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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 12, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

Keep the plow going daily.

He who plans best farms best.

Be patriotic—be a true Canadian.

If in need of extra winter feed, buy early.

Pork is dear, but so is feed. Feed carefully.

Read the account of the corn experiment in this issue.

Do not forget the farm when planning careers for the boys.

If you must cut down the stock cull carefully. Keep the best.

Winter will be along in about six weeks. Will the stable be ready?

A flock of hens without a hen-house is generally a neglected nuisance.

Four Zeppelins dropped in England within a month. The trip is not as safe as it was.

Keep the hired man and keep the stock rather than sell the stock and "sack" the man.

Organize for a profitable winter. Start the Farmers' Club or literary society early this fall.

England's live stock has increased since the war began; Canada's has decreased. Buck up Canada!

No farmer can afford to feed stock and poultry vermin at the present price of all kinds of feed. Clean up.

There are rumors of an election coming next spring. Do not forget that you are an independent Canadian voter.

If the average farmer could see half as much in farming as the average city man does, what a difference there would be!

Boarder cows will be more expensive than ever this winter. Make them prove in advance that they can pay their way.

It is not hard to figure out what is received for a crop, but it is a different proposition when it comes to estimating the cost of a crop.

It is too bad more of the country-bred city leaders could not have exercised their ability toward the promotion of agriculture and country affairs.

School Fairs are accomplishing two things at least: children are learning to speak in public, and weed-naming contests are making them familiar with Ontario's noxious weeds.

Judging by the difference in price of potatoes in the Maritime Provinces and in Ontario, it costs considerable to transport them here. When the consumer in London was paying from \$2 to \$2.20 per bushel for tubers they were selling at 40 to 65 cents per bushel in P. E. I. and New Brunswick.

Organize—Co-Operate.

Fall and winter are the best times of the year for farmers to get together and organize their efforts so that they may reap greater benefits from the work of production and marketing of farm products. Students of political economy are agreed that unless agriculture is organized, first locally, and then provincially or country-wide, farmers cannot reap the net returns which should be theirs. Without organization the producer must always be more or less at the mercy of the man who handles his goods on the way to the consumer. Many instances of the value of standing together can be cited by most of those who have followed the ups and downs of agriculture through the past decade. When it costs the manufacturer more to produce his goods he immediately charges more for them and generally adds an extra percentage profit, but when the cost of producing milk on the farm runs up rapidly what chance has the dairyman to increase the price unless the milk producers in the area affected stand together—which means organization. When fruit is plentiful who has the least trouble in disposing of his crop, and who gets the highest price? Every time it is the member of a growing fruit growers' organization. There is nothing to hinder farmers who feed pigs, lambs and cattle on a small scale from getting together on the marketing end of the business at least, and also, possibly, in the purchase of feed. Through a Farmers' Club or local society or organization a saving might be effected in the marketing of the stock as well as in the feed. There is no department of farm work which cannot be benefited through the proper kind of organization, and now is the time to start and to push this essential to the greatest success in Canadian agriculture. The long fall and winter evenings afford an opportunity for meetings at which these matters may be discussed and action taken. Decide to start and to start right, and eventually something big may grow out of all the local organizations scattered here and there over the country.

A Duty to the Boy.

Someone has estimated that eighty-five per cent of America's great or eminently successful city men were born in the country. Whether this is an entirely correct estimate or not we are not prepared to state, but it is nevertheless a fact known to all that a very large proportion of the few men who go to the top in city business were born on the farm. We sometimes wonder how many of these would have been great successes had they remained in the country and put the same thought and energy into scientific agriculture that they have into their chosen walks of life. Surely some could have been made into good farmers and satisfied farmers. It would be a pity to spoil a good storekeeper, a hustling manufacturer, a successful physician or an eminent professor by making a second or third-rate farmer of him, but the fact which stands out is that all these men have been wooed away or driven from the farm and few really great farmers are known. The pity of it all is that the basic industry of this continent is not considered of sufficient importance to attract the great men in their earlier days to make it a life-work. True, after they have amassed a fortune in other business, they like to play at farming. Their return to the farm is generally to make the farm a "sink-hole" for some of their surplus wealth. They make it a "hobby."

When one stops to think of it agriculture can ill afford to lose all the leaders. It is all very fine to talk of the way men born on the farm strengthen city industry, and how the men and women from the

land keep the race strong and virile, but has it not been carried a little too far? Very good use could be made of the brains and ability of more leaders in the field of practical agriculture. Can the farm afford to lose so many? How can a change be brought about? It is the duty of every parent to give the best he can to his children as a start in life. They should be encouraged in whatever calling for which they show special aptitude. But why forget the farm? Too often farming is painted a rather dull picture for the boy, while education and trades are held up as the ideal occupations. Education is all right and every boy should get all he can. No one has too much of it to farm. But why not put the best side of farm life forward to the boy and then, if he decides on a city occupation, do not stand in his way. Give the farm a fair show with the other futures for the bright boy, and perhaps a few great men will grow up on and stay with the farm. Agriculture is a calling worthy of the best brains of the country.

Can You Splice a Rope?

We recently read twenty-four extracts from reports sent to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province by a number of District Representatives in the various counties. Here is one of them: "When out one day I ran across a man who had his horse-fork rope broken and was endeavoring to splice it. Having some little experience in properly splicing ropes, I did the work for him. He was evidently quite pleased, as he said he would see that I gave a rope-splicing demonstration at their Farmers' Club next winter." After reading the foregoing, we began to wonder where the Representative learned to splice a rope, and decided that it certainly was not at the Agricultural College. Now the question is, why shouldn't farmers' sons, in fact all those who seek their diploma or degree from the Agricultural College, be taught how to splice a rope and how to do much other just such necessary farm work, which many of them never have had an opportunity to learn at home and should know before they go out to aid in the advancement of Canadian agriculture. We often wonder what percentage of the graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, who go back to the farm, or seek other employment, could splice a hay-fork rope if necessity arose. We know that only a small percentage of the practical farmers in this country can do it, and we know also that the college-trained men who can, learned the trick in practical work on the farm or elsewhere and not in the mechanical laboratory at the College. We are not seeking to criticize, but Ontario is getting a new agricultural school at the present time, and it would be a fine thing, especially for the two-year men who take the course, both there and at Guelph, if they were taught how to do well several of these odd jobs which turn up from time to time around a farm, and splicing a hay-fork rope is a very common one. We venture to say that this District Representative will get closer to the hearts of the farmers belonging to the Club, which he mentioned, by being able to show them how to splice a rope, than he would by two solid days' lecturing on how to farm, unless he could show something practical to back up what he said. When he has won them to him by the splicing process, he will then be in a much better position to impart to them his advanced knowledge of agriculture and they will be in a more receptive mood. The writer remembers putting in a few weeks of some of the best work he ever did, helping men who were new to the fruit-tree spraying business over some of the little hard places in connection with their spraying operations. The big box of tools which he carried, not only aided in repairing pumps and tanks but