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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

The Winter Fairs are growing year after year.

You cannot make good stock on fresh air and the straw stack.

The tone of all the addresses at the Provincial Winter Fair was for more and better live stock.

The market does not want heavy cattle and lambs. Baby beef and 80 lb. lambs top the price column.

"The Farmer's Advocate" wishes all its readers a joyful Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Indications are that there will be a good market for all the eggs Canada can produce. Britain will require them.

If more time could be spent each winter in getting seed ready for the following spring, bigger and cleaner crops would result.

Canada did not import many horses this year, but she proved that horses as good as the best can be and are produced right in this Dominion.

Did you get an incentive at the Winter Fair to breed and feed better than before? If you didn't you failed to see the show from the proper angle.

If you do not keep pure-breds there is nothing to hinder you from keeping high-class grades. The use of good pure-bred sires will ensure a better herd.

The inter-county stock judging competition at the Guelph Winter Fair stirred up some rivalry between counties. This should prove a valuable stimulus.

We never like to see a judge discussing classes, with anyone privileged to be in the ring, before the awards have been made. It leads people to ask, "who is the judge?"

The Canadian bacon hog should hold more than his own. Production has been cut down in Denmark, Canada's strongest competitor in the British market. Let us keep our hogs uniform in type.

Every reader interested in live stock, good seed, and fine poultry should save last week's issue, with its complete reports of three winter live-stock exhibitions, and the addresses delivered at Guelph. No other farm paper attempts such extensive reports.

The West is already looking to the East for horses. A buyer called at our office a few days ago who is on the look out for nearly two car loads of fillies. It is time, also, that something was done to encourage the purchase of army horses in this country.

A purely live-stock show like that at Guelph proves that crowds can be attracted without the questionable side show, and the way spectators crowd the seating capacity of the arena, and applaud their favorites in the ring proves again that a judging arena is essential to a live-stock show.

Boost the Bacon Hog.

Canada has for several years been known as the home of a very select type of bacon hog. The war has brought conditions which make it almost imperative that the Canadian farmer produce nothing else but the finest type of bacon hog if he is to make the most of pork production. It is a well-known fact, amongst those interested in the pig business, that Denmark has in the past been Canada's strongest competitor as far as pork products are concerned in the British markets. The Danes cannot produce bacon so cheaply as it can be made in Canada, but they do produce a more uniform quality of bacon, due to the fact that practically all their pigs are of the same breed, and consequently are of very similar type. Prior to the war, the Danes were killing 60,000 pigs per week. Owing to the fact that the supply of barley from Russia and corn from the United States has been for the most part cut off, the Danes have been obliged to greatly curtail their pig-feding operations, and, at the present time, it is said that they are not killing more than half the former number of pigs weekly. By government regulation, one-third of the bacon produced in Denmark is supposed to go to Great Britain. About one-third of it is consumed at home, and the other third presumably goes to Germany. Breeding hogs in Germany have been slaughtered by the wholesale, reports tell us to the extent of 7,000,000. During the first ten months of this year Denmark slaughtered 700,000 fewer hogs than during the same time last year. Ireland, the next largest feeder for the British market, has not increased its bacon production very perceptibly. The point is plain. Britain will require bacon and Canada should produce it. Our breeders should be careful to establish, in this country, a uniform type of bacon hog. It matters not what the breed is so long as we get the type, but there is no use of Canadian pig breeders attempting to breed and put on the market the thick, fat hog so common in the United States, for we have not in this country the cheap corn feed which makes the lard hog at a low price, and we cannot compete with United States breeders in the lard hog trade. Boost the bacon hog. There will be money in it.

Getting Your Money's Worth.

It is time to subscribe! It is time to renew! Another year is drawing to a close, and with its waning days comes the time to select the papers which are to be placed in the home for another year. The war has had the effect of stimulating interest in the news of the day. Everyone follows the fight closely. But the farmers of Canada are always engaged in a fight of vital interest to themselves and to our country. Upon their prosperity, particularly at the present time, depends, more than upon any other one factor, the development of our nation. The farmer has rights and he has a friend in "The Farmer's Advocate," not afraid to stand out boldly for those rights. No timid corporation of high finance controls "The Farmer's Advocate." It speaks as a farmer to farmers. During the coming year, and the years immediately to follow, good agriculture is going to mean more to this country than it has ever meant. The world needs food, not gold, and there is only one place to get it—from the farms, and the farms of Canada must take a leading place in supplying our Empire with the necessities of life. The farmer

must produce more and better products, and he must be paid a fair return for doing so. "The Farmer's Advocate" can help. It was never in a better position to do so than at the present time. Through the past year it has given its readers considerably over 2,000 pages of the best information available upon all the problems of the farm, with a Christmas Number of 88 pages handsomely illustrated and containing special articles which will cause it to be kept on file by agricultural leaders for all time, and this in a war year when other papers curtailed expenditure. The outlook is even better for next year. We are planning at least one special article for each issue. No expense will be spared to give our readers the best service procurable. We ask your co-operation. Renew! Get your neighbors and friends to subscribe; and then write and give us some of your practical farming experience which will help others. Ask us questions. They will be answered by the best authorities on the various subjects. A subscriber in paying his subscription the other day said: "I can't understand why all farmers do not take 'The Farmer's Advocate'. I wouldn't be without it if it cost \$5 per year. It contains everything of interest and value to the farmer." But you get it for \$1.50, and if you send a new name before Jan 1 the two papers will go forward for \$2.25. After that it will be \$1.50 per subscription. You can't duplicate the value elsewhere. No one can offer you "something just as good," for he hasn't got it. The farm home is entitled to good magazine reading and we give the best. The farm boy learns to prize "The Farmer's Advocate," for it tells him what he wants to know. It is the best stimulant known for Canadian agriculture. If you don't get it you should; if you do, keep on and show others the benefit to be derived.

Plan Now—Act Later.

Through all the hammering and inconvenience incident upon a small town with a big show and small buildings to house it in, the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, held annually at Guelph, has come with flying colors, for, notwithstanding the adverse conditions brought on this year through the war and the fact that the military authorities occupied the buildings up until just a few weeks before the opening of the show, the Winter Fair made history. It was the largest in number of entries, and the finest in quality of exhibits in the history of the exhibition. But, there must be some provision made in the very near future to accommodate the stock and the spectators which each year are sure to increase in numbers as progress goes on in the live-stock development of Canada, East and West, particularly of Ontario, the breeding ground of the Dominion. It is time now for those in charge to begin to lay plans for the bigger and greater fair which must eventually be provided for somewhere, because Ontario has demonstrated beyond all possibility of a doubt that no matter what happens, the live-stock business is destined to hold a pre-eminent place in the agriculture of this province, and Ontario's breeders and fitters are always ready to exhibit where they get fair prizes, good treatment and can show their stock to the best advantage. Besides this, the people of the Province have proven that they will attend the show even though it be an exhibition of farm products alone, with live stock as a feature. There is a great future for winter fairs in Ontario, and when buildings are remodelled or new ones provided, due consideration must be taken of the probable