rebounded slightly just as Frank in his descent struck on the animal's side, thus saving him from instant death. He dropped back upon the platform. I leaped over and called to it, but it was some time before he was able to answer. Frank was on a small ledge of rock with several ribs broken and one arm smashed. I heard a shriek from him, and glancing down saw the beginning of a terrible combat. Above him to one side was a large nest with several young birds in it and two eagles, suspecting him of an attack on their young, swooped down upon him from different directions, and struck at him with bill and claw. The great birds at last succeeded in what they were trying to accomplish. They reached his face with their horrible claws. The birds with a scream of triumph, followed Frank over the edge of the shelf and far down into the abyss."

Mr. Barklow reached Ogden more dead than alive.

Her Little Bluff.

Mrs. Irons (in a loud tone)—"Have you any first-class porterhouse steak this morning, Mr. Chopson?"

Meat Market Man (in surprise)—"Why, yes, Mrs. Irons, but isn't this rather unusual for—"

(In her ordinary voice) "Oh, well, it doesn't make any great difference. I'll take half a dollar's worth of chuck-steak and liver."

"All right. By the way, I'd like to know who that lady is that has just gone out of here."

"That's the woman that has started a boarding house across the road from mine."