

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Work the turnip land frequently; it will lighten the work later on.

This is the month for weddings, sowing alternative crops and to begin haying.

Season the grass with plenty of salt—don't forget the live stock in this regard.

Eternal vigilance is the price of a corn crop—start the harrows and the cultivator.

When passing the hog pens, throw some green feed to the pigs, and if not passing often make a special trip—it will pay.

The dairy industry in Ontario would be in a stronger position to-day if many of those cheese factories now abandoned had been preserved by the producers.

They should have a hot summer in the United States. Party conventions and an impending Presidential election will keep things warm. There is still much heat in U. S. A. politics.

It is a good plan, where possible, to have a second pasture and change the stock from one to another. This gives the fields a chance to recuperate before being cropped too closely and beyond repair.

If there is a clean field of clover on the farm it will pay to harvest it early and bring the second crop along for seed. Many farmers purchase their seed annually when they might as well produce it at home.

The in-foal mare is the better for regular, moderate work, but she should not be forced to over-exert herself. Grass is a good conditioner but do not oblige the pregnant mare to subsist on grass, especially if she is doing any work.

There is no evidence now that would lead one to expect cheaper eggs next winter than they were last. It would not be bad policy on the farm to put down some eggs now in water glass and then sell the fresh eggs next winter at market prices.

Some settlers from the Corn-belt district in the United States still cling to their old practices, and even go so far as to burn their straw or give it away to some more provident neighbor. In Western Canada this might not appear so extravagant, but in Ontario the burning of straw is almost criminal.

The Government might profitably use some of the money collected from the sales and luxury taxes in hunting down combines and prosecuting profiteers. There has been and is yet too much money grabbing—that is why prices are high, and the consumer should not be chastised for the sins of others. Much of these excess profits is "blood money," and the system is wrong that permits them.

Agriculture provides a busy life but farmers would find it profitable to keep a record of accounts, such as sales, receipts, expenditures, etc. It is absolutely essential to success in breeding pure-bred live stock to keep records, and breeders will find the system explained by Prof. G. E. Day, in this issue, both simple and efficient. It can be adapted to suit individual cases or enlarged upon to meet the requirements where the operations are extensive. The whole pure-bred breeding industry is based on accuracy and the printed record, and every breeder should have his information written down in some systematic form.

The Demand is for Clean Milk.

The secret of success in business has always been to give the public what they want. The buying public can often be educated, and has been many times, to desire something new or different. However, it is not profitable to oppose the wishes of buyers too strenuously. The demand for clean milk and dairy products is rapidly increasing, and dairymen can well put forth an extra effort in order to supply the consuming class with such a product. When the agitation first started for improved dairy products, consumers did not seem inclined to reward producers for the extra work involved. Dairymen's associations are now educating town and city users of milk; showing them how the extra care of milk entails a great deal of labor, and gaining recognition of this fact. Producers can no longer afford to handle milk in a careless manner, or deliver it to the purchaser, be he householder or factory man, in an unclean or over-heated condition. This necessitates a liberal use of cold water, and in some cases ice and other cooling equipment. The secret of success in cooling milk and keeping it at a low temperature seems to lie more in having necessary and suitable equipment than in extra work. A good tank built amid clean environments, an ample supply of cold water, and cleanliness in connection with the cans and milking utensils go a long way in helping to produce clean milk and keeping it cool. Market milk and milk from which dairy products are to be made cannot be handled too carefully. It is the producer's duty to deliver a clean product and then demand a price that will reward him for his work. In order to obtain the latest and best information regarding that one important point of cooling milk and keeping it at a low temperature, a "Farmer's Advocate" editor spent considerable time in the milk-producing districts of both Eastern and Western Ontario. His findings are summarized and presented in the Dairy Department of this issue, and we commend the article to all dairymen who should be interested in this phase of production.

Superannuation.

Considerable objection is being taken in some quarters to the Superannuation Bill introduced in the Legislature of Ontario. It is claimed by some that the Bill is class legislation, and that one class in the community should not be obliged to pay for the keep of another group. There are two or three points in connection with the civil service that should be borne in mind. No Government seems inclined to step out and compete with industry, commerce and the various professions for the services of good men. Government salaries are always lower; more than that, civil servants are paid according to a sliding schedule, promotion usually comes slow, and initiative or energy on the part of a civil servant is seldom adequately rewarded. There are men, however, who would gladly give their service to the Province if they were to get some recognition for it, and a superannuation might afford some link to bind civil servants to their jobs and give them some confidence in the future. Men are leaving both Dominion and Provincial employ for the simple reason that they can get vastly more remuneration outside the service. While they like the work, they claim that for the sake of their families they cannot afford to remain in Government employ. A very little more would hold them, and superannuation, which principle is endorsed by the church, and in other services, might strengthen the morale of the civil service and do it good. The alternative is to go out into the open market and pay men what they are worth in competition with industry, trade and the professions. With superannuation or without it, there should be no one in Government employ who is not doing his work and doing it well. We should have honest, efficient and energetic civil servants, and we ought to pay them well for their services to the country.

Provincial Road Programs.

Road programs have been drawn up and approved in several provinces, and highway construction and repair much in excess of anything that has been attempted in the past, will be got under way. Much of this enthusiasm has been created by the Dominion Government's grant of \$20,000,000 to the provinces. We need good roads in Canada; we need far better roads than we have, and we need them right now. However, under the present abnormal conditions, we believe it would be better for the various provincial Governments to go carefully in their road-building programs and not keep construction and material costs up in the skies for another five or ten years. When the Dominion Government grant passed the House it was thought necessary in order to give employment to a great many men during the reconstruction era. It may still be needed for such a purpose at a later date, but at the present time it is absolutely unnecessary to boost construction work unduly in order to give work to an army of unemployed. The enthusiasm regarding good roads and the desire for them should not be allowed to wane. Every effort should be made to improve our market roads, make it possible for farmers to deliver their product to the shipping points, and for ordinary business to be easily and comfortably transacted. The through highways, however, can well wait for more favorable times when construction costs are less and labor more plentiful. An orgy of road building at this time would rob agriculture and other industries of much needed help, and even induce farmers themselves to grass their farms and work on the roads.

A Debatable Budget.

All budgets are debatable, especially in a House of several groups, but the Government's fiscal policy which is under fire as this is being written is of such a character as to require full and free discussion. The majority of people in Canada to-day favor a tariff; some desire a high one, others a low one, and there is in addition to these a small group of out-and-out free traders. Present circumstances, however, demand a policy that will bring revenue for the fiscal year ahead—that is primarily the purpose of a budget. On this occasion the Government has undertaken to influence the whole trend of trade, curtail extravagance, and reduce transactions to a basis of essentials. In this they are to be commended, but it is debatable whether the sales tax and the luxury tax do not bear too heavily on the ultimate consumer. All are consumers, but there is a great majority on the bread line, and that these should be grouped with the more prosperous classes in contributing revenue seems hardly fair. The present taxes are difficult enough to collect, and further grouping or classifying might present still further obstacles. A more direct form of taxation seems to be the best solution, and it is unfortunate that the Government did not adopt a more direct method of taxing wealth where it might be found to exist.

It is generally understood that the sales tax, or tax on turn-over, will ultimately be paid by the consumers and this tax of one per cent., which looks modest enough at first, may, before it reaches the purchaser, grow to considerable proportions. In purchasing raw material, a manufacturer may be buying the finished article of another plant. On this he will naturally pay the tax of one per cent., and add it to his cost of production. Then when his commodity follows the customary channels of trade in reaching the consumer, it may pass through both jobbers' and wholesalers' hands. In such a case the manufacturer, jobber and wholesaler each add their one per cent. Thus it becomes three per cent. between manufacturer and consumer, and it is just possible, as mentioned before, that a one per cent. may be added to the raw materials before the manu-