

Rural Home

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd. PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confute nor to believe and take for granied, but to weigh and consider."-Bacon.

Save the Seed Corn

HE shortage of seed corn last spring compelled thousands of farmers to use seed obtained by

the government in the southern states. Many who have used this seed, now profess to be well pleased with the new varieties. "Why, my corn is 14 feet high all over the field," one man informs us and his satisfaction with southern corn is being voiced by many others. The weather this fall has been favorable to the corn crop and, in spite of drawbacks earlier in the season, southern corn will be seen to advantage. Even at that, however, there will be much soft silage in the country, and we believe that, in the long run, farm opinion will favor those varieties for the silo that reach a fair degree of maturity. What are prospects of getting seed of these earlier maturing varieties another year? The conchusion of Mr. P. L. Fancher, the Ontario corn specialist, is not reassuring. In a recent circular to Ontario corn growers, he says:

"Every farmer who has good corn fit for seed should save as much of it as possible. There will not be enough seed corn in Ontario this year to meet demand for Ontario seed will warrant extra care this fail." the demand, if every ear fit for seed is saved. The

Mr. Fancher is probably not overstating the gravity of the situation. There is not more than eighty per cent of the normal acreage of corn planted in the seed producing area of Ontario, and only about twenty-five per cent of this eighty per cent is from Ontario seed; and of the seed produced from Ontario varieties, quite a large amount will be required for seed in the counties where it is grown. In order to insure a plentiful seed supply of these varieties in southwestern Ontario for next year's crop, the Federal Government has extended its Order-in-Council prohibiting the export of seed corn from these counties to be effective until November 1st, 1918. This will enable corn growers in the seed corn areas to secure a sufficient quantity of good seed for their own use. For the benefit of farmers outside the corn belt and

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also for their own profit, it is hoped that all corn of suitable varieties, fit for seed, will be preserved for the use of farmers in the ensilage districts next season.

When Exemption Expires

TTENTION is directed to an announcement of A the Military Service Branch published elsewhere in this issue of Farm and Dairy. The Branch requests that all members of Class 1, possessing exemption as farmers, whose exemptions are expiring and who wish to remain exempt, should communicate with the registrars under the Mflitary Service Act of their respective districts, requesting an extension in time of such exemptions. Questionaires will thereupon be issued to these men by the registrar and they will receive further exemption upon furnishing satisfactory proof that they are contributing sufficiently to the national food supply. The seriousness of the food outlook and the favorable turn of affairs in France, will probably be conducive to leniency in dealing with extension of exemptions to food producers.

The announcement carries an important provision regarding employment for exempted men. Last winter military exemptions required that the men exempted be continuously employed at farm work. This robbed several essential industries, of which the principal was lumbering, of one source of man power on which they had been accustomed to place a large dependence. It is stated that there were thousands of young men only partially employed on their farms during the winter but who could not leave without endangering their exemption. Provision is now made for such cases. Men who wish to take up other employment during the winter may apply to the registrars for permits to engage during the cold months in occupations of national interest, such as lumbering and munition work. The military authorities are to be commended on the wisdom of this provision.

Pure Bred Stock for Britain

HIS continent is about to make its first ship ment of pure-bred stock from the New World to the Old. Mr. Geo. Lane, of Alberta, said to be the largest owner of pure-bred horses in the world, has recently started a Percheron stallion and twenty-six Percheron mares from his Alberta ranch on the way to Europe. These animals were purchased by the Hon. Alexander Parker of Warwick, England. Mr. Parker, who was in charge of the purchasing department of the British Government at the outbreak of the war, visited Mr. Lane's ranches in 1914, and the present purchase was a result of his visit. The selection of stock was made for Mr. Parker by Mr. Lane, Prof. Cartyle, who will accom the shipment to England, and Dr. J. G. Rutherford.

Is this the beginning of a similar trade of large proportions in all kinds of pure-bred live stock? Farm and Dairy would not like to be too definite in basing a forecast of the future on a single business transaction such as this one. English farmers have not been favorable to the Percheron breed, and if an individual estate owner, such as Mr. Parker, de sires to start a stud now, he would have to come to this continent, as breeding stock is not being shipped from France. It is possible that the rusuit of this shipment will be a greater demand for Percherona and a considerable trade may develop. For the same reacon there will be a great demand for American Holsteins when they are permitted to freely enter Great Britain. The Holstein stcks of the Old Country are exceedingly limited and not of the highest quality. At the same time, it is well to remember that British stockmen are still large exporters of pedigreed stock, including Olydesdale and Shire orses, Ayrshire cattle, and all the beef breeds, sheep and swine. With such a surplus for export, it would seem that British farms are not yet depleted of their live stock. That there is a great depletion of breeding stock, taking Europe as a whole, we have every reason to believe. The greatest demand for breeding stock after the war, will come from continental Europe, and it is to supply this demand that Canadian farmers will be well advised to carry their breeding stock as near to normal strength as possible.

The World's Food Situation

HERE seems to be a very general impression abroad, both in city and country, that the food crists is past. Future prodigious efforts in pro duction and stringent conservation are regarded as not now so necessary as in the past few years. This attitude is traceable largely to an unfortunate statement made a few months ago, by Mr. Hoover, to the effect that the food crisis is past, and, further, to the more recent easing up on bacon restrictions on the part of both the Canadian and United States Food administrations. As a matter of fact, all evidence points to the necessity for even greater effort in agricultural production than in the past few years, if that be possible, and for a more stringent conservation of food, which should be easily possible

The most disquieting factor, from an allied standpoint, is our lack of a food reserve. There is probably enough food on hand to feed ourselves and the allies until next harvest, and this is what Mr. Hoover meant when he said the crisis was past. But what if crops next year are shorter than this year? The situation is not secure enough to allow us to feel at all easy. In fact, the present outlook is for a decreased acreage in America next year, as many more men will be drafted from the land in both United States and Canada before another crop season opens up. On the whole, too, American crops were good tizh past year and the average production high. There is nothing in these factors to encourage the idea that the food situation is nicely solved for now and years to come.

Another obligation may devoive on the food producers of this continent. Food Controller Thomson, in an address at Montreal, recently, stated that more people will die in Russia during the coming winter then have died there since the war began-and they will die of starvation. "The situation in Bulgaria, which is now a neutral, is not much better. Many will contend that the Russian people are alone responsible for their pitiable condition and that the Bulgariane, as recent active enemies, need cause us even less concern. Such logic would be creditable to "kultur" but as Obristians we cannot see these people starve, if it is within our power to help them. The world's food situation in all truth is serious mough to demand every form of aseistance, legislative and otherwise, that will encourage and aid the farmer in keeping his food production at a maximum.

Canada at the National

HE great event of the show season from a dairyman's standpoint is the National Dairy Show at Columbus, Ohio. The "National" now holds the same relation to the dairy industry that the international at Chicago holds to the other branches of the live stock world. At the latter fair, Canadiaa brooders of beaf cattle, horses and sheep have erhibited continuously and always with marked success, adding fresh laurels each year to Canada's reputation as a live stock country. Our dairy industry, on the other hand, has been represented only twice at the National, once by R. R. Ness with his Ayrshires and another time by R. J. Fleming with

his Jerseys. This year, again, Canada promises to be well represented. In a recent letter to Farm and Dairy, Mr. R. R. Ness tells us that he has just shipped eighteen head of his Ayrshires to Columbus, and that Mr. Gübert McMillan, of Huntingdon, is shipping niss head. B. H. Bull & Sons, of Brampton, shipped twenty Jerseys to the National Dairy Show on October 4th. Mr. Balley, of Oak Park Stock Farm, had planned to take his Holsteins across, but recent developments at home have made it impossible for him to carry out his intentions. This is regrettable as many would like to have seen the Oak Park herd sire, Lakeview Dutchland Hengerveld 2nd, so far unbeaten in the Canadian show ring, come into competition with Oak DeKol Olkie Homestead, the chanpion Holstoin bull of the United States. Recently we have heard a rumor to the effect that Mr. A.E. Hulet of Norwich, may have some Canadian Hoisteins at Columbus. Canadian breeders generally will wish these men all success at the National Dairy Show. The trip is an expensive one under existing coalitions and the whole dairy cattle breeding industry of Canada stands to profit by their endeavors.

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