

News And Views Of And For Canadian Farmers

Education For The Farm Must Be Undertaken

By John A. Lapp, in Banker Farmer. The adaptation of education to useful purposes reaches its most complete failure in the rural schools which have been following a regime of studies utterly unfitted to their environment. The teaching of elementary subjects in these schools has been formal to a degree that is shocking to common sense. Instead of relating these studies to the life motives of the young, and teaching them in such a way as to connect them with life, instead of taking advantage of the opportunities which in the country are unequalled for applying knowledge to things, the schools have been allowing the children to live off the dry husks of knowledge. Teachers for these schools have been trained in the village schools, through formal training in normals or colleges. They have little sympathy with rural life, and their knowledge of the country is limited. It is ridiculous to see a teacher of this sort who may be relatively bright from books, attempting to teach agriculture in a flower pot in the winter time to red blooded rural youths. Such has been the teaching in a great part of our rural schools. False standards are set up, boys and girls are made to study agricultural works and such influence as the rural school exercises is in favor of the trend away from the country. The importance of agricultural education to the national welfare scarcely needs to be referred to here. Agriculture is the principal basic industry of the country and upon it depends the prosperity of the nation. But this basic industry has been practically at a standstill. After forty years of agricultural education, such as it has been, we are confronted with the same conditions than when scientific agriculture first began to receive serious attention. Average yield of farm crops has been practically at a dead level, the soil is being exhausted at an alarming rate, tenantry is increasing, the rural population is shifting to the city, and the cost of living rises at a rate far in excess of increased capacity to pay. The facts are simply that the data of agricultural science has not been effectively put into possession of the men who till the soil. Millions of dollars have been spent on agricultural education and yet we are relatively about where we started from. A wider education is needed to make agriculture keep pace with the demands upon it and this can be achieved only by vocational schools of agriculture within the reach of every boy on the farm. It should be the nation's purpose to foster agriculture to preserve the soil, and to build up a countryside which shall be a solid bulwark against social decay. The economic profit is great and the social value is incalculable. In this the nation, states and local units should join heartily and effectively. All profit by the co-operation and all should be achieved upon our physical and vital resources. Conservation of those resources is a national duty and it is time that the nation surveyed its losses, and took effective steps to prevent them. We have been living in an age of exploitation. We have been wasting and allowing waste of our resources like drunken sailors. The policy of taking all that could be gotten without regard to wise use or to the economy of the whole has been disastrous. We have ruined our soils and robbed them of their fertility in order that the exploiters could gain the highest immediate return without putting anything back on the land, we have permitted insect pests, and diseases of plants and animals to take their toll of billions while the knowledge of prevention lies dormant we have allowed our farms and roadsides to grow up to foul growth, a drain upon the soil and a hindrance to productive crops, we are wasting hundreds of millions of dollars through lack of education in the care of farm machinery. In all we waste \$50,000,000,000 every year through ignorance. The most widespread need which is now being met is that of providing teachers for the great task of universal vocational education. This task is one of analysis and cautious advance. We must answer the questions: What is it the farmer needs to know because he is a farmer and tills the soil? What is it that a home maker needs to know because she is a home maker and interested in realising the ideal of the home? What is it that the carpenter, plumber, machinist and engineer need to know to perform their work with greatest skill? What is it that the masses in other occupations need to know to give them efficiency and consequent joy in their work? What is it that all persons in whatever walk of life need to know to make them effective in their civic and social life? These questions can be answered only by close study of industry, agriculture, business and the home as well as the broader needs of civil life. The answer will give us the elementary school courses, the vocational schools, part time and evening schools, correspondence work, and the vocational library. Enough knowledge is already stored up to revolutionise the practical world if it could be brought into action, enough scientific knowledge of agriculture is in printed form to make two blades of grass grow where one grows now if we were effectively put to work, enough of industrial science has been accumulated to bring a new era of efficiency if a channel could be opened to conduct it to the right workers, in the office and shop enough science and art stand ready to improve the millions of homes in the land if the home makers were given the opportunity to get that part which is useful to them enough principles and facts of business are available for the business man to give business a broader, more permanent and more efficient character if they can only be wrought in the right proportions into the minds and actions of business men and enough facts are at hand to prevent enormous wastes of our vital and physical resources if the dormant knowledge were only awakened and put to work, enough main task is to find men and women capable of translating all of this knowledge into action through the teaching process. The problems involved in giving an education which shall meet the vocational needs, of all the people and which shall promote the bases of prosperity—industry and agriculture—and which shall conserve the resources of the nation are vast and formidable. All that has been done in vocational education is as nothing compared with that which is yet to be begun. The need for vocational education increases faster than the facilities for providing it. Team play on the part of nation, state and local units is urgently needed if we are to meet the need and advance the national welfare.

CHOPPED STUFF

Plan your rotation for next year. Test your herd and weed out the boarders. If the clover fails, plow up and sow it again. Finish up your fall work by plowing the orchard. Are the storm doors and windows ready for winter service? Get your cattle in the stable before the pastures freeze up. After threshing clean all the straw and chaff of the bundles. It is cheaper to raise feeders than buy them—keep your breeding stock. Every man is judged to a considerable extent by the appearance of his farm. Clean up the grounds around your buildings now. Those old stumps, stones and rubbish should be removed. Live stock provides employment through the winter, and employment, where properly managed, is profitable. Clean up the grounds around your buildings now. Those old stumps, stones and rubbish should be removed. Hire help if you are going to have a better year. Better help the one you have now than the winter than without next year. Weeds exact a toll from our farmers every year equivalent to a war tax; lay plans now to prevent the waste next season. Keeping a few sheep on the average farm will cost little, but will add a considerable amount to the income in the spring of the year. Is the poultry house ready for the chickens, or are you going to let the implement shed serve as a shelter to what can be made one of the most valuable lines of the farm? How often do you clean up the water pans in your hen-house? You ought to clean them every day, for a dirty water pan is the surest way of spreading disease throughout your flock. Toronto wholesalers are complaining of the large percentage of rotten and stale eggs included in the strictly new-laid coming in from the country. Quality will always pay in the long run.

Poultry Selling Don'ts.

Now that the poultry season is open Horace Waller offers a few "don'ts" for shippers. Here they are: Don't let your chicks have crops when they are dressed. Don't forget to bleed them and pick clean to wing tips. Don't ship half-finished poultry and expect to get the top price. Don't ship once finished. Twenty-one to twenty-eight days is the proper time. Don't hold poultry when once ready for market. If it is good it will always bring top prices. Experience has taught us that poultry is generally choicest before holidays than ordinary times. Don't forget the weather is the greatest factor for governing prices. Cold weather is good for prices. Don't ship in mild weather, if possible. If shippers adhere to these simple rules they cannot help getting good returns.

WEATHER SIGNS.

Some of the Ways You Can Dope Things Out If You're Not Near a Weather Bureau. Farm and Fireside, the national farm paper published at Springfield, Ohio, says, of course, that the best weather prophet in the world is the United States Weather Bureau, which is right at least four times out of five. In regard to the less scientific guides Farm and Fireside says: "Here are a few weather signs which are probably older than any one living to-day. Experience has shown them to be fairly reliable and some of them can be explained on a scientific basis: 'Moonlight nights have the heaviest frosts.' 'The higher the clouds the fierer the weather.' 'The farther the sight the nearer the rain.' 'Dew is an indication of fine weather.' 'When the stars flicker in a dark background, rain or snow follows soon.' 'Expect a strong wind with stormy weather when smoke from chimneys hangs near the ground.' 'Evening grey and morning red' has the advantage of being easily remembered: 'Clear moon, frost soon.' 'Year of snow, fruit will grow.' 'Rain before seven, fine before eleven.' 'If the sunset is grey, the next day will be a rainy day.' 'When the winds in the south are the rain's in its mouth.' 'The wind in the west suits everyone best.' 'If you see grass in January lock your grain in your granary.' 'Evening red and morning grey' helps the traveler on his way; 'Evening grey and morning red' bring down rain upon his head. When the clouds appear like rocks and towers, the earth's refreshed by frequent showers. 'If you can get the official weather report by phone you'd better count on that first. But the proverbs and jingles just given are better than a common guess.'

Potatoes May Go To \$2 Per Bag

Toronto Weekly Sun. Potatoes at \$2 a bag! This remarkable price has not yet been realized on the Toronto market, but it is the opinion of one man who is close to the potato trade of this city that before February \$1.75 per bag, and probably \$2 will be received by the fortunate few who have any of the tubers to sell. It is several years since there has been such a scarcity of potatoes throughout the land. There are not nearly enough for the demand, and the best quality of tubers may bring untold prices. There is a lot of poor stuff that will be worked out and will tend to keep the prices down, but before spring it is quite certain that the price will be well above \$2 per bag. Potatoes are very generally reported as affected with rot and blight, especially in Ontario, and the indications are that the very poor quality this year will be keeping prices up. The average price per bushel to the grower works out to 57 cents for Canada, 76 cents for Ontario and 33 cents in Alberta. Potatoes have generally been reported as affected with rot and blight, especially in Ontario, and the indications are that the very poor quality this year will be keeping prices up. Suppose potatoes actually reach \$2 a bag or more before February what will be done? Will it be the Government? Will it seize the situation and help bring potatoes across the prairies by arranging a reasonable freight rate, and in so doing link the East and the West together? Will it help distribute the crop properly and lighten the burden where it is a burden, and help the producer sell where there is a surplus crop? There is a great opportunity here for the new Marketing Commission to do something practical and helpful. The British Columbia Government sends a man across a continent to sell its supplies. That is practical. Can the Ottawa Government and its appointees not find something practical in the potato situation to help it away from exhortation for a while? In the United States the yield per acre has been about average this year, being 95.3 bushels, but the total crop was over 45,000 bushels below last year. Potatoes sold on Nov. 1st at 60 cents per bushel, and the head of the bird will never look as fresh and attractive as one that is killed by bleeding and sticking. When killing by dislocation of the neck, the chicken should not be grasped by the head, and whirled around, but the following method is practised by the most successful poultrymen: With the left hand grasp the legs of the bird and with the right hand take hold of the head, allowing the neck to pass through between the thumb and first finger, and have the little finger placed below the breast. By pulling with the right hand and giving the head a twist backwards against the thumb the neck is quite easily dislocated. Birds intended for fancy market are usually killed by bleeding of the mouth and then piercing the brain. A knife with a narrow, sharp blade is used. First the blade is thrust into the mouth of the fowl and across the roof is cut lengthwise and across, severing the arteries. Then it is thrust upward in the direction of the eyes, piercing the base of the brain. While the description of this operation sounds rather gruesome, death is instantaneous and painless when the brain is pierced.—Canadian Countryman.

VEGETABLE SEED SITUATION

The following extract of an article from a newspaper of Gothenburg, Sweden, will be of interest to growers of vegetable seeds. The article refers to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural College of Alnarp, Sweden, asking for a Government grant for the encouragement of vegetable seed growing: "The Board points out that the war has most clearly emphasized the importance, for the country, of home production of vegetable seed. Owing to the most important vegetable seed producing countries having prohibited the export of such seed, the prices of a great number of important vegetable seeds have risen enormously. And, still worse, some seeds can hardly be obtained at any price. It is reported, from a well informed source, that vegetable seed growing in the countries engaged in the war has been largely neglected during the past summer and that for this reason further advances in prices can be expected. Reports from Germany state that the supply of seed of spinach, carrots, most kinds of cabbage, of such seed, and peas is utterly small. Furthermore, Germany has prohibited the export of vegetable seeds to the end of the war. There is therefore every reason to fear that we have to face the possibility of a very serious shortage of certain vegetable seeds."

World's Harvest Calendar.

Farm and Fireside. The world's schedule for cutting grain is as follows: January—New Zealand, Argentina. February—East India, upper Egypt. March—Egypt, Chile. April—Asia Minor and Mexico. May—Asia, China, Japan, Texas. June—Turkey, Spain, Southern United States. July—United States, Austria, Southern Russia, England, Germany, Switzerland. August—Canada, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland. September—Scotland, Sweden, Norway, Siberia. October—Northern Russia, Siberia. November—South Africa and Peru. December—Uruguay, Australia. Then it all starts over again, beginning with New Zealand and Argentina. The United States exports harvesting machinery to all the countries named, and also many other things.

EYESTRAIN AMONG FARMERS.

Many Tillers of the Soil Suffer From Photophobia. Farm and Fireside. "Many farmers suffer from photophobia, a sensitiveness to light. This is caused by a reflection of sunlight on the ground and the strain thrown on the eyes an effort to overcome the sensitiveness by adjusting the lenses of the eyes. Bathing the eyes with hot water several times every morning, and rubbing the forehead above the eyes in a circular motion with the fingers will relieve photophobia to many cases. Killing Poultry. There are two different ways of killing fowls, viz., (a) by simply dislocating the neck, (b) bleeding and sticking. Each system has its strong points. Where dislocating is practised, the blood remains in the dislocated portion of the neck, and is sold at the same price as the meat. It also takes less time to kill a chicken this way than the other way. But the portion of the neck from the broken joint to the shoulders is usually discolored.

The Latest Market Reports

LIVE STOCK MARKETS. Montreal, Nov. 26.—At the Canadian live stock market the offerings to-day amounted to 1,000 cattle, 1,700 sheep and lambs, 1,100 hogs and 490 calves. The feature of the trade continues to be the good demand from Americans for cattle, sheep and lambs and calves for shipment to points in the United States, there being 75 carloads forwarded this week so far, which tends to keep the market well cleared up of all surplus stock. There was no important change in the condition of the market for cattle to-day, prices being maintained at the advance noted on Monday under a good demand. Sales of a few choice steers were made at \$7.25 to \$7.50, but the bulk of the trade was done in steers ranging from \$5.75 to \$6.50, and the common sold at \$4.75 to \$5.25, while butchers' cows and bulls brought from \$4.50 to \$6.25 per 100 lbs. The trade in culling stock was active with sales of cows at \$3.15 to \$3.35, and bulls at \$3.75 to \$4.25 per 100 lbs. There was a good demand for small meats. The feature of the trade was done at firm prices. Ontario lambs sold at \$9 to \$9.25 and sheep at \$5.25 to \$6 per 100 lbs., while milk-fed calves brought 7c to 8c and grass-fed 3c to 6c per lb. The tone of the market for hogs was strong, but prices showed no further change. The demand from packers was good and sales of selected lots were made at \$9.75 per 100 lbs., weighed out cars. Toronto, Nov. 26.—There was a light run of cattle at the Union Stock Yards this morning and all supplies were cleaned up at steady prices. Lambs and sheep steady. Calves, steady; hogs, strong. Receipts: 14 calves, 1,855 hogs, 805 sheep. Export calf, choice, \$7.50 to \$7.90; butch. choice, \$6.75 to \$7.25; medium \$6.75 to \$6.50; common \$5 to \$5.50; butcher cows, choice \$6 to \$8.50; medium \$5 to \$5.75; canners \$3.50 to \$4, bulls \$4.25 to \$6.50; feeding steers, \$5 to \$6.75; stockers, choice \$5.50 to \$6, light \$4.25 to \$5; milkers, choice, each \$70 to \$100; springers, brought

GRAIN QUOTATIONS.

Toronto, Nov. 26.—Board of trade official quotations: Manitoba Wheat—Immediate shipment: No. 1, \$1.11 1/2; No. 2, \$1.08; No. 3, \$1.05, basis on track, lake ports. Ontario points, No. 2 C.W., hay ports, track, 48c. American Corn—No. 2 yellow, Toronto, track, 77 1/2c. Canadian Corn—No. 2 yellow, 76c. Ontario Oats—No. 3 white, 38c to 39c; commercial oats, 37c to 38c. Ontario Flour—New winter, \$4.10 to \$4.35, according to sample, seaboard or Toronto freights, in bags. Peas—No. 2 nominal, per car lot, \$2.25; sample peas, \$1.50 to \$2, according to sample. Barley—Good malting outside, 56c to 58c; do. No. 2 feed, 49c to 52c. Millfeed—Car lots, per ton, delivered Montreal freights: Bran, \$22; middlings, \$25; good feed flour, bag, \$1.50. Rye—No. 2 nominal, 86c to 88c; tough, 80c to 83c, according to sample. Manitoba Flour—First patents, in 50 lb. bags, \$5.50; do. seconds, \$5.50; strong bakers' \$5.20 in 50 lb. bags. Other unofficial quotations: Spot Wheat—No. 1 northern, \$1.12 1/2; No. 2 northern, \$1.10;

PRICES FOR PRODUCE.

On the local farmers' markets of Ontario, potatoes sold as follows: Berlin, \$1 to \$1.18 per bushel; Brantford, \$1; Cobourg, 95c; Chatham, \$1; Guelph, \$1; Hamilton, \$1; Owen Sound, 60c; Peterboro, \$1; Port Hope, 75c to 80c; St. Thomas, \$1 to \$1.10; Stratford, \$1 to \$1.25; Woodstock, per bushel. On the local farmers' markets of Ontario, potatoes sold as follows: Berlin, \$1 to \$1.18 per bushel; Brantford, \$1; Cobourg, 95c; Chatham, \$1; Guelph, \$1; Hamilton, \$1; Owen Sound, 60c; Peterboro, \$1; Port Hope, 75c to 80c; St. Thomas, \$1 to \$1.10; Stratford, \$1 to \$1.25; Woodstock, per bushel. Apples. Prices are a little easier on the poorer grades of apples at Toronto, though better grades are holding a firm position. Dawson and Elliott report fruit selling as follows: Spies, \$5 for No. 1; \$4 for No. 2's, and \$3 for No. 3's; Kings, \$4.50 for No. 1's; Baldwins, \$2 to \$3.50; Greenings, \$2.50 to \$3; and Snows \$3 to \$5.50. This fruit reports shipments of some 50 or 60 cars of Snows coming this week. These include 30 cars of No. 1's, 20 of No. 2's, and 10 cars of No. 3's. Spring chickens ranged in price from 12c to 25c per pound, and sold at the following prices on the local farmers' markets of Ontario: Brantford, \$1.18 to 20c per pound; Guelph, \$1.16; Hamilton, \$1.13 to 17c; Harrisburg, \$1.12 to 15c; London, 17c to 19c; Owen Sound, 14c to 16c; Peterboro, \$1.12 to 20c; Port Hope, \$1; St. Thomas, 17c to 20c; Stratford, 16c to 18c; Woodstock, 15c per pound. Eggs. Eggs ranged in price from 32c to 50c, and sold throughout Ontario at

Kingston Markets

Kingston, Nov. 27. Meats. Beef, local carcasses, 99 10. Beef, hinds, lb., 11 12. Beef, cuts, lb., 15 23. Beef, western, by carcass, lb., 11 12. Hogs, live, cwt., 8 50. Hogs, dressed, cwt., 13 90. Lamb, spring, by carcass, lb., 14. Mutton, carcass, lb., 11. Veal, by carcass, lb., 10. Veal by qtr., lb., 08 14. Fish. Bloater, doz., 50. Ciscoes, lb., 15. Cod, steak, lb., 12 1/2. Filets, lb., 15. Finnan haddie, lb., 12 1/2. Haddock, fresh, lb., 10. Halibut, fresh, lb., 12 1/2. Haddock, frozen, lb., 08 12. Herring, fresh salt water, doz., 50. Kippers, doz., 60. Mackerel, 15. Oysters, qt., 50. Oysters, shell, doz., 30. Pickered, lb., 15. Perch, lb., 05. Pike, lb., 12 1/2. Rock-fish, lb., 05. Trout, salmon, lb., 20. White fish, lb., 15. Suckers, lb., 05. Salmon, Saguenay, 05. Fruit. Bananas, doz., 20. Grapes, Malaga, lb., 20. Lemons, Messina, doz., 20. Peas, Seakle, pk., 05. Nuts mixed, lb., 20. Oranges, doz., 20.

Poultry.

Chickens, lb., 20. Chickens, live, lb., 25. Duck's, lb., 22. Hens, dressed, lb., 15. Hens, live, lb., 20. Turkeys, lb., 18 20. Dairy Products. Butter, dairy, 35 35. Butter, creamery, 35 38. Butter, rolls, lb., 30. Cheese, lb., 22. Eggs, fresh, doz., 40 45. Vegetables. Beets, bush., 50. Cabbage, doz., 40 50. Celery, bunch, 05 10. Potatoes, bush., 90 100. Potatoes, bag, 1 00, 1 25. Parsnips, bush., 75. Onions, bush., 60 75. Turnips, bag, 50. Grains. Barley, bush., 80. Bran, ton, 24 00. Buckwheat, bush., 85. Corn, yellow feed, bush., 90. Corn, cracked, cwt., 1 60. Corn, meal, cwt., 2 45. Flour, cwt., 3 25. Hay, baled, ton, 19 00 20 00. Hay, loose, 18 00 20 00. Oats, local, bush., 40. Oats, Man. bush., 40. Straw, baled, ton, 9 00. Straw, loose, ton, 8 00. Wheat, local, bush., 85 1 18. Hides. Beef, hides, cured, per lb., \$ .17. Beef, hides, green, lb., .16. Heavy bulls, lb., .13. Veals, green, lb., .16. Deacons, each, .30. Kips or grassers, lb., .14. Lamb, washed, skins up to, 1.40. Horse hides, each, up to, 2.50. Tallow rendered in casks, .86.

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