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EDITORIAL.

"More corn and better corn" is a good field maxim for 1911.

Many good people are spoiled by the get-rich-quick delusion, and they neither live nor get rich.

It is an extraordinary season, indeed, that will justify "mudding" the grain in or seeding in a cloddy, shallow bed.

The horse takes the right of way at the King's Coronation in June. For that function, the motor-car is relegated to the garage.

Never worry about crops because the spring opens late. Reserve anxiety for the farmer who is behind the season, whether the latter be early or backward.

Some good stands of alfalfa were killed or spotted this spring as a consequence of too close cropping last autumn. Nothing like eight or ten inches of growth to hold the snow and guard against winter-killing.

Horse-stable litter and dirty back-yards cause flies, sickness and death; stagnant water breeds mosquitos; rotten garbage makes bad air, weak bodies and big doctor's bills. Clean up, drain, burn, disinfect and whitewash.

Any person who would demand the same wages per hour for labor of pride and love (as the care of good stock should be) as he would expect for monotonous machine work, was never "cut out" for the farm, and is a misfit thereon.

In Ontario cheese-factory districts, the "dekin" calf business has been flourishing this season, as usual. What becomes of the residue after the hide is removed—jelly, sausage or salad? No one seems to know, but no one wants to eat it.

At Washington it has been discovered that there is an extensive poultry yard, with coops for "lame ducks"—alleged statesmen whom the people have dismissed from their service, but who are now provided for on various commissions at the public expense. The National Monetary Commission, costing a big sum annually, created three years ago, is an example of these.

In the whole range of feedstuffs there is probably nothing more wholesome than corn, when compounded with other materials so as to constitute a suitably balanced ration. Probably a close second is oats, which have, moreover, the advantage of being a fairly well balanced ration in themselves, and also of being bulkier than corn. For horses, oats are, of course, the ideal grain. Though even for horses some ear corn may be advantageously added to the oats.

The present insane methods that are being used by many States and individuals to stamp out tuberculosis might well be compared to a farmer trying to stamp out wild morning glories by pulling the flowers," says a writer in the *Holland Friesian Register*. Well put. The root of trouble lies in faulty breeding, pampering, lack of adequate attention to ventilation, and disregard of bacteriology. Rearing calves on tuberculous milk, no doubt, a prolific means of dissemination.

Woman's Influence in the Home.

The successful conduct of a farm is usually attributed to the "man" at the head of the concern, whereas in many cases, were the truth known, it is more largely due to the woman of the home. In fact, we recall instances where women have assumed the responsibilities of farm management, and proved themselves fully equal, if not superior, to the task in business capacity. But it is not of this we would speak, but of the influence of the woman of the farm home in moulding the character of the family and imparting tone and spirit to the life of its members. What may come of woman's suffrage we know not, but let there be no mistake about the significance of woman kind as a force and inspiration in rural society. Hers is no light responsibility, and any low estimation of it is fatal. She may, if she will, set the pace of the home and neighborhood, temper all its asperities, and deliver people from awkwardness and vulgarity by her words and looks. As Dr. Robert P. Downes has said, women discern as by instinct the quality of things, and they are swift, in the presence of merit, to admire and to praise. Their influence upon the life of children is greater and more subtle than that of a father's. John Foster, a man of mighty brain, but of sensitive and retiring disposition, declares it impossible to give a just idea of the influence which a cultivated and excellent woman diffuses about her.

Proposed Amendments of Seed Control Act.

We have been asked to publish something that will more pointedly draw the attention of the public to the proposed amendment of the Seed Control Act, as noted in our news columns of March 23rd. A mistaken impression has been formed in some quarters that the proposed amendments were being engineered by the seed merchants so as to insure that all seed would have to pass through their hands, thus enabling them to charge \$10 or \$12 per bushel for seed purchased at \$5 or \$6. As a matter of fact, nothing could be farther from the truth. Neither the original Seed Control Act, nor the subsequent amendments (enacted and proposed) have been prompted by the seed merchants. Quite the reverse.

It is true that seed merchants would, if they could, have the same law applied to the farmer as to the seed vendor, but Clause 5 makes clear that their desires in that respect have not been met. There is reason to believe it is principally on this account that the larger dealers, who operate the cleaning plants, have been opposed to and have declared their disapproval of this further legislation, which was conceived with a view to the best interests of Canadian agriculture, not only in the relatively small district where clover seeds are grown, but also in the much larger areas of Canada, where farmers depend upon dealers for their clover seeds.

The proposed amendments will not prevent the grower from selling seed on sample to his neighbor, unless it contains more than 80 noxious weed seeds per ounce of red clover seed, 160 per ounce of alsike, or, in all, more than 400 seeds of all kinds of weeds per ounce, including other harmful weeds.

Practically all Canadian seed houses have their grass and clover seeds tested and graded in the

Ottawa or Calgary seed laboratory. These laboratories have been and will continue to be at the service of seed-growers, free of cost to them. If they will take the trouble to send accurate samples to be tested and graded, they can furnish the information so received when offering their seed to the local seed vendors; they will then be in exactly the same position as are the wholesale seed houses, and will be able to compete with them in the matter of prices. Few local seed vendors are able to detect and identify noxious weed seeds. They have all learned to be careful in the quality of the seeds they purchase, and they are not to be condemned for refusing to buy grass and clover seeds as to the quality of which they have no assurance.

Under the Crust.

One of the greatest mistakes a farmer can make is yielding to that insidious tendency to dull his mental energy by sheer physical exhaustion. There are so many things to do about a farm, and so few hands to do them, that, unless one is careful, he finds himself working on into the night, when he should be resting, if not sleeping. Morning comes apace, finding his senses heavy; but Necessity, that stern prompter, opens his eyelids and drives him through another round of duty. Day after day this continues, till, unconsciously, he slips into a routine, and, despite natural inclinations and resolutions to the contrary, gradually settles into ruts. He loses his mental grasp and outlook, becomes the slave of his own work, drags through it as best he may, with dulled perception, flagging enterprise and dull-gray outlook where nothing matters much but grimly holding on. The future holds nothing of promise, and only the old ways are safe.

Have you caught yourself sliding into that condition? Did you stop to consider whether you were drifting? Wise man if you decided that a keen mind and reserve of mental energy were more important than a few extra present tasks. Everyone admires the thrifty, energetic farmer, but an ounce of mental energy is worth a pound of muscular any day in the week. A well-stored mind, informed concerning up-to-date developments, a broad outlook and a keen mental edge are more important than spring seeding or harvesting. Sleep an extra hour, shorten the chores by a little better planning and a little more snap. The one thing we cannot afford to do is to get under the crust, where too hard work will put us every time.

The Alfalfa Habit.

Alfalfa and prosperity seem to have gone hand in hand in Kansas. In that State alfalfa furnishes the bulk of the tame hay, the output of which has made phenomenal increases. Secretary F. D. Coburn, of the Board of Agriculture tells us that in 1891, the statistical birth-year of alfalfa, the value of the tame hay of the State was \$2,008,200. Then there were 34,384 acres of alfalfa. Ten years later its sowings had increased to 319,142 acres, and the hay product that year was worth \$9,380,904. The 1910 report shows 926,192 acres in alfalfa, with a tame hay output worth \$17,450,735, or more than eight times the value of that product twenty years before. In none of these values is taken into account the great worth of alfalfa pasturage, nor of the fertility improvement of the soils in which the legume grew.