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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, MARCH 16, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

Canada has no place for loafers in 1916.

A good dairy cow is worth three poor ones.

The "unemployment problem" has ceased to be a problem.

It is past the middle of March. Are you ready for spring?

If you have the trees, tap and make syrup and sugar as usual.

Too much stock, underfed, is just as disastrous as too little stock.

Misappropriation of public funds and party patronage must down.

All co-operation should be founded on a sound financial business basis.

Garden soils need rotation of crops and more careful manuring than those of the field.

Grow your trees according to ideas expressed in an article on the subject in this issue.

A properly laid tile drain does not go on strike. It keeps on working night and day, winter and summer.

A profusion of words and a dearth of ideas characterizes most of the city solutions of the problems of the farm.

Paving the way to Verdun with the dead bodies of his soldiery must eventually prove a costly practice for the Kaiser.

A Canadian now has as solid a place in the Empire as an Irishman, a Scotchman or an Englishman. The war has cemented the Empire.

Judged by the succession of political greed and graft disclosures, what Canada needs just now is a cleansing wave of righteousness in places high and low.

The man who fed carefully through the winter and has plenty of feed left for spring is in the best position. His stock will go on grass in a condition to go ahead and prove profitable.

Most farmers will have an extra horse or two on their hands this spring. Put them on the cultivator, disc, and drill, and lighten the load on the others, and increase the speed of operations.

The man who could take all farmers and farm hands off the land in 1916 and replace them with city boys, a few teachers, ministers and retired farmers and still increase production over that of 1915 must have some magic wand. He certainly has no idea of the requirements of the farm.

War time conditions are clarifying the minds of men on many subjects. Rt. Hon. A. Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, in the British Government recently declared: "The war has shown us that agriculture is still the most important of all our industries." This is an elementary axiom that some Canadian statesmen have hardly yet grasped.

The People Are Awakening.

There are signs that the people of this country are awakening—are throwing off the party yoke and are ready to assert themselves in public and at the polls in favor of clean, straightforward honesty, in all forms of government. The people of Peel County, Ontario, a few days ago turned a majority of 627 for a man representing one party into a defeat of over 320 votes for that same man. Something over 600 voters in this one constituency deserted their party, and why? Simply because some questionable actions in connection with horse deals were brought about by the former member, and the people have had their fill of graft and corruption in past administrations! Things are happening also in British Columbia where big majorities for one party are being overthrown and turned into majorities for representatives of the other side, and we look for something of the same nature to happen in Saskatchewan, where a different party is in power. Not so very long ago the people of Manitoba spoke their mind. The question is: will any good come from changes all around? The political parties, in the past, have demonstrated that one is about as bad as the other when the need and chance for graft and patronage is most imminent. We do not hesitate to say that changes will do good, because these changes are being made possible by a change of mind of the electors and they should prove valuable by teaching public men a lesson, that the people of this country are ready to stand behind good, honest administration for the good of the country, but are just as ready to renounce party politics so soon as any party becomes itself corrupt or stands behind a member found to be working the graft or patronage game. One of the greatest statesmen in Canada, and at present a distinguished member of our Government, the Hon. George E. Foster, said recently on the floor of the House, that: "There never was a time in the history of Canada; there never was a time in the history of any administration, when the call came more clearly to those administering the affairs of the country to be careful in the matter of expenditure, to direct them properly, and to administer them with absolute honesty, to be strong enough and brave enough to refuse unnecessary demands."

Speaking of patronage, the same speaker who has been thirty-four years in the public life of Canada, and has been a close student of political parties and political history, stated: "I give it as my individual opinion, I have long felt it—and I feel it now—that in the whole course of my political life I cannot point to a single instance where political patronage ever helped the status of the bench, ever helped the status of the Civil Service, ever helped in the economy of their administration the status of public administrators, no matter what functions they performed, never helped the members of Parliament in reality, never helped the Government in reality; it almost always causes a dry rot and disintegration that break up government after government and party after party and I wish now in the white heat and light of this great contest and struggle and the self-sacrifice that we are called upon to make that we might speak from the heart out, and make an agreement in this country, between both parties, that hereafter patronage shall not be applied by political parties in the construction of our public work."

Going on, he said: "If there is any laxity in the public virtue of this country to-day, if there is any canker of public corruption, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred you can trace it to the baleful effect of political party patronage."

We would advise that every sovereign voter reader of this paper conjure with the foregoing excerpts from one of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster's greatest speeches. He is an able statesman and at this time his words should be heeded. The people of the country seem

ready for just such a stand as he has advocated and if they continue to vote down all semblance of graft, corruption, and party patronage, none of it will be very long in evidence in our political life. It is a good sign when the people renounce partyism and go to the polls determined to defeat dishonesty.

Price-cutting is Not Good Business.

If co-operation is ever to do for the agriculture of Canada, and Ontario particularly, what it is capable of doing if properly managed it must be put on a business basis. The best way to ensure the loyal support of all those interested in agricultural co-operation, no matter what form it may take, is to show them that it pays to co-operate, that there is money in it, that it is in the best interests of the future of agriculture that the safety of the calling depends upon it. It is our purpose to publish a few editorials dealing with this subject—in the larger sense, and not in connection with any one co-operative concern now operating.

A study of business, as it is carried on by the large business firms and corporations, who have met with unqualified success in their operations, reveals this fact, fair prices must be charged for goods handled or sold, a fair profit must be made on all operations, and this profit is what ensures the stability of the business, provided it is carried on upon an honest, straightforward basis. We believe that the same will be found to hold true of agricultural co-operation. Where associations are formed for the handling of goods, or the distribution of them to the consumer, who in this case is the farmer, the experience of business men would indicate that the best policy to follow is not one of price-cutting but rather one of giving good service and first-class goods at a price at or near that which the dealer in these particular kinds of goods is selling them. This done, the same profits that would accrue to the dealer in ordinary business will come to the association, and at the end of the year, when the financial returns are made, it will be found that the man who has done business through the association has certain profits to his credit in the association which may be returned to him in whole or in part, according as the conditions of the business warrant. This means that if thought advisable by the directors a certain proportion of these profits may go into the business to increase its volume, while the remainder will go to the man who bought the goods. We are inclined to think that this is the only safe basis upon which to operate if the associations are to grow and flourish, and eventually do the millions of dollars worth of business annually, which will become available to them in this country.

It has been stated that the only way to get farmers to join co-operative associations is to show them some immediate return in the form of lower prices for the goods they have to purchase or in higher returns for some of the farm products they produce for sale. We shall leave the latter for a future article and refer only to the goods purchased through such an association. In starting a co-operative association the aim should not be to get as many members as possible in the beginning, but to pay particular attention to the kind of members taken in. If the sole desire of the man joining the association is to buy tea or sugar at a cent or five cents a pound or a hundredweight cheaper than his local dealer can sell it, he is not the most desirable co-operator. Members of co-operative associations should look ahead and plan something for the future—should consider the possibilities of their organization and the good it will do agriculture as a whole. If Canada's agriculture benefits by the work of any such association, the members of that association will derive satisfactory financial returns from their efforts. We would rather favor the men, who, looking at the agriculture of the country, see its needs and have a clear vision of what