

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Put in a little wheat if you have the land ready.

Exhibition reports in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE are accurate and complete.

Watch the little weeds in their effort to produce seed this fall, and cultivate to kill.

It is not always the man who talks the most who has the best stock. See for yourself.

Do not forget that the boys at the front are still in need of comforts. Keep up the supply.

When sales of breeding stock are most numerous, it is more difficult to make a big showing at the fairs.

A pure-bred male animal, not of good conformation and not showing reasonable thrift, should be altered.

Canada is a big country, but there is no great hurry to fill it up with foreigners who can scarcely be Canadianized.

Give the boy the responsibility of looking after some of the stock as his very own this winter, and watch the effect.

The man who keeps the plow going, even though the ground be hard, is generally best up with his work when Jack Frost closes operations in the fall.

Be the better prepared for after-the-war conditions by being prepared to farm better than ever before. Let us win our way to the top by our own efficiency.

It is a satisfaction to note the uniformity in the breeding classes at the big fairs. Exhibitors and breeders who cater to them are having a good effect upon Canada's live stock.

Attendance records should not be the sole aim of any fair, but such records, made as a result of good management in putting on a superlative exhibition, are a source of gratification.

At "Weldwood" the corn crop is so heavy this year that it is necessary to build another silo to accommodate it, and it is all due to thorough underdrainage and frequent cultivation, for it got a late start and has had practically no rain later in the season.

Show the young men that there is something in farming and more of them will stay on the farm. Many are driven away by the grumblings of the older folks, who see nothing but drudgery in farm life. Talk about the good things in connection with the farm and forget the unpleasant.

Shows as Live-stock Indicators.

In conversation with a live-stock breeder, a few days ago, he made the remark that it was not always the best indication for a breed to be too numerous at an exhibition. It was his contention that great numbers on show might mean slow sales and an increased effort on the part of breeders to dispose of stock. As a general thing, the breed most numerous at the fairs is the breed most popular in the particular part of the country upon which the fair draws, but, notwithstanding this, we are forced to believe that there is something in what our friend said. It is also quite true that when demand flattens out too much, there is generally a small show. This year, at Toronto, some breeds of stock were not as strong as usual. Shorthorn breeders, for instance, claimed that the great American demand had so depleted the show stock in Canada that it was difficult to keep a real strong show herd together. The demand for breeding and bacon hogs had an effect upon some herds of swine at the fair, and the great sales of sheep influenced some of the breeds of this class of stock. These are just a few instances to show that the smaller turnout of stock at a fair does not necessarily mean a slackening of interest in, or poor times for a breed. It may indicate that business has been phenomenally good. On the other hand, when classes are extremely well filled, it may not indicate brisk business, but rather more strenuous competition in making sales. At the present time Canada's live-stock trade is flourishing.

Try a Little Cost Accounting.

The greatest value in a system of accounting to ascertain the cost of various farm products to the farmer may not be the simple fact that a profit or a loss is shown nor that a means is found of cutting down expense on any one particular phase of production, but that such a system serves as a stimulant to greater and more concentrated and better regulated effort in all the farm work. When the farmer knows just what a thing costs him, he knows whether or not it is profitable. If it is not profitable, or even if it is making a little money, he will get down to hard thinking and endeavor to evolve a system in the work which will cut down cost and correspondingly increase net returns. There is, as now practised, too much hard work and not enough deep thinking practiced by the average farmer. It is, we'll admit, rather difficult under some circumstances, to find time to think, but it is always expensive to neglect it. Try a little cost accounting in one department of your farm work, and see if it is not a revelation to you. The cure will soon be applied to all departments once it is tried. It is a great and lasting stimulant and a breeder of enthusiasm.

"Carry On."

As the news from the battle front steadily grows better and more reassuring, we are liable to forget that there are thousands of men in the trenches who still require comforts and all the help those at home can give them. There is a tendency to belittle the gradually failing strength of the Teutons. It would be well to be prepared for a longer struggle than many believe will continue. If the war collapses suddenly, no one would regret that preparation had been made to give the boys all they needed, even though the fight had gone on for months longer. A cold winter is approaching, and the need for supplies will be just as urgent as ever. As time goes on and more nations join the Entente Allies, Germany's strength wanes, but it is not broken down yet. The preparation must be kept up that the fight may be won decisively, as it should and will be. Keep the work going at home.

The Small Breeders' Opportunity.

The remark has often been made that the small breeder has very little chance of winning in the larger shows when he is obliged to exhibit against the moneyed importer and dealer in high-class, pure-bred stock. It sometimes looks as if he would require an exceedingly good animal to win, but we still have confidence enough in Canada's live-stock judges that, if the animal were good enough, it would win. But the greatest honor is not in the winning, although that is the part that gets most publicity. To the breeder and feeder should go more of the credit for conspicuous winnings. The small breeder, especially if he is located near a larger breeder who has some high-class sires, is in just as good a position to breed a few good ones as is the big breeder. At some of the recent big fairs in the United States some of the best prize winners were bred and raised by men who had only a few females of the breed. In the Old Land many of the winners are bred by tenant farmers who have a few good females and mate them judiciously. The same is true, to a certain extent, in Canada. The small breeder has an opportunity to breed the good stuff, and he should make every use of it. In his advertising he should never forget to mention the fact that his herd or flock produces winners, even though they may have been sold to a big breeder or dealer before they were shown. And it might be well for the encouragement of the young breeder and the older breeder who produces choice stock on a small scale if the breed associations in Canada would consider adding something to prize money at the large fairs to go to the breeder of the stock, limiting this, of course, to Canadian-bred classes for shows in this country. Whether this is done or not, the small breeder should go ahead to produce the best, and if it wins after it leaves his hands, he should use the win, in so far as possible, to "boost" his own herd. Money will buy good ones, but it takes brains, ability and foresight to breed and fit them. To the breeder and feeder should be most of the honor.

What Is Consolidation?

The consolidation of our rural schools is not a new-fangled fad, and indeed has never been a fad. On the other hand it is likely to prove the only efficient way of improving district schools in our municipalities. The movement for consolidation of rural schools began in Massachusetts as far back as 1860 and has continued in that state to the present day, until now it can hardly proceed any farther for the simple reason that there are comparatively few one-room schools left. So successful was the movement that it was adopted as a state policy, and in 1882 the small district unit was abandoned and the township unit organisation adopted officially in its stead.

Neither is it an untried experiment advocated by educators and agricultural leaders to take hard earned money out of the pockets of farmers for the sake of notoriety to themselves with doubtful advantages to the children. On the contrary, the movement has proved so successful that it has spread over nearly every state in the republic to the south of us and forms part of the educational system of thirty-two of the states, while, in addition, examples are to be found in the others. The movement is not new nor is it a fad; and it is far from being untried or impractical. Indeed it is gaining momentum every year and when it is properly appreciated by the farmers it will prove irresistible. Already it has gained headway in Manitoba and has been started in Saskatchewan. In Ontario, the machine system of education has done most for the higher types of educational institutions and for the cities, and least for the country districts. In this province there are only two consolidated schools, and one of them was a gift, located at Guelph.