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FARMERS' COLUMN.

The Question of Agricultural Education.

VERY ABLY DISCUSSED BY ONTARIO DEPUTY MINISTER

At the Maritime Provinces' Winter Fair.

PROP. GRISDALE ON THE FEEDING OF SWINE.

Mr. C. C. James, Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who is well known as a deep student of educational methods, took up the subject of agricultural education at Amherst. He first showed how, through a course of instruction our lawyers, our doctors, our clergymen, our civil engineers, had to take before they could practice their chosen profession, and contrasted with it the difference in the standard of education for the farmer. Any one may take up agricultural work without let or hindrance, no matter how little his knowledge of the business may be.

When we think of the difficulties in agricultural work, should it not be reasonable to expect some standard of qualification. We are fortunate, however, in living in a day when some attention is being given to agricultural education, and when an educated agriculturist is getting better opportunities than the uneducated man.

The first means taken in agricultural education has been through agricultural organizations, Farmers' Institutes, Live Stock Associations, Dairymen's Associations, etc.

In the past, the young man who was to be a farmer, got an ordinary school education, and we waited until he was a man full grown before we gave him any special education. This was an irrational and unscientific method.

How would it work with the doctor? Would it do to send out a man to practice medicine with only a common school education, and wait till then to give him medical instruction.

We follow out one line of work with the doctors, the lawyers and the engineers, but we have been following a different course with the farmers.

The second line of effort is the establishment of agricultural colleges. We have had one in Ontario for some years, and it is largely through the influence of the farmers' organizations that it has become appreciated.

In starting your college, you should profit by our experience. At first we had the distrust, and not the support of the farmers.

The farmers of the Maritime Provinces have it in their power to make or mar the future of their college.

We are parting with Prof. Cummings at Guelph with a great deal of regret. We hope, however, he will accomplish for you, as president of your college, all we feel he would have done for us.

At Guelph, we had to send out our professors and students to the farmers, to show them what the college was doing.

An agricultural college can, of course, only educate a very few of the men who make up the farmers of the country. The college, however, does not make the man, it will only train him, it cannot give him brains. You cannot make a first rate man out of a second rate student because he goes to an agricultural college.

The college aims to help the young men who want to get in touch quickly with the best methods of work.

We need in this country a large number of experts for research and experiment. The college aims to make some experts from the men who attend it.

Your college, as ours, is one element in all your agricultural machinery, and it must work in harmony with the rest.

There must be a great number of farmers' sons and daughters through out the country untouched by the college, or the other organizations.

The young men and women do not get much benefit from these organizations. Too many of our people, in coming to meetings like this, forget to bring the boys and girls with them, we leave behind the men and women of the future, the great teachable mass of the people are left at home.

It is hard to move men who are already set in their ways, but the young people left at home would be in more receptive mood.

The third means is our public

school system, and what it may do for agriculture. We have been talking about a teaching which would lean towards education for the farmers, for the last twenty years, in the rural schools, and only now is it beginning to be felt. Our educational system has undoubtedly led many boys and girls away from the farm.

Nova Scotia has shown that she has men who believe in using the public schools for agricultural teaching, and I congratulate you.

In Ontario it has been difficult to get suitable instruction in agriculture in the schools, because we could not find suitable teachers.

We have made many mistakes in trying to get agricultural education on a rational basis. We must start with the teacher. The teachers are the all important factors in our schools, they must have a sympathy with their work.

Agriculture lies at the foundation of the country's prosperity; it would be well if all your people knew more about agriculture, they would be better citizens. There is nothing in agricultural teaching that will hinder the success of a man in any profession. Therefore, I would teach agriculture in all our city and town schools.

Agricultural teaching is not the teaching of plowing, reaping and harnessing the team, but of the principles which underlie the work—why it is necessary to plow, how to treat a crop to secure a harvest.

The man who works with intelligence will do more work in a day, and take more pleasure in it, than if he has not the intelligence. There is nothing antagonistic to other work in teaching agriculture.

Why are so many people leaving the farm? Is it not because it is all muscle, and but little mind that is put into the work. One great reason for this condition is because the children in their common school experience did not get that little turn towards agricultural thought which would lead them to investigate agricultural problems.

Nature study in the schools means coming down to study the little things round about us, the affairs of our every day country life.

There is a text which should be up in every school house in Canada, viz., "Open thou my eyes that I may see wondrous things out of the law."

Let the teacher take the children out doors and show them the beauty of the grasses, the weeds and lowers—how the birds and bees are working together in nature's grand organization; they would do much to interest and teach children in the best way.

Give them a love for the country, the trees, the grass, the flowers, so that their inclination will lead them to the country—in other words, open the eyes to see the wondrous things.

What we want is not out of nature's laws—the cramming of the mind with facts; it is not information so much as formation that we want.

If a teacher will instil into the child a desire to get information, it is much better than giving them facts.

The resources of Canada are manifold. Our mines, forests, fisheries, yield us millions, but our agricultural resources overtop them all.

We believe we have homes here for those who cannot find them elsewhere, but what are all these assets in comparison with our boys and girls.

The future of the country depends entirely upon the right formation and development of the character of our boys and girls.

I urge you to bring your boys and girls to meetings such as this, for the future of this country depends upon whether these young people grow up and be useful citizens of this country or not.

We must give every attention to the training of these hundreds of thousands of children in Canada to-day.

In conclusion, he urged upon the Maritime people to play their part in this direction, and in the surest way build up the prosperity of their country.

THE FEEDING OF SWINE—POSSIBILITIES OF THE BRAN TRADE.

Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist Experimental Farms, took up his discussion, and said: In this somewhat simple and practical topic there is an immense industry involved. It means some 16 or 17 millions of dollars this year to the people of Canada.

The bacon industry has great possibilities in Canada. Denmark, with a population one-sixth of ours, sends more bacon to England than we do. It is our duty to take hold of this trade in earnest.

1st. We must start with the right stock, only a few breeds of pigs—the Yorkshire, Tamworth and Berkshires, their Grades and Crosses are bacon hogs.

2nd. The care is the next requisite. The coming brood sow should be carefully reared. She should be well fed, but not over fattened when carrying her first litter, and should have plenty of exercise and succulent food.

After littering, she must have a ration that will induce a high milk flow, and it must be wholesome food, or it will cause trouble among the young pigs.

When the pigs are three or four weeks old, they should have supplementary food. Give them sweet new cow's milk in a pen where they can run in at will. Do not wean them till seven or eight weeks old, and then do not take them away from the mother; but remove the sow and leave them amid familiar surroundings.

Keep the pigs thriving steadily till they are ready for the block. After weaning, all depends on the man who has the care and feeding. Skim milk and whey are splendid supplements to the ration. The amount of milk need not be large—it seems to act as a tonic, and aids the digestion. Skim milk and shorts seem best. Shorts and meal are the nearest equivalent. Oatmeal can only be fed in small proportions.

1 of oatmeal to 4 of shorts, and then the mixture is almost equal to skim milk and shorts. With shorts at \$20 per ton and oatmeal at \$28 per ton, it costs \$3.22 to make 100 pounds of gain on his pigs, against \$3.00 when fed on shorts and skim milk. Mixed grains gave very good results, but no ration had proved equal to shorts and skim milk, or shorts and oatmeal for pigs from 6 weeks to 3 months old.

Give sufficient food, and not too much. Keep the youngsters hungry. Four times feeding per day is better than three times, and five times better than four times.

From the time the pigs are three months old, till they are six or seven months is the finishing period.

How shall we best finish? Oats, peas, barley and shorts in equal quantities are good mixtures. There is a loss in feeding whole grain of from 4 to 15 per cent. We had better have it ground; if not ground it should be soaked. The latter has been found quite equal to the former. Most of the cereals should soak from thirty-six to forty-eight hours.

Dry feeding of ground grain seems to give better results than when it is made into slop. Never give dilute slop. You had better give the water by itself, and feed the food dry, or in a thick porridge.

What about cooking? All experiments go to show that it does not pay to cook our grain.

In cold weather, it no doubt pays to feed warm food. In an experiment last winter at Ottawa, pigs that ran out doors with a single board shelter cost seven cents per pound for each pound of grain. When kept warm inside the house the cost was three and a half cents per pound.

Potatoes are better when cooked; turnips also are better cooked, and mixed with the meal, say 1 pound turnips to 1 pound meal, and in this way 1 pound turnips will take the place of a pound of grain.

Mangles are best fed raw, but they should be pulped for young pigs. 2 pounds per day to pigs under 3 months is ample. Sugar beets are still better, and worth from 35 to 40 cents per bushel as a supplementary food.

Old hogs will eat whole mangle, but sugar beets should always be pulped. Clover is also a valuable food for swine. Gather the leaves and blossoms from the barn floor and soak them as a winter food for swine. This clover juice is almost equal to skim milk for young pigs.

Question.—What about apples?

Prof. Grisdale.—Apples are not usually a very cheap food, but sometimes they are. In an experiment six cows on meal alone required 5 pounds of meal per day to keep them in shape, while six sows on apples and meal, only took 2 pounds of meal to keep them equally well. About 1/2 bushel of apples per day was fed each day.

This diet also put the sows in excellent condition to make rapid gain afterwards.

Feeding pigs on clover, vetch and rape pasture is a cheap but a slow way of feeding. If you are in a hurry, you cannot depend very much on pasture, but if time is not an object pasture is very profitable. About 1 1/2 cents per pound can be saved by pasturing over grain food.

Oil meal, gluten meal, stock foods, tankage and blood meal have all been tested by us. The latter have been found rather expensive.

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MR. C. G. D. ROBERTS

Appreciative Sketch of the Famous Canadian Author,

WHO IS PROUDLY CLAIMED AS A SON OF FREDERICTON.

Career Started at an Early Age.

University Monthly:—The old classic halls of the U. N. B. have resounded with the voices of many men whose fame has echoed over a continent. But we believe there is no graduate whose name is better known and of whom his Alma Mater has more reason to be proud than Chas. George Douglas Roberts, one of the greatest of modern writers. And not only this institution, but this, his native province, yea even the broad Dominion is proud and eager to claim him as a son who has ever been proud to claim this Canada as his country.

The subject of our sketch was born January 10th, 1860, in the rectory of Douglas, on the left bank of the St. John, about ten miles up the river from Fredericton. He is the eldest son of Rev. George Goodridge Roberts, rector of Fredericton, who was at that time rector of Douglas. His father is the eldest son of the late George Roberts, Ph. D., who was but one of a line of ancestors distinguished for their learning. He was head master of the Fredericton Collegiate School and Professor of Classics in the U. N. B. His mother is Emma W. Bliss Roberts, daughter of the late Judge Bliss of Fredericton. She comes of a Loyalist family and traces her descent through a line of lawyers back to a progenitor of Emmerson.

When little Charles was nine months old the Roberts family moved to Westmorland Co. where Mr. Roberts assumed the Rectorship of Westcock. Here the first thirteen years of his life were spent, and here, ever inspired by "the long strong breeze through the lonesome golden afternoon," he received those early impressions which have had such a potent influence on his literary career. During those years he was educated mainly by his father, and at an early age he was a reader of many books. In 1873 the family moved to Fredericton, as Mr. Roberts had been made rector of that city. It reflects credit on the care of Mr. Roberts in educating his children that Charles was found at this time quite prepared to enter the Collegiate School at Fredericton. Indeed one custom of the family makes it evident that our poet owes much to his early family training for his success as a writer. It was the custom of the family to print a little family paper known as the "Attic in the attic of the rectory. To this paper the members of the family, young and old, were expected to contribute, and a certain amount of poetry was always insisted upon. This is indicative of the atmosphere in which young Roberts grew up, and he gives ample evidence of the benefits to be derived from such a training.

During his course at the Collegiate School, Mr. Roberts was instructed by Mr. George R. Parkin, a distinguished educationist, who inspired him with that love for the classics which is so manifest in his earlier poems. At this school he won a silver medal for proficiency in classics. He entered college in 1876 and at the end of the first year won a classical scholarship. At the end of his second year he won the Alumni Gold Medal for the best Latin prose essay. In 1879 he graduated with honors in classics, ethics and metaphysics.

It was during his college course that Mr. Roberts wrote his first poem for publication. Entering the rectory study one day he showed his father some verses he had written beneath a tree on his way down from college. His father saw at once that they were good, but intimated that more verses were necessary to complete the poem. He agreed and going up to his room returned in a short time with the completed poem. His father suggested that he try to get it published and was somewhat surprised to be told that a letter to this end was already written and addressed to Scribner's Magazine. The poem was sent, and in a few weeks the young poet was agreeably surprised to get a letter from the editor enclosing a check in payment, and a statement to the effect that it was the best poem he had received in three months, and that other productions of a like quality would be readily accepted.

When Mr. Roberts graduated from the U. N. B. he assumed the Principalship of the Chatham Grammar

School, a position which he held for three years. The year 1880 is marked by two important events in the poet's life. In this year he published his first volume of poetry, which was entitled "Orion and Other Poems," and on Dec. 29th of the same year he married Mary Isabel Fenety of Fredericton.

In 1881 he took his M. A. degree, and the next year he came to Fredericton at this time in Toronto by Street School. In 1883 he became editor of "The Week," a publication started this time in Toronto by Goldwin Smith. In six months, however, he severed his editorial connection with this paper, probably because of the entire disagreement of his own political views with those of Prof. Smith. He then returned to Fredericton, where he followed literary pursuits until 1885, when he accepted a call to the Professorship of Modern Literature in Kings College, Windsor, N. S.

In 1887 his second volume of poems appeared, which was called "In Divers Tones." The surpassing excellence of some of these poems is beyond question, and they immediately place Prof. Roberts in his niche of fame. Since leaving Kings College in 1895 Mr. Roberts has devoted himself entirely to literary work. He wrote his "History of Canada" in Fredericton the first year after leaving Windsor. This is perhaps the best history of this country ever written.

Of late years he makes his home for the most part in New York, although his family resides in Fredericton. Mr. Roberts goes on a European trip every year, and his last story, the "Prisoner of Mademoiselle," was finished in Paris.

He invariably goes on a hunting and fishing trip, sometimes taking his family or his father with him. He has three children living, his eldest, Lloyd, though only twenty years of age, is at present supporting himself with his pen in New York City.

Harvey Station.

(Special Correspondence to the Herald.)

Dec. 19.—Trade at the Station has been quite brisk for some time past. Considerable quantities of pork, poultry and butter have been handled by our merchants. One dealer here has shipped about eighteen tons of pork in the carcass to the St. John market. The price paid for pork is 5 to 5 1/2 cents. Good turkeys command twenty cents per pound and many have been sold at this high figure, and in some cases 20 1/2 cents has been received. Most of the turkeys go to St. Stephen.

J. G. Hamilton and James Maratt, of St. Stephen, have lately purchased a number of fat cattle here and driven them through on foot. Mr. Hamilton has also shipped two cars of sheep and lambs to St. Stephen.

Hay and oats are very scarce and four cars of hay have been brought in from Carleton county for use here. The Agricultural Society is getting a car of oats.

Several cars of pulp wood have been hauled here by parties from Acet for shipment to St. John.

S. B. Hunter has purchased a large plate glass show case for inside his store. The wood is polished quartered oak. The case adds very materially to his already well equipped and handsome store.

Fredericton Junction.

(Special Correspondence to The Herald.)

Dec. 19.—Just five weeks ago today our first snow fell and we have had continuous light sleighing ever since.

On Saturday last, John Simpson of Diamond Square, met with a considerable loss. He was unloading cordwood at the Junction when his span of horses took fright from the cars and bolted. One of them had the misfortune to break its leg and had to be put to death.

The Christmas tide so dear to all and so covered over with the ivy of hoary antiquity and pleasant remembrances is near, and in addition to the gifts and reunions incidental to the festive day, all are hoping the sleighing will hold out.

Cupid is making happy havoc in this locality. Willard Thomas and Miss Francis Tracy are to be married Wednesday night. Ernest A. Tracy, merchant of Tracy, and Miss Mable Hayward, of Lincoln, are to be married on the 28th. There are others, but the lack of definite information prevents your correspondent from naming the accused.

Ora Phillips, of Little Lake, is convalescing, after a long illness from pneumonia.

Hay and oats are scarce. The price of horses is down and the price of turkey is soaring.

THE HARDEST PAIN TO ENDURE

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