



Vol. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MARCH 11, 1915.

No. 1172

## EDITORIAL.

All hands together for a big crop.

Clean the seed once more. It will pay.

First good seed, next, good cultivation and then a good crop.

The farmer increases his production, and the manufacturer increases his profits.

If talk would produce crops Canada would grow enough in 1915 to feed the world.

There is a good crop of advice for the farmer this year. The production of this commodity has increased wonderfully.

A real blockade has been started, not by a few skulking submarines but by a fleet which fights above water as well as below it.

Some of our readers are asking why the British authorities are not buying horses in Canada, where, they hold, there are thousands of suitable animals for sale.

A government member of the Federal Parliament, in debate the other day, believed that if the patriotism and production campaigners, from whom so much is heard, would devote themselves to prayer they might do almost as much good.

"I can assure the House that, with all the knowledge and experience gained by the Government, we never were more confident than to-day of the power and the will of the Allies to achieve ultimate victory." What Premier Asquith says is believed the Empire over.

Take a handful of cleaned seed, hand sort it, and see how much of it is really good seed. We recently watched a man do this with a sample of seed being offered for sale, and he discarded over fifty per cent. as unsuitable for sowing. Try it and it will not take long to decide that more cleaning is necessary.

A manufacturer member of parliament wants the government to have "supreme control" over the price and export of foodstuffs. He surely wants to aid in increasing production. How would he like the same measure to be applied to farm implements and machinery? It is time to play fair with the farmer.

No doubt some of those anxious to control the price of foodstuffs would like to see beef sell for four cents per pound on foot, and other finished products in proportion. After feeding expensive feed all winter the farmer would be, in the eyes of the other fellow, showing his patriotic spirit if he became anxious to comply with such a request.

Basing his calculations on the possibilities taken into account by responsible British statesmen, some one reassures the Canadian who may be disposed to squirm over the new war taxes that even with them life would be vastly easier and more humane than beneath Kaiserism, under which the cost of holding by force what the sword had conquered would inevitably increase beyond endurance.

### The Patriot's Double Duty.

Righteous and abiding peace as the culmination of The Great War, to this conviction the best instincts of humanity are turning. The world's best journalism unerringly gives expression to the growing desire of mankind for some adequate recompense for its stupendous sacrifice. Thanks to the publicity of the printing press the barbarity and hideous realities of war were never before so universally laid bare and so keenly perceived. As the burden of woe and waste piles up week after week, war sinks its own terrible meaning into the public conscience as nothing else could. We diagnose its cause as a coalition of inordinate ambition for world power by military force and the greed of armament makers. But an American newspaper of world wide repute with brutal frankness describes the precipitator of the conflict as the greatest murderer in all history. The innocent as well as the guilty suffer the consequences of the strife in which Great Britain participates, clean handed, for the sake of truth, honor and humanity. Its horrors, however, should never be minimized nor covered up, as their recognition will facilitate the business of statesmen at its close in providing machinery to prevent future repetitions. In the New York Times, H. G. Wells, a distinguished British author, offers practical suggestions at the foundation of which he candidly recognizes the necessity of a determined public opinion to give them effect. The real instigators of war are a minority, but they are crafty, autocratic and powerful, and will by various agencies if permitted, continue to fool and shackle humanity under the yoke of militarism, one of the most relentless and burdensome survivals of the law of the jungle. Once brought to a decisive finish, the people must recognize, in fact they should recognize now, that two ways open before them, one the perpetuation of the old system out of which grew this war, and another and a better way like that in which Canada as part of the British Empire and the United States have walked in peace for a century and can continue to walk. It is for the people to say which course is to be taken. Are the powers to go on creating monster armies and navies, a few aiming to outclass all the rest, or rancing themselves in jealous combinations only to repeat at some future time a still more gigantic orgy of blood? Some day a congress of statesmen will assemble to conclude the terms of peace after the present war which virtually is a world struggle. Out of that conclave why not evolve a real international court to give effect to a wider alliance of world powers against any aggressor of the common peace? This in effect is what Mr. Wells suggests, with an international military force and navy for policing purposes. Mr. Wells condemns, and we believe rightly, secret diplomacy, secret treaties, and secret alliances engendering intrigue, suspicion and jealousy and bedevilling the nations. Why should a few autocrats, so-called diplomats and war lords, fasten military systems upon the unoffending masses and secretly plunge them into wars? A public international court would be a wholesome successor to the gold lace system of secret diplomacy, whereby the destinies of millions of people are at the mercy of patronage-created officials who may be both tricky and incompetent or both.

This war is a sufficient proof of the discredited and hopeless futility of old-time diplomacy. Supplementing the international court an efficient

consular and trade agency service can perform all additional duties required by the people in their commercial and other relations. The daylight of publicity has given the death blow to great evils like slavery, and will pave the way to something more sane than the tribunal of blood. Newspapers or politicians, who for party ends seek to perpetuate old and vicious systems that have culminated in the most colossal scourge of history cannot be regarded as other than enemies of mankind. If sincere, then they are the misguided advocates of doctrines for which Kaiserism has fallen under the world's execration. The press of Canada and every citizen with the future well being of the country at heart have a patriotic duty to perform in furthering this great and enlightened movement, co-incident with their devotion to the successful termination of the cause of the Allies.

### Stock Sold, Manure Lost, Crops Ruined.

History repeats itself. It has always been noticed that when grain and feed advance quickly to a high price, beef cattle, pork, mutton and all meat products just as rapidly drop down and down until they bump bottom. Then when the conditions which cause the high price of grains are removed, down goes grain and up goes the price of meat. It is a sort of double elevator, when one is up the other is down, and vice versa. Meat drops when grain is dear because of the short-sighted policy of rushing everything that stands on four legs, finished or unfinished, to market to save grain and feed, and because every effort is put forth to increase grain production and reap the benefit of the high prices prevailing. Quite logical! But the high prices for grain are over by the time the grain is produced in abundance and it is down to its lowest level, while at the same time the stock has been sold and there is a scarcity and up goes the price of meat. It is a nice little fortune wheel with the odds against the plunger.

This has a serious side. High-priced grain and cheap meat causing a clearing out of feeding and breeding stock is disastrous. The fewer the numbers of live stock the smaller the quantity of manure. The less grain and "rich" feed fed on the farm the poorer the quality of the manure. It means less manure, and the smaller quantity is of poor quality. It is manure and other fertilizers that make crops grow. Farm-yard manure is the chief of all. Unless the stock is kept, and we know it is being rushed to market, there is bound to be less plant food returned to the soil in the form of solid and liquid excrement from the stables, the cheapest and best form in which the farmer fertilizes his fields. The next best thing for the producer is to buy commercial fertilizers, but unless a change is made these will be subject to duty and the price will be up accordingly.

Soil fertility is a big question. Production depends on it and it depends largely upon manuring. The difference in the crops on a farm upon which large numbers of well-fed live stock are kept and on one where the grain is all sold off as raw material is all too well known to readers. When the stock goes the crop goes, and when the crop goes the profits are gone. Let it never be forgotten that the little extra which means the difference between a poor or average crop and a good crop is generally made up largely by farm-yard manure, and above all things re-