

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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problem of the man on the land is likely to be misunderstood by those engaged in other industries, and the man engaged in farming may have to bear more than his just share of the burdens of the country. Organize now and guard the interests of your calling.

### Electric Power for the Farm.

Farm power is one of the first subjects in the mind of the twentieth-century agriculturist. It is necessary to, in so far as possible, replace hand labor with power machinery. At the present time, too, heating, and lighting is a problem on the farm as well as in town. All signs point to an even more rapid development of electricity for use in city and country, and if we mistake not the time is coming when every water-power in this country will be properly harnessed so as to develop and deliver for those living in the rural districts as well as those living in urban centres, cheap power for heating and lighting and for operating the necessary machinery, on farm and in factory. Already Hydro has solved the power problem in many of our cities. The farm is yet to benefit as it should from this class of power. However, there are some farmers living adjacent to towns using electric power, who have availed themselves of the opportunity of having it installed. In this issue an account is published of one farm upon which electric energy is used. It was cheap and efficient power. It lighted the farm house and barn, pumped the water, pulped the roots and separated the milk for a year for \$15.57. It threshed 56 large loads of grain and cut 38 of these for \$15.67. The power bill for each month of the year is given in the account and is very interesting at this time. Every farmer should be a booster for cheap power, and should, at every opportunity, do all he can for the development of more electric energy from the water-powers of this country.

Investigation reveals facts favorable to the use of hog cholera serum in infected areas. a

### The Work of the Women of the Farms.

We have heard considerable during the recent months regarding what the women on the farms should do at the present time. There are those who do not understand the life of the women in the farm home, who contend that farmers' wives and daughters should, at this time, work in the fields and stables as well as in the house. During the past summer, in travelling over this Province, we have seen many women at work in the fields, and most of these were doubtless doing a woman's work in the house as well. It is too much to ask of the women of the farms of the Province, and is not being asked by any who know what they are already doing. We contend that no person, man or woman, in Canada is doing more work through the present crisis, according to their strength, than the women of farm homes in this country. There are those, who know of this work and are competent to speak, who think that they are already doing more than they should and more than is in the best interests of the land. The work in the farm house is not light, yet the women have done it cheerfully; have given of their time freely to Red Cross work, and have also, where strength at all permitted, aided in the outdoor work on the land. They deserve credit. They have done and are doing their share. At a recent meeting of farmers, it was lamented by one of the speakers that more women were not present. Someone said they were too tired and overworked to get away. Some wives were doing the chores to allow their husbands to attend the meeting. It would be too bad if the women in the farm homes of this country became so fatigued through over-work that they could not properly fill the place which God intended them to fill in the homes. And, while on the subject, it is no more fair that the wives and daughters of farmers should break themselves down in an extra effort to produce food, than it is that men and women living under other circumstances should do likewise. It is the duty of all to do the best they can and not to assign tasks for others.

### Favors Large Farms.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

Can the fixing of the price of farm produce by the Government be carried on indefinitely? If it can, what is it going to lead to? The answers to these questions should be of considerable interest to farmers as a class. The tendency of those in control of the machinery of government to dictate to the individual at the present time is contrary to our ideas of a Democracy, though present world conditions may give them some ground for their action. But what we are concerned in finding out is if the thing is practicable. Will it fit in with our other methods of doing business? Can it be continued indefinitely without cutting down production? Can the Government go this far logically without going farther?

There is a law of supply and demand that has kept the civilized world from starving for several thousand years and which has never been seriously interfered with up to the present time. More things than we have any idea of affect the working out of this law. To deal with it in any arbitrary way one should be prepared to deal with all these other things as well. If they are not so dealt with the chances are that there is trouble ahead. The fact of the matter is that this whole problem concerning the rise in the cost of living and the effect of changed conditions in one industry or another, is simply beyond the mind of man to grasp or in any practical measure to foresee.

Now, what would one naturally suppose would be the effect of fixing the price of any product and making that price less than it would otherwise be, while at the same time other lines of produce were left to the law of supply and demand? Would we not say that the result would be to stop or greatly lessen the output in the line affected? When market conditions are such that all kinds of food products have a tendency to rise in price it would be only natural to expect the grain-grower, or the farmer in any other line, to grow what had a chance of increasing in value. To ask for an increase in the number of bushels of wheat grown, at the same time to take action that will prevent that wheat from reaching its natural price-level on the market, is foolish and illogical. It may bring temporary relief to the consumer but if the tide is held back at one point it will inevitably rise higher at another. And in the end the barriers will have to be taken down. If the price of cheese is retained at its level and other milk-products continue to rise in value, how long will cheese-factories continue to exist? In two years there wouldn't be one in the country. And suppose all farm products went through the price-fixing process and the farmer had still to compete with the city wage-market. Where would he get his hired help? And how would he prevent his own children taking advantage of city salaries as soon as they were old enough to be of any service? Not only this but the difference in the prices of what he had to sell and what he was compelled to buy would be so great that he would practically be forced out of business. That is, of course, unless the price of absolutely every-

thing was fixed. And it is pretty evident that the human brain has not yet developed to the point where a task of that magnitude is within its capabilities.

If the various Governments are in earnest in their efforts to bring about a general lowering in the cost of the necessities of life there is one practical method open to them, which has already been outlined in these columns. That method is the encouragement of scientific, commercialized farming on a large scale. Men with the necessary education and ability to undertake this work could be secured by the payment of adequate salaries. Such men are at the head of their professions in other lines of work, and if the business of farming is to be made a success from the standpoint of increased production and financial profit, similar efficient and capable managers will have to be employed. The majority of farmers are on comparatively small farms, making a living for themselves and their families and very little more. Fancy, or the force of circumstances made farmers of them, regardless of whether they were likely to succeed at the business or not. The consequence is that the world is faced at the present time with a shortage in the food supply. With such management as some business concerns have, and are willing to pay for, this situation could be overcome. Why couldn't part of the recently floated Victory Loan be utilized in this way? Land acquired, expert and efficient managers hired and all necessary equipment installed. After the first year the enterprise would, in all probability, become self-supporting, and later return a good interest on the investment. As to interfering with individual enterprise, this would not necessarily follow. All men in the business of farming would be free to carry on their work as usual and that without the handicap of price-fixing. Should the time come when the food situation was relieved and the necessity for these Government farms not so apparent as it is to-day, they could be divided up into individual holdings, or disposed of in any way that seemed advisable. But for several years to come, and we might say for many years to come, these large farms could hardly fail of being a practical means of overcoming what is the Empire's greatest problem, the securing of an adequate food supply. Three things are necessary for the carrying out of this idea, men, money and land, and we have them all. Why not combine our forces and stop taking chances on losing the war?

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

Canada From Ocean to Ocean.—I.

In the next few articles I shall make what would technically be termed a biological cross-section of Canada, or to render it in everyday parlance, we shall take a little trip across the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific and observe the main characteristics of the plant and animal life of the various regions.

If we stand on the shore of the Atlantic in Nova Scotia and look out over the water we shall undoubtedly see certain forms of animal life—Gulls, Terns, Cormorants and probably Seals. But we are looking out over the home of a vast and teeming life which we do not see—in the water, and at the bottom of the water, are myriads of plants and animals, minute plants, microscopic animals, shell-fish, lobsters, crabs, worms and fish of very many species. These we shall not see unless we use nets and trawls, plankton-nets and dredges, and so for the present we shall simply mention them and recognize their immense economic importance in passing. The gulls are perhaps the most constant feature of the animal life over the ocean. We have on our Atlantic coast many species of gulls, the commonest being the Herring Gull, a bird of very wide distribution, being found in Europe, on both our coasts, and on inland waters right across the continent. The gulls are the scavengers of the surface of the water, and are ever on the look-out for edible floating material.

The seals which we see off the coast of the Maritime Provinces are not the valuable Fur Seals but the Harbor Seal, a species about four feet in length, yellowish-grey above irregularly spotted with black, and yellowish-white beneath with small black spots. Like all the seals this species is gregarious, and they are usually to be seen in little groups on the rocks or else three or four round heads bobbing up and down, appearing above the surface of the water and disappearing, reveal a little colony engaged in fishing. The food of the Harbor Seal consists of fish, and while this animal is clumsy, in fact almost helpless, on land, it is wonderfully active and graceful in its movements beneath the surface of the water, following with ease every twist and turn of its finny prey. Young Harbor Seals are, at birth, covered with a thick, white woolly coat, which is later supplanted by the ordinary hair, and until this change takes place they do not take to the water.

Turning now to the shore we find such an abundance of animal life as to almost bewilder one who is used to inland habitats. Unlike inland habitats the life which we see on the sea-shore depends upon the state of the tide, when it is full flood tide we see only the comparatively sparse life of the beach, the Sow-bugs and the active little Beach-beas which jump about among the dried sea-weed thrown up above high-water mark. But at ebb tide a strip of the ocean floor is uncovered, and we see many interesting forms of animal life and a great many different kinds of plants which are collectively termed "sea-weeds." These plants, which belong to the higher groups of the Algae, vary much in color and in shape. One of the commonest is the Rock-weed, (*Fucus*), which is olive-brown in color, with fronds a couple of feet in length, and with bladders in the fronds. These bladders are filled with air and cause the fronds to float when the plant is covered by the tide. The fruiting bodies, at the ends of the fronds, which