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EDITORIAL.

Spring is here; are you ready?

If the acreage must be small work it better.

Too many of the "war experts" are altogether too far from the front.

Plan to treat the seed for smut and eliminate another source of waste and loss.

Get four-horse whiffletrees ready and drive two teams in one through seeding.

Ten acres properly put in generally pays better than fifteen acres "scratched over."

Clean the seed grain once more after you think it is clean enough to sow. Seed with the best.

Fat pork and potatoes are no longer to be sneered at by the hired man or the landed proprietor.

Now that women have votes, we presume they will immediately set about to teach the men how to vote.

It is easier to tell people to plant a garden than it is to hoe a garden, but vegetables will pay for hoeing every time.

There is plenty of room on the land for more people who are convinced that there is wealth and a life of ease in farming.

Consumers who boycott certain eatables do not seem to understand that limiting the demand on one product simply increases it on others.

A farmer told us recently that his 200 hens had laid one egg this winter and it cost him \$100. That is more than the city consumer paid for his supply.

Those who, early in the war, pointed out the importance of food production were called "yellow", but two years and a half have been sufficient to open eyes.

Notwithstanding the fact that prices for farm products are high there doesn't seem to be any great back-to-the-land rush. The city dweller must still think he has the best job.

If the average farmer could get one assistant as easily as the Ontario Department of Agriculture can hire a score of "experts" production might be greatly increased in this old Province in 1917.

Gradually the importance of agriculture and food production dawns upon the minds of people who, in the race for pleasure, power and pelf, forgot that without a prosperous agriculture the country would soon be "on its uppers."

We recently saw a letter written by one of Toronto's patriotic women who want outside work on a farm. In a bold, neat hand of the copy-plate order she patriotically offered to do all kinds of outdoor work for the sum of \$50 per month with board and room. How generous! That is better than from \$6 to \$12 per week in the city and board herself and besides she could enjoy the "perfectly lovely" fresh air and the "gorgeous" sunsets of the farm. We remember, however, that there are box stalls and barnyards to be cleaned out in spring.

Training For School Boys.

The talk of military training in the public schools will not down. There are those who commend and those who object. Switzerland built up a fine army by training the lads in the public schools. That country did not waste years of the productive period of these boys' lives in training and service after they had reached mature manhood. Only a few months, three we believe, were necessary to complete the training of an efficient force after the boys had left school. There are those who believe that such a system would be a good one for Canada. The training of boys in military matters while at school need not necessarily mean that militarism is to become a dominant factor in Canadian life. Every one believes that the allies fight against militarism and that it must eventually be put down. But what harm could it be to our boys to be "well set up" through drill? Body and brain should benefit from it. We have shown in previous articles that sport develops only the strong and robust. Training would help all, the physically weak as well as the active and aggressive. If the proper ideals are kept in mind and the system worked out on a basis of developing Canada's boys into young men of high ideals and sterling character, no one should have any fear of training in schools degenerating into militarism, of course, officials of the jingoistic order could not be permitted to pollute the minds of the lads. Military discipline and military training, provided all is kept clean, constructive and democratic should prove of no small value to the boys of the land, but the military mad should not be allowed to spoil a good work.

Two Crops That Will Help.

With the amount of help available there is very little doubt but that no inconsiderable portion of this year's crop will go in the soil under none too favorable conditions. On many farms it will not be practicable to give the land the amount of cultivation necessary to produce the tilth desired by the farmer. We believe it pays as a rule to put the seed in well, but in times of great labor scarcity it is not always possible for the farmer to work his land as he would like. He must use his judgment in order to make up for what is lost in tilth. For seasons such as this and on fields which will get none too much cultivation, we would favor mixed crops. A large proportion of the grain grown in Ontario is fed on the farm, and for feed it might just as well be mixed when sown to produce the crop as to have the crops sown separately and the grain mixed before it is ground for feed. In fact it is better, for experimental work carried on at the Ontario Agriculture College and in co-operative experiments over Ontario, has shown that a mixture of one bushel of oats and one of barley will produce more pounds of grain per acre than any of the spring grains sown alone. Moreover, we have noticed from practical experience that a mixture of oats and barley generally does better on land none too thoroughly cultivated than either crop, particularly the barley, sown alone. This is worth remembering this year, for we believe that by sowing more of the land to this mixture the amount of grain produced will be considerably greater. Of course it is necessary to sow a rather early-maturing oat with the O. A. C. 21 barley or with whatever barley is sown, that the two may ripen as nearly together as possible. The best crop of spring grain we had on our farm, Weldwood, last year was of this mixture. Clean the seed of the oats and barley well and get them thoroughly mixed and sow around two bushels per acre. Of course it is necessary to grow some oats and some barley by themselves, but for the bulk of the feed this mixture should prove profitable this year.

Many farmers are slow to change their customs of seeding. We can remember a few years ago when mixed grain was frowned upon by the good farmer. We can

also remember when the farm which grew buckwheat was looked upon as a poor farm, but to-day mixed grain and buckwheat are two widely grown crops in Ontario, and while speaking of buckwheat it might be well to mention that many farmers may have a chance this year to work up some land after the earlier seeding and put it in to this crop. It is well to sow it about the last week of June or the first week in July, and this gives time to prepare land which could not be sown to the early spring cereals. By growing an acreage of buckwheat for feed, other crops may be saved for sale or for seed. Plans must be laid this year to get in as much crop as possible with the help available and spreading the work over the season will help. Sow some mixed crop and if the season gets too far advanced before the land is all sown put in some buckwheat.

A Return to Agriculture.

There is an old saying: "we never miss the water till the well goes dry", and this seems to apply very well to agriculture and food production. The world did not miss its fertile farms until the larder was running low. During the past decade or two, and even before, the attention of the people has not been directed toward agriculture and production of foodstuffs, but rather toward the various industries intimately connected with trade and commerce. This resulted in a decline of agriculture, or at least agriculture did not keep pace with the rapid developments in other industries. The farm population became depleted and great cities were built up at the expense of the land. As time went on the cost of food products increased, as one would naturally expect, an outcome of the unnatural conditions which gradually made the leading countries of the civilized world consuming countries rather than producing countries. Big industries were built up and fostered by legislation to such an extent that the young people raised on the farm very soon drifted city-ward, because there they could get higher wages than the farmer could afford to pay. For years this steady flow from country to town and city went on. For years the farmer was looked upon almost, if not quite, as a peasant engaged only in menial labor, and necessary only to produce cheap food for the tables of the more fortunate city consumers. The thought never seemed to enter the heads of most people that the very life of the country depended upon its agriculture; in fact, the war is bringing out the fact that the existence of any country depends, to a very large extent, upon that country's ability to produce the necessities of life. Great Britain herself has realized this and a strenuous effort is being put forth to increase the home-grown food supplies in the Motherland during the coming year. Vast parks and lands set aside for sport are being plowed up and sown, as they should have been years ago. The people realize that it is not enough to produce three months' food supplies and depend on the outside world for supplies for nine months. The reverse would be a much safer proposition. Right here in Canada a great deal of talk is being indulged in by city men and women in regard to the duty of our farmers in this crisis. They are still willing and ready to let the few men left on the farms do all the work in order that all the people might live in plenty for the next year and for years to come. But there is hope in the fact that our Governments are awakening and that people are gradually coming to their senses and beginning to realize that without the products of the farm all other industries would not last long. If we mistake not, one of the results of the great war is bound to be a return to agriculture. All great changes come as the result of unusual circumstances, and it would not surprise those who are watching conditions closely to see agriculture in the very near future getting a fairer share of the attention of our Governments and people generally. In the meantime let everything possible be done to