

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

Published weekly by
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine",
Winnipeg, Man.

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ranges from the conduct of foreign trade in certain staples, such as oil and flax and the foundation of numerous industrial enterprises, to the protection of Russian art treasures and the establishment of special colleges to teach the science of co-operation. An increase of 130 per cent. in the number of Co-operative Supply Societies took place between January 1, 1915, and January 1, 1918. Three hundred new dairy societies were formed in the same period, and 2,150 new loan societies. We learn further that the great increase took place at the end of the third war year. Loan Societies are more numerous in rural districts, and Rural Co-operative Societies have shown an increase of 52 per cent.

In Germany also, co-operation has forged ahead, making a gain of over 15,000 societies from 1915 to 1917. Of a total of 2,111,428 members of the Co-operative stores, in 1917, 43,334 were farmers and 42,519 were farm laborers. In 1915, the Imperial Association of German Agricultural Societies was composed of 17,988 smaller societies with 1,759,090 members. Fears have been expressed by some advocates of economic reform that co-operation, if encouraged too far, or carried to extremes, may result in monopoly or class antagonism. Very true, but improbable. Co-operation is the thin edge of the wedge of socialism and when we arrive at the latter goal, decades hence, the former will have lost its malignant possibilities. In the meantime let us encourage co-operation.

Germany's food situation is not cheering. An official of the German War Food Bureau thus sums up the prospects: "Meat and fruit somewhat worse than last year, potatoes and fat undecided, sugar and autumn vegetables at least as good as last year, bread, grain and fodder somewhat better."

Now that a National Live Stock Council is an accomplished fact for Canada, some way should speedily be found of providing money for its use and for giving the results secured, the proper publicity. The only way to make the Council effective and to gain appreciation for it is to give it publicity.

Help to Save Paper.

The Government of Canada notifies publishers that all subscriptions to papers and magazines must be paid for in **ADVANCE**. This is due to the present acute shortage of wood pulp, and the urgent need of eliminating waste.

The cost of paper is now above one hundred per cent. higher than when the war began; and printer's ink, labor, and everything used in publication have increased in proportion.

Many publications have already made increases in subscription price. The *Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine* has not yet done this, but it is urgent that all subscriptions be paid in advance.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

The vital importance of our forest resources is becoming more generally recognized year by year, and it is of interest to every Canadian to know what steps in the conservation of these resources have been taken during the past year. This information is given by Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester of the Conservation Commission in his recent report.

Very notable progress in this direction has been made, in spite of the fact that fully one-third of the foresters of the country are serving overseas.

The forest survey of the New Brunswick Crown lands has been continued, and when we consider the demands upon the forests of this province for spruce for the manufacture of paper, as well as for lumber, the importance of an exact knowledge of the available, as well as the potential, supply, is readily recognized. It has been found that the amount of spruce and balsam in New Brunswick is equivalent to only about thirty times the present annual cut, which emphasizes the need of more efficient management of logging operations and the eliminating of waste. It is also indicated that the coniferous species are being heavily over-cut in proportion to the hardwoods, and there is urgent need for the development of hardwood-using industries.

The striking feature of the year in Quebec has been the remarkable growth of the co-operative idea in forest fire prevention. The pioneer in this movement in Canada, the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association, has continued and strengthened its work. The territory of the Lower Ottawa association has been more than doubled through the inclusion of the Upper Ottawa drainage, extending westward to the Ontario boundary and two new associations have been formed, the Laurentian and the Southern St. Lawrence Forest Protective Associations, so that altogether the Province of Quebec now has some 70,000 square miles under co-operative protection. The Provincial Government is a partner in all these associations, and contributes towards their support, though the main support comes from the timber owners, who are assessed on an acreage basis.

In Ontario a new era has begun in forest fire prevention. The Forest Fires Act has been remodelled on modern lines, and a forestry branch has been established, in charge of technically trained foresters, with full jurisdiction over the various lines of fire protection work. The total staff of the Forestry Branch at the height of the fire season aggregated about a thousand men, easily the largest single fire-protective agency on this continent. Generous appropriations have been made by the Legislature, and the interest and co-operation of timber owners has been further assured by a tax to assist in covering the cost of protection on licensed Crown lands. Five automobile trucks, with fire-fighting equipment have been provided in districts where roads exist, and 1,031 miles of old trails and canoe routes have been cleared out and 514 miles of new trails and portages opened. Eighty-five lookout towers have been erected and a good start has been made in the establishment of telephone connection. The permit system of regulating settler's clearing fires has been put into effect in Northern Ontario, and while there have been some convictions for burning without permit, this measure has on the whole worked with very little friction.

Those familiar with the situation know that the greatest single obstacle to the efficient conservation of our forest resources has been the patronage system of making appointments and the fact that the Federal Government has brought all the outside services under Civil Service Commission, and that British Columbia has abolished patronage and adopted the merit system of appointments to the forest service is a most welcome sign of progress.

The very great value of adequate surveys of forest resources has been exemplified within the past few months. The successful prosecution of the war demands the construction of airplanes in enormous numbers, and for such construction large quantities of wood of specific kinds and of the highest possible grade are indispensable. Sitka Spruce is one of the species for which a very large demand has arisen in this connection. The spruce grows only on the Pacific Coast of North America. The production from the United States is sufficient to meet only a small part of the

demand from the Allies and it has become imperatively necessary to increase the output of Sitka Spruce in British Columbia. The Imperial Munitions Board, accordingly, requested the Commission of Conservation to furnish information of all important bodies of this timber in Canada. By virtue of having completed the forest survey of British Columbia, the Commission was in a position to furnish the required information at once, and there is no question but that this action has greatly decreased the delay that would otherwise have been unavoidable in meeting the imperative demands of the situation. Spruce suitable for airplane construction is found only in the lower levels and usually forms only a small percentage of the stand in any given locality. In the southern portion of British Columbia it comprises only about 10 per cent. of the stand, on the northern mainland coast it averages 25 per cent., and on the Queen Charlotte Islands, about 35 per cent. of the stand. This means that in order to secure the quantities required operations must be under way at many different points simultaneously, hence the necessity of accurate knowledge of the location of all the commercially accessible Sitka Spruce. By being able to promptly supply this information the Conservation Commission has rendered a distinctively war service of the value of which there can be no question.

Legal Sins.

BY SANDY FRASER.

Did ye ever think o' what a surprising number o' sins a chap can be guilty of, in the course o' his pilgrimage through this life, and still be able tae keep oot o' jail?

What mak's me ask ye this is the fact that I hae been readin' lately, in some paper or ither, o' the experience o' one o' oor meenisters wha has been wi' the soldier boys in France and wha has been gettin' their individual opinions as to which are the worst sins that a man can commit, especially gin that man happens tae be a soldier. Soldier or civilian, it mak's but little difference tae my way o' thinkin', for the reason that we all hae tae fight somethin' or ither, an' tae that extent we must all be soldiers. The battle-fields are no' all in Flanders, although it may be sweet instead o' blood that mak's them worthy o' the name.

However, this meenister that I'm tellin' ye aboot mak's quite a story o' the answers he got frae the boys as tae what they thought were the good an' bad sins, or maybe we should say, the bad an' the worse.

What strikes him as queer aboot the thing is that the sins that are classed as the worst are the ones that are not against the law. In ither words, they are legal sins. They winna get ye intae jail. I'm sure noo ye are interested tae ken what they are. I wis mysel' when I found oot that much aboot them. I had always held tae the opinion that when a mon did onything that he kenned wis wrang he wis liable tae commit ony ither sin in the catalogue. But it seems that's no' the case. For according tae aboot ninety-nine per cent. o' the answers that this meenister got frae oor soldiers at the front, Cowardice is the one crime for which there is na forgiveness and which they pit at the head o' the list.

When ye come tae think o' it ye canna wonder at them ither. The soldier wha is a coward is what ye might call a *complete failure*, sae it doesn't matter whether he has ony ither sins charged up against him or not. He's done for, sae far as his job as a soldier goes. He might be a drunkard or a gambler or onything ye like an' still be a master hand at coaxin' the Germans back intae their ain country by the shortest route they ken. If he is he'll get forgiveness for his minor shortcomings frae his comrades, ye may depend upon that, and, judgin' by my ain feelins, I hae an idea that the rest o' us will hae a sneakin' inclination tae agree wi' them. The chap that doesn't know what fear is and that winna let himsel' find oot, stands a chance o' passin' for somethin' o' a man in maist ony kind o' a crowd. And tae a considerable extent it's right too. In peace or war the mon that's afraid to dae his duty isn't o' much account or o' muckle value tae society.

I mind one time when I wis a wee gaffer, goin' to town on some fair day or ither, I think it wis. There wis a big crowd o' men an' boys standin' in front o' one o' the hotels that used tae be doing somethin' o' a business on fair days in those times. That wis before the present dry spell; in fact, ye might say that it wis in the time o' the flood. A good mony o' the men were beginnin' tae feel the guid o' the tonic they had been takin' on their ain prescription and one big chap, o' mair than two hundred pound weight, started walkin' up an' doon the sidewalk an' inquiren' gin there wis ony man in the crowd that wanted tae get killed. As far as could be judged by the actions o' those present, nae o' them appeared tae be tired o' life at that particular meenute, but juist then a wee laddie, o' aboot four or five years o' age I should say he wis, went tae rin past the big chap on the sidewalk. The big fellow grabbed him by the collar o' his wee coat an' started draggin' him up an' doon the middle o' the street, an' every once in a while giein' him a slap on the side o' the heid. Of coorse, the laddie wis soon cryin' for his mither, but as she wis na doot at hame, he got na assistance frae that quarter. It wis lucky for the big chap that she didn't happen tae appear on the scene or he wad soon hae got his eyes scratched oot. But the fact that I want tae mention is, that there wasn't one o' the men in that bunch on the hotel verandah that sae much as made a start to tak' the wee bairn oot o' that auld drunkard's hands. They were afraid they'd get hurt gin they interfered.

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