

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

A poor fence is worse than none at all.

We hope a late seeding does not mean a light harvest.

May 18! Time to plant corn, and cereal seeding not finished yet!

Take "a day off" now and then. It will pay in the long run.

Prime yearlings are always in demand, but they must be prime.

The road gate off its hinges is generally an indication of the farm business.

If you produce more, feed more of what you produce on your own place.

It looks as if there might be more "notes" from the United States to Germany, and so on.

Better put forth a Herculean effort to catch up the work than to lag behind all summer.

Everything has "gone up" because of the war, with the exception of the value placed on human life.

If rain in April and May has anything to do with it, Ontario should have a good crop of wheat and hay in 1916.

It will soon be time to do roadwork. Some helpful suggestions are included in an article on road-making and road maintenance in this issue.

When Johnny wants to go fishing buy him a good pole, line and some hooks, and help him dig the worms. He will be a better boy when he is working.

Horsemen are beginning to take heart. Buyers are reported more numerous, and, although they do not offer big prices, they are buying, and the trend of prices is upward.

Plant a few flowers in the garden and around the house. God made flowers to be enjoyed by farmers and farmers' wives, as well as by city folks. They will brighten up the house inside and out.

Stick to the bacon hog. It will not pay to listen to any fantastic stories about the lard hog. His place is in the United States' corn belt, but the place for the bacon hog to be produced is in Canada, and the place to sell it is in Britain.

Fifty years of military education has made Germany what she is. Clothing the mind of a nation in uniform and teaching its people that they are the only great people promotes Kultur. Oh, Germany, what a greater world force would have been thy lot if all thy efforts had been toward education for peace!

Every farmer should this year put forth his best effort to produce more than enough sound potatoes for his own use. Potato growers will do more, but on your own ten or twelve rows, or whatever it may be, plant good, sound seed, treated for scab, and keep the potatoes sprayed during their early growing season for bugs and blight. Give them a chance. Potatoes are one of our essential crops, and yet they are most neglected on the average general farm.

The Outcome of Bad Teaching.

Students of the political history of the nations tell us that the causes leading up to the present world war, and with it world crisis, had their inception at the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. From that time onward Prussianism gradually gained sway in Germany. Previous to that time Germany produced many great men in the arts of peace. Since then all her so-called great men have been great only in so far as they manifested military genius of the iron brand. We are told that the change has all been wrought by teaching. The German child is taught from his earliest recollections that Germany is the one chosen nation, and that all others must fall before her. So has the child been taught since the Prussian element with the House of Hohenzollern gained sway. The German boy and girl have instilled in their minds from the very beginning that all the world is gradually coming under German rule, and that which does not submit gracefully must be crushed by the cruelest Bismarckian methods. Nothing is too bad for any nation or people who would stand in the way of German or rather Prussian progress. The end justifies the means. People who cannot see eye to eye with Prussianism must be taught a lesson or wiped out entirely. To accomplish this Germany has for over 40 years dreamed, taught and worked militarism. The strong arm of Germany had to be made stronger in order to insure power to crush. As Owen Wister puts it, Germany put the uniform on her mind. So have her children been reared and educated in an atmosphere of the chronic nightmare of militarism and rule by the iron hand. According to Prussianism it is good for other people to suffer. Is there any wonder the German people of to-day, after nearly half a century of rule and teaching by Prussian war lords, believe they are right, and the thing of conquering the world must be done? But suppose Germany had, during the past 40 years, prepared for peace. Suppose the teaching had been different and the boys and girls had been taught that only by the untiring pursuit of peaceful occupations, the advancement of agriculture, industry, science, art, music, etc., could Germany become permanently great, what a difference there would have been—a great Germany in place of the present home of Prussianized barbarism which is nearing its end through a sea of the blood of the innocent as well as of the combatant. The lesson for nations, peoples and individuals is to be careful of the teaching the young minds are developed by. As the child is taught so he grows up. Teach war and you will have war; teach peace and war will be no more.

Let Us Keep Our Pork Market.

We have heard that a movement is on foot in Canada to encourage the production of the thick-fat type of hogs. It has been hinted that it started with some of the big packers. Of this we do not know, but Canadian farmers would be well advised to stick close to the bacon hog and to further improve Canada's output of this type of pork in uniformity and type. Time and again it has been shown through these columns that Canada cannot compete with the United States in the production of the lard hog. They have the advantage of cheap, fat-producing feed in their immense annual crop of corn. Moreover, the American market does not pay the price for the lard hog that our own market and the British market pay for the bacon hog. If Canada were to discard the bacon hog and produce nothing but the lard hog, our hogs would go into direct competition with the United States hogs at a great disadvantage.

The British market does not want the lard hog. Our own market does not want fat pork. What would be the result? The Canadian pork producer would be at the mercy of the United States packer. As has been pointed out through these columns several times recently, the supply of bacon from Denmark to Britain has been greatly curtailed and Denmark was Canada's big competitor in that market. Now is Canada's chance. Breeders should pin their faith to the long, smooth sows, trim of jowl, well-laid-in of shoulder, with great length of side and neat hams—sows which throw large litters of uniform pigs when bred to the same type of sire. True, the pigs may not feed quite so easily as some a little thicker, but there will be more of them and they will bring a premium on the market. Choose sows for type, prolificacy, and good feeding qualities of offspring, but be careful first of the type.

Figured Farming.

It is rather amusing at times to read figured-farming accounts in which writers endeavor to show that there is no money in feeding pigs at a certain price per cwt. for pork with feed at average prices, that there is a loss in producing milk at the average price it brings per cwt., that beef cattle cannot be fattened at a profit when beef sells on foot at 8 cents per pound, and so on ad infinitum. It is amusing, and yet it is serious, especially in so far as it is often true and also because it is necessary to put out figures to show some that it is essential for them to do some figuring on their own account if they would know what pays and what does not pay in their yearly operations. But in too many of the accounts which go to prove there is no money in feeding the different kinds of live stock at good, average prices for these times, something is generally left out, for, at the very time they are written, successful farmers are making money out of these very lines while less thrifty men go behind. There is little use of using several sets of figures in the abstract to show a man there is no money in beef cattle or hogs when he is paying for his farm year after year from these two branches of the farming business, and knows from a concrete instance that the money comes from them. The same is true of the successful dairyman who builds up his farm, pays for it, and saves a little money besides from his dairy cows with milk, cream, butter or cheese at regular rates. There is a little money in live-stock farming properly carried on, and it does pay to keep live stock and turn off the finished product.

There is the other extreme in figured farming where some one, generally better at figures than at farming, writes articles mostly to be read in towns or cities by men who think they would like to farm, showing how easy it is to make anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000 per acre from farm land. The man who reads and knows nothing of farming jumps to the conclusion that farming is an occupation which would soon put him in the millionaire class. If he does buy a farm he finds out differently.

And so we have the two classes of articles written to show that there is little or nothing in farming, and that there is a fortune in it. Articles showing how difficult it is to make profits have appeared in this paper. Figures are used to get people to study their own production and see wherein it might be economically improved. Figures stimulate the desire to keep "tab" on one's own operations. They are valuable in articles, but those from concrete cases are much more so than are abstract instances. If you have had success give us your methods and statement of profits.