

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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problem, and there is enough uncertainty still to make it unwise to advise.

If Canada produces more pork it will, with present feed prospects and labor in sight, mean less of something else. Farmers must change their arrangements a little. They will do it on the biggest scale possible only after those at the head of affairs come out and make a clear, frank statement and back it up with positive assurance.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has published some of the propaganda. We have put it up to those in authority to make good. The organization is being completed, and we must compliment the Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Government and the Assistant Deputy Minister's organization in the Provincial Government for the scheme outlined. Nevertheless, from attending the meetings and listening to the discussions, we believe that greatest success can only come after some kind of definite guarantee is made. True, a number of leading farmers say "we'll keep the extra sow," but the great rank and file would go more enthusiastically into the work if those canvassing could say: "You are insured against loss and besides we must have bacon to hold the line in Flanders." We are keeping an extra sow at our farm, Weldwood, and "chancing it." For the boys at the front and the Allies overseas we hope every farmer who can do so will keep an extra sow, but mark you, we cannot advise. All must "chance it." Make or lose, it is in a good cause. That is as far as we can go in the matter. It is up to others to see that promises made are carried out.

You may not be able to see clearly through the fog of the war, but your common sense, and nevertheless, your common sense, is the best of your ability, and go on with your plan, and you will be able to see the right way.

Departmental Farming.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

Profitable ideas come from all directions and once in a while the business man of the farm may get a "pointer" from the business man of the town that will be useful to him if he puts it into practice. Advice that costs nothing is generally worth the price and no more, but there are exceptions to this rule as well as to most others, and it's a good plan to keep an eye open for the said exception. Whether the idea expressed by a city business man in my hearing, the other day, is one of these, time alone will tell. This is what he said: "Why isn't farming carried on in this country the way so many of our commercial enterprises are in the cities? We have Department stores, what's to prevent our having Department farms? If big business is a success in one place, why not in another?"

Just to get to the bottom of this suggestion we might go into it a little further and see if there is really anything practical in it. In the first place the farm would have to be one of several thousand acres and with good financial backing for the first few years, or until it had had time to become self-supporting. The aim would be to produce on such a large scale that the work would be done more cheaply than is now the case on our smaller farms with their high cost for labor and power in proportion to finished product. As in a department store, the different branches of the business would have to be under separate management, the manager to be an expert in his own particular line. He would be responsible to the general manager, or proprietor. The length of the working-day would be fixed as in the city and wages would be paid weekly, in this way making labor conditions as favorable in the country as in the town, if not more so. Almost all supplies in the way of food to be used on the farm, could be grown there, doing away with the present expensive system of shipping produce back and forth with no benefit to anyone in particular but the railways. Where buying was necessary, as in the case of building materials, machinery, gasoline, etc., it could be done by wholesale with the usual reduction in cost.

The different departments would include a blacksmith's shop, a harness shop, a carpenter's shop and other things along the same line that would be found necessary. All power machinery could be worked to full capacity, and other farm implements used more profitably than is at present the case.

A thorough system of farm book-keeping would be carried on under the supervision of an expert accountant, and by this means any unprofitable departments could be cut out of the business or the cause of the trouble found and remedied.

A sound enterprise of this nature would have no difficulty in getting the necessary capital with which to go ahead, and could get it on better terms than would be possible for the small farmer.

Now it seems reasonable to suppose that greater efficiency and consequently greater production could be brought about by this means, and if so it ought to be tried by some of our great "captains of industry", who have the experience and ability that would enable them to carry the scheme through to success. It would be a patriotic move in this time of food scarcity, for it was never more necessary to produce food on a large scale than it is to-day. Some of our millionaires are the owners of farms at the present time that are supposed to be models in their way, but as a rule they seem to be carried on more for the amusement of the owner, as a sort of pastime or recreation, than anything else. They are not a practical effort at food production and will never help to solve the problem of the high cost of living. What we want is "big farming" carried on by men who have heads in proportion to the size of their farms. Undermanned farms handicapped by a shortage of capital as well as can never fulfill the task that our governments are expecting of them to-day. They are in the same class as the small stores of a past generation, where the owner and his family lived in the back part of the building and did all the work in connection with the business. Why has the farm not developed to the same extent as has the country store? There is no good reason for it. One is as sound a commercial enterprise as the other and offers the same reward to the capable promoter. Large tracts of land are lying idle in this country that should be producing food to meet the present demand and to help win the war. Our money is being spent like water for the building of munition plants where the materials are being manufactured that will destroy the enemy. Isn't it just as important to pay some attention to the department where the material that keeps our army in action is manufactured? There is no question about it. And only the high concentration of effort and greater efficiency on the part of those who remain in our country, can the food supply be kept equal to the demand. It is the tendency to discredit big business corporations and to run down combinations of all kinds, but they are a rather necessary part of present-day civilization, and some of the best of industry in this country might follow their example with advantage to all concerned. The special way of doing business in a city home is not the only way of doing business, and there is no good reason why it should be. It is a good idea to carry out the suggestion.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

The war has revealed to us, in a most vivid way, the need for national efficiency, in other words, the need for conservation. For conservation does not mean simply saving, hoarding, or preserving; it means using in the most efficient manner with a view not only to the present but to the supply for the future.

We have in Canada a body known as the Commission of Conservation, and since its organization in 1909 the Commission has, by every means in its power, sought to impress upon the public the need of conservation of natural resources. Formerly the advice given by the Commission fell for the most part upon deaf ears; now the public has been, somewhat rudely, awakened to the fact that the Commission knew what it was talking about and that its advice was worth heeding.

The Commission of Conservation is a purely advisory body, it has no administrative powers. Now is it possible for an advisory body to bring about any practical results? Let us see.

It was through the initiative of the Commission that in 1911 amendments were made to the Railway Act which resulted in the new fire regulations of the Railway Board and the organization of the fire inspection department of the Board. This legislation empowers the Railway Commission to require the railway companies to maintain an efficient fire-fighting force, to patrol their lines, to plough fire-guards and to remove all combustible material from their property; it also places upon the railway companies responsibility for all fires started by locomotives. Since the enactment of this amendment the efficiency of the railways in fire-prevention has been greatly increased and they have become one of the minor sources of forest fire damage instead of one of the major factors.

Through the advice of the Commission a forest reservation of 17,900 square miles has been secured on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

A very important part of the work of the Commission is the compiling of accurate data on natural resources. It is all very well for orators to refer on the platform to "our unlimited resources", but as a matter of fact no "unlimited resources" exist, and it is most essential to know exactly what these resources are. Forest surveys have just been completed by the Commission in British Columbia and in Saskatchewan. In regard to the water-powers of the Dominion the Commission has served the country well. Some time ago an American company applied for a charter to dam the St. Lawrence at the Longue Sault Rapids, and to export the power generated on the Canadian side to the United States until such time as this power was required in Canada. This was opposed strongly by the Commission on the ground that "one-half the power will belong of right to Canada and should be permanently retained for Canadian use without exception or qualification" and that "to attempt to enforce an order for the delivery of power on the Canadian side, after it had for years been exported to, or used in, the United States, would lead to serious difficulties" and would be "a sure road to international complications." Mainly because of the protest of the Commission the charter was not granted.

Acting on the recommendations of the Commission two steel companies have installed improved coke ovens. These ovens recover the coal tar previously wasted, and this coal tar contains the elements entering into a whole series of valuable substances—coal gas, benzol, toluol, aniline oil (the basis of the aniline dyes) and ammonia liquor.

Under the direction of the Commission J. B. Fielding has been engaged in a piece of conservation work of extreme value—the saving of the enormous waste, —heads, entrails, and non-marketable fish,—of the fisheries, and converting this waste into a food for live stock. The food thus prepared is rich in proteins and fats and is at present being tried out at our experimental farms. In his laboratory at Port Dover Mr. Fielding compounded, from the scrap of the whitefish, lake trout and lake herring, a cattle-meal concentrate consisting of 75 per cent. pure fish-meal, a hog feed of the same strength though differently compounded, a poultry scratch feed in balanced ration form and as a substitute for grain, and a dog biscuit which should compete with those now imported into the country in large quantities.

These are some of the concrete things which the Commission, in its advisory capacity, has brought about. These are the practical results, but they are not by any means all the activities of the Commission. It has played a part in the conclusion of the Migratory Bird Treaty between Canada and the United States, a treaty which is a much-needed step in bird-conservation. It has aided in town-planning. It has compiled data based on careful evidence on agriculture in Canada. It has in many ways laid the foundations which in the future will yield practical results.

Improving With Age.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I think "The Advocate" is like good wine, improves with age. Your editorials are strong and bold and state the former's side of the case. Your editorial in issue of Oct. 18 "Let us reason together" is a gem.

Yours truly, C. H. M. NISH.