

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

The early hatched pullets should be in laying quarters now and beginning to pay for their board.

Put aside enough to make the first payment on a Victory Bond, then add to it and watch it grow.

While alfalfa can sometimes be pastured closely in the fall and still survive, it is a dangerous practice.

Sow oats or rye in the top layers when silo-filling is done. The growth seals the top and assists in the preservation of the contents.

We can say this for the Bulgarians, they were able to see they were wrong and furthermore to see what was coming before any other of their Allies.

The labor shortage is being felt more now than at any other time this season. It seems extremely difficult all over to secure extra hands for the rush.

The Provincial Plowing Match has grown into a big thing deserving of patronage. The event at Ottawa next week should draw from long distances.

Undoubtedly the finest colored apples are grown on sod. The most successful growers are the ones who get abundant color with fair size, and pack attractively.

Animals to be disposed of through auction sales this fall should be receiving special treatment now. It pays handsomely to have them up in condition and well fitted.

Too many light-weight, unfinished cattle are going to market. Too many cattle are going to the United States, and too few are going back on the farms of Ontario and Quebec to be fed.

Dairymen should keep thinking about the idea of a Provincial or Dominion Dairy Council. Too many organizations of this nature are brought to a head before the majority of those interested have given the matter a thought.

The United States has launched its Liberty Bond campaign with unprecedented vigor and enthusiasm. We in Canada should not be outclassed in this regard, and by saving and planning ahead we can meet with greater ease the demands which our coming Victory Loan issue will make upon us. It affords a splendid opportunity to do one's bit.

There can be no doubt that the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient by the American army, acting in conjunction with the French, had more than a local significance, for it places the Allied armies within fifteen miles of the great iron basin of Briey. It is stated that three-quarters of the steel used by Germany in this war is coming from this rich iron district, and without it the the Huns would soon be helpless. A writer in the New York Times makes the following comment: "By the Treaty of Frankfurt in 1871, Germany ran the frontier line so as to divide the iron area into two parts. Up to the time when Germany occupied it all, it gave her annually 21,000,000 tons out of her total production of 28,000,000. It gave France 15,000,000 tons out of a total production of 22,000,000. Since the autumn of 1914 Germany has been adding these 15,000,000 tons of ore to her 28,000,000 tons, and thus obtained 43,000,000 tons to which are added 6,000,000 tons extracted from the Luxemburg mines, making an annual total of 49,000,000 of which all but 7,000,000 come from the Bassin de Briey."

Avoid Undue Depreciation of Orchards.

During the last four years the war has demanded of the Canadian farmer a considerable revision of his normal farm operations. As a result of this some crops have suffered seriously because they could not be considered essential to victory. Among these crops fruit has been hit as hard as any and fruit-growers have shown no little appreciation of the national need in giving their plantings only the care that was essential and devoting much care and land to crops which formerly were not in their line.

The apple industry in Canada is a considerable one and the investment is heavy. Moreover, four or five years of neglect are more than sufficient to put an orchard in such a condition that another one or two years of good care are needed to bring it back to a satisfactory basis. It is undoubtedly patriotic to give as much attention to the essential crops as possible, but it is doubtful patriotism to allow the millions of dollars invested in apple orchards of 3, 4 or 5 acres or more, to depreciate through neglect. Past decades have witnessed the rise and fall of the apple industry because of a lack of stability. If we mistake not, the war has brought us dangerously near another period of depression, if it has not plunged us directly into it.

Notwithstanding the comparatively non-essential nature of fruit in war-time there is a fair return to be expected from a minimum amount of care judiciously given to the apple orchard. It is absolutely impossible to secure crops of apples of marketable quality without spraying or without feeding the trees. These two things are equally important and probably more important than any other operations. Cultivation can be entirely eliminated and pruning can be so cut down without permanent injury, that the slack season in winter will be sufficient to give all the pruning necessary. Removal of dead wood, crossed branches and a judicious thinning of the branches, to lighten the work of spraying in the busiest season, will not take much time per acre and will preserve the investment. Leasing the orchard will prove a money-saver if even this much care cannot be given by the owner. Spraying should ordinarily be given three times each season at least, but it need not if time is pressing. The first spray may sometimes be omitted safely and occasionally, the second, without serious deterioration in quality. It seems too bad, however, to see the thousands of farm orchards, from which the bulk of our crop comes in normal times, being sadly and frequently unnecessarily neglected. This is especially true where the grower has the necessary equipment. Let us keep the pendulum from swinging too far, especially where the orchard is of fair size.

The Trend of the Live-Stock Market.

The general trend of the live-stock market does not appear wholly satisfactory. A large number of light, unfinished cattle seemingly exists, and feeders are not inclined to hold until their offering is better finished. In the West, where a partial crop failure exists in many districts, there is a reasonable excuse for the heavy liquidation of light cattle, but the Ontario and Quebec farmers, we believe, would stand to profit by less haste. The Edmonton yards were recently crowded to capacity through a dearth of water in the country, and for divers reasons the offerings have been heavy at the three leading Western points. The influence of Western conditions is extending to the East, and last week 15 to 20 carloads of Western stuff enroute eastward gave buyers a better opportunity to dictate prices. Having in mind conditions as they exist, one would naturally come to the conclusion that a little more steadiness on the part of farmers in disposing of their cattle would be good policy. At any rate, this attitude on the part

of those having cattle to sell always strengthens the market where they dispose of their stock.

It might also be pointed out that last year between July 1 and September 19, 10,900 stockers and feeders were shipped from the Toronto stock yards to Ontario farmers; this year, during the same period, only 7,800 head of stockers and feeders went out into this Province for further feeding. On the other hand, 5,000 head, during the period in mention, were shipped to the United States as against 4,500 head last year. Ontario farmers' demand for feeders and stockers has apparently dropped thirty per cent. below that of last year, and our crops have been good.

A peculiar situation seems to exist in regard to hogs. For some weeks past the papers have been obliged to report hogs as selling on the Toronto stock yards at \$19.50, fed and watered. These are the buyers' quotations. On the other hand, we know of hogs being loaded over a hundred miles from Toronto at \$19.60 to the producer. This is not uncommon. There is something radically wrong when "f.o.b." prices exceed the "fed and watered" prices at the yards. Having in mind what has been going on, it also looks peculiar that abattoir buyers would make the statement that they expect to purchase hogs at \$18.25, f.o.b. In their scramble to purchase hogs they have allowed f.o.b. prices to exceed the \$19.50, fed and watered, quoted for some weeks at Toronto, and then in the face of all this to drop the price more than a dollar looks suspicious.

To our mind, the hog situation would stand looking into. Our Government is in possession of facts indicating what the demand is and what orders are being placed by the Imperial Government. The Dominion Swine Breeders' Association could render a service by making a canvass of the whole situation and using the information they acquire in the interests of the live-stock industry.

When the War Ends.

Everyone is anxious for the war to end, and the cessation cannot come any too soon, so long as the objective has been obtained. However, we should be able to do our part as the fight progresses (that is the great essential), and at the same time make preparations for the period immediately following the declaration of peace. It is customary for legislators to follow and act in accordance with public opinion. Seemingly they consider it their duty to mould into laws what the public demand. If the agitation is strong and endorsed by the majority, the delay is not pronounced but, on the other hand, if the demand is not very urgent a good bill may hang fire for some time even after it has been whipped into shape by the skilful law-makers. It is not laws we require, however, for this after-war period; it is a policy formulated in all fairness and one that will affect equitably and justly all industries and all classes. Neither can we afford to wait till the heroes return, for the army which has done so nobly should be brought back to their native country and absorbed into our national life without any of that unpleasantness which is sure to occur if we fail to prepare for them. For this reason we cannot afford to dilly-dally with this reconstruction policy as we might with laws in normal times.

Industrial life is organized already, but who is authorized to speak for Canadian agriculture? No one as yet. New and different demands will be made on our educational system, which is not easily changed. Commerce will be affected and should be ready to meet with these others, and all should be prepared to tackle this great question in such a way as to ensure a bright future for Canada. Capital and labor must get together. Agriculture and manufacturing, both paramount essentials, must understand each other better and perhaps combine to formulate an entirely new trade policy which in the end will be largely influenced by the