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Advocate



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EDITORIAL

The days grow shorter and the frosts harder.

Why not organize a local marketing club in your neighborhood?

Accumulations of the season's weeds about the premises are dangerous. Destroy them.

Bad roads and costly methods in marketing swallow up the profits on many products of the farm.

Ashes are a more desirable application on the soil than a litter of weeds that may contain matured seeds.

Not how many but how good would be a better future watchword for the live-stock husbandmen of Canada.

We have had what many have called "an old-fashioned summer." We wonder if they predict "an old-fashioned winter."

Systems of indirect taxation are something like the Northwest weather, which may be cold enough to kill, but "you don't feel it."

To destroy the weed pests of the land is not sufficient. We must plan to substitute for them the purest and best of plants that can be grown.

The man who follows a system of farming which makes the winter a productive season as well as the summer is on the straightest road to success.

Comparative idleness for five months in the year may be enjoyed by some, but this should not be the aim of the man who has chosen agriculture as his field of endeavor.

Many of the plowed fields bear the marks of carelessness upon the part of the plowman. A campaign for better plowing and more interest in this important branch of farm cultivation should receive widespread support.

There should be no complaint that the swamps have not been filled up this fall, for although the early fall was dry, late October and early November brought heavy and frequent rains.

During the coming winter let us furbish up our weapons for another year's warfare with weeds. This is a form of militancy to which "The Farmer's Advocate" can unreservedly subscribe.

This is the season when farmers' clubs, rural literary societies and debating clubs should renew their efforts. Open discussion of all problems is elevating and tends to promote reading and thinking. Every reader should be a thinker.

A good topic for discussion at farmers' meetings this coming winter would be: "Ways and means of reducing the cost of marketing." Those who read the article on marketing in our last week's issue could not but be impressed with the high cost of selling.

Begin Now.

The live-stock industry has its ups and downs and will continue to have them, but seldom is it that any business or branch of a business offers better opportunities than does live-stock husbandry at the present time. It is the backbone of mixed farming and must continue to be. The fertility of our fields depends upon it and our housewives look to it to supply a staple portion of our daily menu. The destiny of all cattle, sheep and swine is the butcher's block, and more than is sometimes believed does the pure-bred stock business depend upon the supply and demand from the butcher's viewpoint. Pork sells high to-day and will continue to do so. The demand for beef cattle, feeders and stockers, is almost unprecedented. Lamb is a delicacy for which high prices obtain. There is not likely to be a change to lower prices. In fact everything points upward. At this time everyone looks to the breeders of pure-bred stock to supply the good animals to keep up and improve the quality of the cattle, sheep and swine. Recent market quotations have more than ever indicated that the buyer wants the good stock. He must get what he demands and the breeder of good stock must supply it. Dairy products show an upward tendency in price and good dairy cows are scarce. With all this the price of first-class, pure-bred breeding stock remains reasonable. Many are the farms which could do with a few pure-breeds to raise the standard of the live stock kept on them. The difference between the price of good grades and good pure-breeds is not so great at the present time that it would not pay many purchasers to put their money in the pure-bred stock and by careful breeding build up herds and flocks of the best types of pure-bred stock in the country. It has paid others to do this in times not nearly so opportune as the present. It would pay you now. Think it over and begin this fall.

Save Farmyard Fertilizer.

Right at the beginning of the winter is the time to put in operation the system to be followed in disposing of the manure as it comes from the stables. By this time the greater portion of the live stock are in the stalls, at least a part of the time, and considerable manure is being made to be carted out on the land. Farm fertility must be replenished from farmyard manure, or from commercial fertilizers, or both. Manure is exceedingly valuable. Far more so than many people seem to realize, (judging from the careless way in which it is handled. For a while when the stock first comes in the litter and manure are often forked out the stable door just under the eaves of the barn until this pile gets so large as to back up and partially block the door. Then the wheelbarrow is brought into use and the manure is spread here and there over a rather poor yard. Little care is taken to keep it in a tidy pile away from the eaves and where too much of it will not be washed away. Many draw the green manure as it is made out to the fields, where it is spread. This is economy of labor, and where land is not too rolling and liable to wash, carrying away the fertility applied, this is good practice. Others use a covered shed in which the manure is spread around and the stock are let in to keep it well tramped. If kept solid it will not "firefang," unless too great a proportion of horse manure is mixed in.

It pays to mix the manure from horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. Sometimes we have seen cases where it was necessary to add water to manure thus kept under cover, especially where tramping had not made it solid. There is no doubt but that manure kept in a shed of this kind is better than that spread out in a barnyard to catch all the waters from rain and snow precipitated during late fall, winter, and spring. But many have no such shed. The best course open to these, if they do not see fit to draw the manure out as it is made, is to keep the manure piled in a solid, neat, cone-shaped pile away from the eaves of the barns and not spread all over the yard for the cattle to tramp through and for the rains to soak and wash away. Manure is too valuable to be handled carelessly. Start to save it now.

Wanted, A Maple Industry Policy.

The approaching session of the Canadian Parliament makes timely a discussion of maple-sugar and syrup standards and the application of such legal regulations as will stop the deceptive use of the word "maple" on imitation products and compel their sale exactly for what they are. Other commercial syrups and sugars may be wholesome and palatable as foods, and providing they sail under their own colors objection cannot properly be raised, but when greedy big interests for their own enrichment undertake to palm off on the public substitutes under the guise of "maple" or "maple flavor" it is time for intervention. As the Secretary of the Pure Maple Sugar and Syrup Co-operative Agricultural Association, Joseph H. Lefebvre, has very vigorously and clearly pointed out, they wish to sneak in and sell their foods under the good old name, maple, which they know is popular and stands for something superior and entirely distinctive. The term "maple" is wanted by them conspicuously on the labels in order to sell the goods with the natural result of displacing the genuine article from the market or making its production by the farmer unprofitable.

In order to the up-building on a sound and honest basis of the Canadian dairy industry stringent legislation rigidly administered by officers vigilant for what is right was wisely provided against the sale or manufacture of "filled cheese," or bogus butter products. Farmers and fruit growers are subject now to a clear and strictly administered "Fruit Marks Act," which under severe penalties, does not permit one variety of apples to be sold for another of superior quality; and definitely named grades of fruit have been established to which packers and dealers must conform. This has been done not alone for the protection of consumers but for the better development of the orchard industry and the promotion of a good trade in other Provinces and abroad for honest and superior Canadian fruit. Federal and Provincial authorities have, at large expense, engaged in educational work on the cultural side of the fruit industry, and to teach packing, branding, and marketing in accordance with the law. The wisdom of this policy is now recognized and it would seem to be the plain duty of legislators and the judiciary to proceed in accordance with similar principles in relation to maple syrup and sugar making. Instead of pursuing a policy tending to strangle maple syrup and sugar making, the time is op-