

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LIII.

EDITORIAL.

Treat the seed wheat.

Allow the hens and chickens to glean the grain fields.

Care should be exercised in feeding new oats to horses and cattle.

Pregnant sows should be out on grass, but they will require grain as well.

Before threshing clean out the granary, stop up the leaks and seal over mouse and rat holes with tin.

No one knows when the war will end, but ultimate victory for the Entente Allies was never more certain than at present.

Experts in many branches of agriculture have contributed to the different departments in this issue. Do not fail to get acquainted with their views.

The vacation is almost over, and the school bell will soon be ringing. Parents should share with the teacher and trustees the responsibilities of the rural school.

When threshing see that the concaves are close enough to get all the grain out of the straw, and that the screens are kept clean. Speed in threshing will not compensate for lost grain this year.

Show this issue, our annual Exhibition Number, to your friends or neighbors who are not subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate." We will appreciate the favor and they will, no doubt, enjoy reading it.

Three weeks ago we saw a field being prepared for fall wheat in Bruce County. It had been cultivated and harrowed seven times, and it would get still more preparation before seeding. A good seed-bed pays well.

Red tape, the bane of progress and efficiency, is being done away with in regard to "channels of communication" or, in other words, the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions may communicate directly with each other without going through other departments of Government. Red tape becomes a nuisance when officials are slow getting their feet off the desk and jobs are waiting.

We recently purchased a four-tined dung fork for which we paid \$1.60. It had been in stock for some time, and the merchant had neglected to erase an earlier price, which was 95 cents. In other words, an extra profit of 65 cents was made on this fork "on account of the war." Such an attitude on the part of the trade would be easier to tolerate if we had the least suspicion that stocks laid in at war prices would be sold to the public at peace prices, when peace comes.

Our Exhibition Number.

With the beginning of exhibitions in Eastern Canada we present, in this issue, our annual Exhibition Number for the approval of our readers. No pains have been spared to make it a success in regard to editorial matter, and expense was not considered when securing illustrations. Space will not permit of even a resume of what it contains, but readers will not, we believe, neglect any department for there is something for everybody, and it has been prepared by those having an intimate acquaintance with the subjects in hand. If you are pleased with this number tell others; if not we should like to have you tell us.

The Harvest Leave.

The six weeks harvest leave granted to soldiers in training, who could be of service in the country, was an Order which will be considered wise and in the interest of Canada at large. Many of these boys will go back to farms which have been undermanned all summer and upon which the harvest would entail difficulties of considerable magnitude. The West is asking for 10,000 laborers or more from Eastern Canada where experienced help is already too scarce, but the wheat crop must be harvested and threshed with the least possible loss. The soldiers in the making who, for a time, lay aside the accoutrements of war and take the fork in hand will be rendering a war service that will have a good effect. The busy season on the Prairie will probably last well into November as it will in Ontario, where silo filling and threshing spoil a good deal of time in the fall. Through the corn-growing districts of Eastern Canada there is a heavy crop to handle, and it is no job for old men or farmerettes. The latter class of help has been greatly appreciated at certain kinds of work this summer and all credit is due them for the part they have played, but when it comes to silo filling and threshing, strong and willing men are an absolute necessity, and without which the country as a whole will suffer. With next year's harvest in mind it appears that the six weeks' leave could well be extended to expire not before November 1, if the military situation will at all permit. When we are harvesting, threshing or storing this year's production we must also be preparing for the crop of 1919, and little fall plowing will be done if farmers alone on 100 acres must spend from 2 to 4 weeks at silo filling and threshing, and fall plowing is a necessary preliminary to a large acreage next season. There is no desire to withhold reinforcements from the brave men who have held the line for almost four years, but if the conditions, as they now exist, will permit of this extended leave to men who will not probably see the trenches before spring at any rate, they can be of incalculable assistance in another field. This concession on the part of the Government would indicate an appreciation of agricultural conditions and a willingness to assist in the production which is constantly being urged. Canada's finances will run low without abundant harvests, so it will be wise to do everything possible to ensure for 1919 a crop like that of 1915, which followed a very lean season. This matter should be given very careful consideration, for at no time would the men drafted into service be missed more than between now and November.

A Blow to Oleomargarine.

Reference to the article in this issue by J. A. Ruddick will reveal to thoughtful dairymen that if they are mindful of the quality of their product they have little to fear, in all probability, from the sale of oleomargarine in Canada. It has always been conceded, we believe, that, poor as oleo is as a substitute for good butter, it might benefit the dairy industry to some extent at least by driving off the market large quantities of poor dairy butter. The evidence in the article referred to, however, goes to show that as a selling proposition oleo has not panned out as well as was feared by the dairymen and as was expected by the Canada Food Board. The latter found themselves urged strongly to secure the benefits of oleo for the relief of the poorer classes, and they did so against the advice of those who had studied the question from a health and food standpoint.

The result can scarcely afford much consolation to the Canada Food Board, since consumption has been less than ten million pounds, all told, in comparison with one hundred and forty million pounds of butter from the time the bars were let down until July 31. The first curiosity of the people has apparently been satisfied and, in spite of a handicap in price of from five to ten cents per pound, butter has more than held its

own. Instead of increasing rapidly in popularity, dealers inform us that the sale of oleo has steadily decreased after the first rush, and that complaints are now common from consumers. We doubt, after all, whether the poorer classes have used oleo extensively to reduce the high cost of living. The fact that with a total quantity available for consumption of slightly over ten million pounds, there are still in storage large quantities which cannot be disposed of, would seem to bear this out indisputably. Moreover, taking the statements of the manufacturers at their lowest probable value, there is in this stored product from 10 to 20 per cent. of high-class butter which stands a good chance of being spoiled. Such an occurrence would certainly be inexcusable since dairymen are assured of a good market for export butter, and the policy of the Canada Food Board can scarcely be in accord with such waste. If the people want oleo their wants should be considered but why waste good butter in a product that the people do not want?

The Live Stock on Government Farms.

It is important that breeders of live stock have the proper conception of beef type, and an understanding of what may reasonably be expected of the different breeds in the way of production. That is to say, our ideals must be endorsed by the majority, if the live-stock industry of Canada is going to measure up in any way commensurate with the possibilities of this country. We must agree more or less to some standard, and in the actual practice of breeding try to duplicate those masterpieces of the animal kind that are adjudged nearest to perfect and the most worthy of imitation. Again, there is a possibility of improving on the generally accepted ideal in excellence, conformation or production, but this glory seldom comes to more than one or two men in a generation, and usually to those endowed with considerable wealth or exceptional skill and acumen. The average progressive breeder will, in the main, attempt to produce counterparts to the best in the land, or at least to approach them as nearly as uncertainties and occasional disappointments of breeding will permit. Where then, are we to look for the pattern?

Our college herds and flocks, or those maintained on experimental and demonstration farms are the logical models of breed type and excellence in this Dominion. But unfortunately for the breeders at large and for the public institutions themselves this responsibility has not been appreciated by those in charge, nor have they, in this regard, done their part in directing the fortunes of the live-stock industry. No particular institution can be singled out nor should a provincial construction be put on this statement. Throughout Canada the majority of our public farms are, with few exceptions, behind the progressive and constructive breeders in the quality of their studs, herds and flocks. Some of the smaller institutions have done well, and it is where the largest appropriations have been available that the disappointments are greatest. True, they have conducted experiments and disseminated valuable information, but stockmen look to them for more than that. On many such farms some particular breed or class of stock has occupied a favored position and has been fostered and improved, but that is not sufficient, there is a feeling among stockmen, and it is growing, that instead of leading as they should, our public institutions are following, and even lagging so far behind as to be almost out of the race.

It would be unreasonable to look for sires the equal of Baron's Pride, a Whitehall Sultan, or a Perfection Fairfax at the head of all the public studs and herds, but it will be granted generally that the type, quality and health of the animals representing the various breeds at such places should be of a higher standard