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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 17, 1915.

No. 1186

EDITORIAL.

Never let the weeds get a start.

Organization means opportunity.

The farmer is doing his part toward supplying munitions of war.

People are just commencing to realize that war means world-wide loss.

Would a census of your herds and flocks show any pure-breds there? If not it should.

A treeless landscape and a treeless lawn are uninviting. Plant trees, and spare trees.

Watch the alfalfa and red clover that it does not get too far advanced before cutting.

This is June 17. Some of the best turnips we ever saw were sowed between this date and June 25.

When the pasture goes, a little grain will help the calves and some silage will increase the milk flow.

Some of the set-back which frost gave the early potatoes may be regained by more frequent cultivation.

A man may be born an incompetent but this life gives him plenty opportunity to become competent.

Make your farm the best place to invest money by equipping it and placing it in a position to earn maximum returns.

A man with good horses need have no fear. Prices may be better, in fact they are not low now for the right kind.

Some say that the only really old men among the farming class are those who are so tough that hard work will not kill them.

If rain does not fall, conserve moisture by maintaining a dust mulch through cultivation. Wet or dry, cultivation makes the crop.

No one begrudges the farmer the increased prosperity which has enabled him to buy an automobile or instal city conveniences in his home.

The live stock breeder who sits tight and holds fast to his stock during the present crisis may be paid well for the confidence he shows in his business.

A Western banker says the farm is the best place for the children when they are young and impressionable, and, for their own good, the best place for many who would retire far too early in life.

There is a different class of tourist on a vastly more important mission on the continent this season. Canada is deserving of some of the sight-seeing, pleasure-loving travellers from now until October.

Why Wool Dropped.

Last week our pages bore the announcement that the embargo which had been placed on wool a short time before had been taken off, allowing Canadian wool to again go to the United States provided that the wool or yarn manufactured therefrom is used in the United States. When the embargo was announced wool manufacturers in this country immediately dropped the price from eight to ten cents per pound. Why? Canada imports wool. Canada requires as much wool as she produces. Wool prices early in June in the United States were from 28 to 30 cents per pound for mediums. The market in Britain showed a slight easing off, but, while indications were that wool might be a little easier, there was no real reason in the trade why wool should have been dropped so suddenly and so much because of the embargo. It looks very much like another trick of the manufacturers. They saw their opportunity to take advantage of the wool producer, and not satisfied with a reasonable haul dropped wool so low that they completely disorganized the market. Of three manufacturers written for prices during the worst days of the slump one quoted an extremely low price, one did not quote and the other refused to quote. At the same time, it is said, Canadian manufacturers were buying wool in the United States where prices had not dropped. This would appear to be one grand attempt to take about 40 per cent. of the value of the wool right out of the Canadian farmers' pockets and had the embargo continued it would no doubt have accomplished its purpose for it came just as the bulk of the Canadian clip was being removed from the backs of the sheep. Particularly is this true of the West. Fortunately the embargo did not last, and, robbed of its protection as an excuse wool has advanced but not as much as it dropped. The Live Stock Commissioner and the Department of Agriculture are deserving of credit for removing this menace to the sheep-breeding industry and the executive of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, whose efforts have been untiring on behalf of sheep-breeding in this country, are to be congratulated upon the success of their work to get the embargo removed. Had the embargo stayed, Canadian wool producers would have been forced to accept prices about 40 per cent. below the real value of the wool, while the manufacturers of the product would have reaped a fat harvest. At the same time sheep-breeding would have received a severe set-back when everyone is anxious for increased production and when the industry had a chance to regain some of its lost ground. It is such inexcusable actions as this on the part of manufacturers that hold agriculture down, that make the farming community suspicious of the manufacturer, that rob agriculture of its just dues and make its people hewers of wood and drawers of water. Imagine, if you can, such a grab at a time like this when every Canadian's patriotism is appealed to. It seems that as with charity some men's patriotism begins at home and amounts to selfishness pure and simple. However, wool producers should be grateful to the executive of the Dominion Sheep Breeders Association and to the Live Stock Commissioner and Ministers at Ottawa for the quashing of this excuse which was robbing them and filling the pockets of the manufacturer.

What of the Horse?

Canada's horse business never passed through a more difficult and unsettled period than that of the past year. The trade had slowed down and then the war came. Cartage companies and other city firms requiring large numbers of horses stopped purchasing owing to the uncertainty which prevailed. Automobiles and horseless drays are more numerous than ever before. The horse in Canada has been very slow sale and is not yet in great demand. The Imperial Government has not taken large numbers of horses from Canada. The Canadian Remount Commission have been buying steadily since the war began and are likely to continue until hostilities cease. From the United States over 225,000 horses and 40,000 mules have gone to the front and a steady stream is still passing. In Great Britain horses are scarce and selling from 30 per cent. to 60 per cent. above their real value. The continent of Europe is the graveyard of its own surplus horses as well as the surplus from America. The great North West gives every promise of a big crop this season and every Eastern horseman knows that this will mean more horses bought from Ontario for the West next winter and spring. These are the conditions prevailing at the present time and it looks as though the war wastage must continue for months to come. It would appear to the average man that the demand for horses must increase. In fact some experienced horsemen now predict the dearest horses Canada has ever known and that within a very short time. No farmer should be prevailed upon to sell good horses very much below their value. The Remount Commission is buying every day and they are taking more of the heavier classes than at first. This demand is now for gunners and transport horses more than for cavalry mounts. Farmers having horses of this kind should not be induced to take less than the real value of the animals at least until they have had them before the Commission buyers. The small dealer who buys from the farmer and sells to the Commission must do so at a profit and therefore he must get the horse at that profit below its actual value. Men buying horses for the Commission say they would rather buy from the farmer direct and pay him the same price for the horse that they would pay the dealer. If this is the case, and it should be, then the farmer should make the most of his opportunity and if his horse is at all suitable offer him to the Commission buyers rather than be induced by dealers to take less than the horse is really worth for the sake of getting rid of him. It might pay a great deal better to hold for a while than to sell too much below value. This is no hold up on the Commission buyers. They pay what, in their judgment, a horse is worth—good honest value—but it is simply a hint to farmers having horses to sell to make the most of the opportunity which the Commission now buying offers. There is no use kicking against the decisions of the buyers when they reject a horse not suited to their purposes. Horses for the army must be active and sound. They are bought from five to nine years old and the dealer does not want a younger or older horse. If a horse is rejected by the Commission buyers there must be a reason. Only good, sound, active horses of the heights and weights for each class are selected and for these good prices are paid. If the dealer will pay all you ask for your horse (or value) let him have it of course but if he tries to beat down