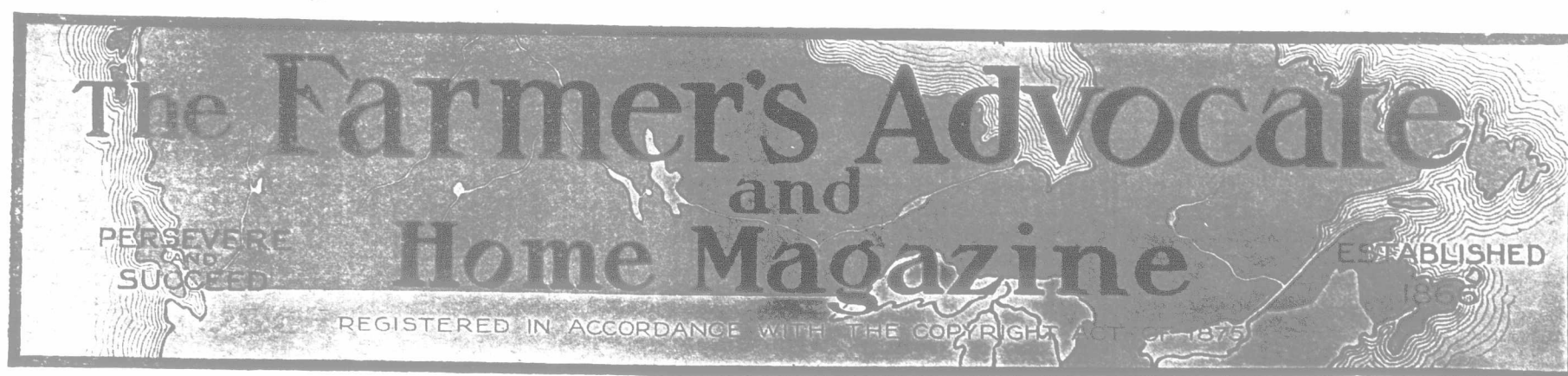




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LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 18, 1917.

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EDITORIAL.

Once more, secure the seed grain early.

Discussion is the life of any meeting.

"He can who thinks he can," but the Kaiser can't and he knows it.

Peace may yet be made in Germany, but not by the German war lords.

Many a man insures his barns and house against fire, but neglects to insure his life.

Blood tells. Read what special breeding has done for the Clydesdale breed in this issue.

Many people talk of "going farming" but when the time of final decision comes they get "cold feet."

Both political parties have talked "tariff" for years, but neither lowers it very appreciably under any circumstances.

The farm is a safe investment, but it is necessary to so work the land that it is not robbed, else there will be depreciation.

King Alcohol has been the heaviest territorial loser since the world war began and peace will never restore his colonies to him.

It is well for every farmer to know how to treat some of the commoner ailments of his cattle. "Whip" tells you how in an interesting table this week.

Canada's Parliament is again in session. The country desires that the utmost be done toward the winning of the war. On with the great work in hand!

The man who keeps no hens thinks that every egg is clear profit, and likewise the know-it-all of dairying often does not know which end of a cow gets up first.

Those who look upon the Western Grain Growers' movement as a puny offspring would like to see it such but it is growing lustier daily and may jolt some of the scoffers from power yet.

Canada has made a start toward national enrolment and national service. Let us hope that it is followed up. Three classes of men are needed: fighters, munitions workers, and food producers.

There is a noticeable lack of support given by Department of Agriculture officials to farmers' organization work. Too many of them are politicians first and agricultural workers afterwards.

Judging from many of our "Young Farmers' " ideas on the ills of the country community, "Dad" is not as generous-minded as he might be. On the whole, however, we believe that the fathers of farm boys are just about as considerate as circumstances will permit.

The Experimental Farms and the Experimental Union, through actual trials of the leading varieties, are able to choose the best for their own conditions or for an average of all, but it remains for the individual experimenter to prove which of the top-notchers is best suited to his own farm and his own conditions. Try an experiment.

Consider the Tariff.

By the time this is in the hands of our readers the Dominion Parliament will be again in session. Since the war began legislation, other than that necessary to the carrying out of the country's plans toward the winning of the conflict in Europe and the final establishment of permanent peace, has not been heavy, and rightly so. The war is the first consideration and none should be for the party, but rather all should unite for the good of the state. It is not likely that any great amount of new legislation will be brought down and finally passed by the present session, but there are many questions daily discussed by the average Canadian citizen. The high cost of living, the labor problem, food production, the rural problem in all its phases, taxation and many vital questions come up at every meeting, and no one has found a solution under our present laws.

The woman in the city asks, as a measure of relief, that the tariff be taken off outside food products entering this country. She seems to know nothing of the fact that the producer in this country pays a high tariff on his implements and machinery used in producing similar food products and is forced to compete in the same labor market with highly protected city industries. City men and women criticize the boys and young men who have left the country districts to work in city factories, particularly munition factories, saying that they should have gone to the front. The beautiful backyard brunette bursts forth with a great deal of clap-trap about the farmer not trying to produce more food products. She tells him what he has known for long that his acres do not grow the maximum crop each year, but no one explains how the farmer can create of himself three men to do the necessary work. Boys are advised to stay on the farm at the same time that protected, bonused and otherwise fattened city industry beckons them away. What of it all?

No one measure, no matter how strong the medicine, can cure all the ills, but in the near future those at the head of affairs at Ottawa, if we mistake not, will be forced to consider and reconsider tariffs. It has always been held that an independent journal like "The Farmer's Advocate" was treading on dangerous ground when it attempted to discuss tariffs. How so? The ground is entirely safe, for both of our political parties, having an eye to vote—getting and knowing where to look for the necessary campaign funds, have been high-tariff parties. Out of power, they see where changes could be made and the subject becomes the furnace which produces a great deal of parliamentary hot air. In power, they remember who put them there and forget all about lowering tariff. The fact is the people can never look for much reduction or very radical tariff policy changes until they assert their independence and demand it.

In former days it was believed by many that high tariffs, while not of direct value to the farmer helped him, through creating large cities and manufacturing centres, which meant better markets. Few thought of the city consumer as injured by the tariff. Manufacturing concerns were able to pay him better wages and he benefitted. It is now dawning upon many city consumers, as well as rural producers, the tariff affects both to their respective detriment. City leagues of women are asking that the tariff be removed from foodstuffs. This could not be consistently done, without removing the duty from agricultural implements and machinery used in food production in this country, which would mean all-round tariff revision downward.

Politicians of the past, and of the present too, have been too intent upon building up large manufacturing centres. They assumed the impossible, viz., that the agricultural community was stable, unchanging and permanent—a community which would stay on the land and go on producing regardless of the rise in cost of

implements, machinery and all necessities to production, and regardless of the increasingly rosy opportunities which this artificial condition offered to young men and young women to remove to the city. The people did not all stay on the land according to such a senseless assumption, and to-day the problem is more acute than ever. Producers are all too few in Canada at a time when the empire and our own country need more food. The acreage to go into crop next spring cannot be as large as it should be; far from it. The men are not on the farms, which were greatly depleted even before the war. The situation is acute and the city dweller, as well as the rural, begins to feel the pinch, and the pinch will tighten. We have reached the stage where the average city man working for a living, and all country people working for a living, are beginning to realize that what is the problem of one is the problem of the other.

It has been argued that protection to industry gives the farmer a near, abundant and steady market for his products, and creates a market for live-stock products, truck-farming crops, etc., and that the policy which increases the number of those who are not engaged in farming but must live on the products of the farm assures to the farmer the highest and steadiest remuneration. The greatest argument to offset this in Canada is that industry, through its ability to pay higher wages has robbed the farms of men until it is a physical impossibility to carry on intensive farming on a large scale in the country. Intensive farming means more men, and were the farmer to pay wages which would compete with those paid by big industries, the cost of living would be higher and higher; otherwise he could not produce at a profit and would do as he has done, stick more closely to extensive farming, pasture fields, and wheat. Prosperity for the laborer or city worker and the farmer must be measured by the relation of his wages to the current prices of the things he needs in the case of the former, and for the latter in the relationship of cost of production, amount he is able to produce and the price obtained; and in the cost of production we must not forget to consider the price of manufactured goods the farmer must buy. Now what do we find? Notwithstanding the fact that those who do not farm claim that farmers are growing rich, the boys brought up and raised in the country leave it for the city. If farming were a fair money proposition would they do it? We attribute to them a reasonable amount of intelligence, and do not hesitate to say they would not. What of the city laborer? True, his wages have increased until they are higher than the farmer feels he can afford to pay, but the cost of the necessities of life are up out of all proportion to his increase of pay. Who is getting the plums? Certainly not the farmer, nor yet the average city worker.

The country must raise revenue, and the fiscal argument that customs duties are the most satisfactory method of taxation because they are paid by foreign countries is trotted out. Such is only a delusion. The student of Canadian political economy knows that when he buys a dutiable article he pays the duty. The home manufacturer puts his price up to a level with that of the outside manufacturer, and for every dollar which finds its way into the public treasury probably three dollars of the people's hard-earned cash goes into the pockets of those who enjoy the protection. As a means of raising revenue for the country, customs duties are not quite so satisfactory as they seem on the surface, although the majority of the people pay them without thinking and without kicking every time they buy dutiable goods. It is the absence of "kick" on the part of the consumers which pleases politicians and manufacturers alike. A man will pay the price set for an article more readily than he will pay any amount of direct tax, no matter how infinitesimal the latter may be. The country must have revenue.

Should a country's civilization be national or cos-