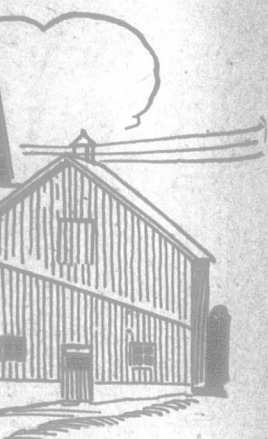


FOUNDED 1866



The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Canada is still to the front, taking her objective, as usual, on record time.

Free poultry and live stock from all vermin before going into winter quarters.

Damp, poorly-ventilated piggeries at this season of the year are very likely to induce crippling.

A badly-hung gate is sometimes excusable, but a stable door should always swing on good hinges.

Watch for our special Christmas Number two weeks from this date. It goes free to all our subscribers.

With the Victory Loan all to be spent in Canada, there will be a race on the part of many to pocket the lion's share.

We have had a touch of winter, but farmers are fairly well up with their work, and are, in the majority of cases, prepared for the worst.

Farming is a game of chance, but with a good system of crop rotation and by keeping ample live stock the player is sure to win out in the end.

With the Canada Wheat Board protecting the millers and the Board of Commerce protecting consumers, where does the farmer come in?

Farmers little thought when they were called upon in November of 1917 to increase hog production, that an offspring of the Government would be the first to throw them down.

According to Dr. R. H. Coates, Dominion Statistician, the total capital invested in Canada is between sixteen and seventeen billion dollars, of which \$5,209,117,000 is invested in agriculture.

The Victory Loan was a crowning success, and will go a long way to maintain the morale of the people. If expended wisely and in such a way as to speed up production, its good effects will be noticeable for years.

In official tables of agricultural production for 1917, poultry and fruits and vegetables are each credited with a production valued at \$40,000,000. Both branches of the industry are capable of enormous expansion, and should be thoughtfully nurtured.

According to Government figures Ontario has increased the fall wheat acreage 10 per cent. over that of last year, and has 717,000 acres under this crop. Fall wheat never looked better and if a heavy fall of snow does not come before the ground freezes the crop will go into winter in excellent condition.

Professor J. W. Crow, O.A.C., made the statement at the Fruit Growers' Convention recently that during the last five years, Ontario's apple industry had slipped back twenty years. This statement, if true, gives cause for serious thought and implies an urgent need for a comprehensive educational and production policy.

Canada's record of foreign trade for the year ending June, 1919, shows a balance in our favor of \$323,539,622. Our net favorable balance with the United Kingdom was \$460,637,484, but with the United States we have an unfavorable balance of \$256,773,313. The totals are \$1,193,037,125 for exports, and \$869,497,503 for imports.

Government Grades For Peaches.

At the recent Convention of Ontario Fruit Growers, the advisability of establishing Government grades for peaches was discussed and a committee authorized to look into the matter. Everyone is favorable to peach grades, but the labor question was put forward as a very serious obstacle to carrying out any grading system that might be established. There is no side-stepping this aspect of the matter, but still less should there be any hesitation about providing for the proper grading of Canadian fruit products. Our fruit can be made to occupy a very high place on the market, but at the present time there is much to be desired in the way of standard packs and packing.

Unless the Dominion Government takes the initiative there is now no possibility of putting into effect any grades before the season of 1921. We can see no valid reason why the necessary machinery, at least, could not be provided for at the next session of the Parliament at Ottawa. Neither Governments nor large bodies of producers are prone to act quickly, often much to their disadvantage, and we cannot see why a year should be allowed to elapse before the fruit growers take up the subject again. Only a small percentage of the members present at an annual convention are directly interested in peaches anyway, and moreover, nearly all of the peach area is located in or adjacent to the Niagara and Leamington Districts, so that it should not be difficult to obtain a consensus of opinion within a reasonably short time. Once get the legislation passed with fair opportunity for the Minister to make necessary regulations, and the application of the law can easily be adjusted to meet such matters as the labor situation.

Cabinet Tasks.

Public opinion in Ontario is to some extent divided into camps, not necessarily hostile, but with differences in the way they will view the actions of the new-born Provincial Government. To be successful the Cabinet will have to depend on public sentiment (which they now find favorable to them) and stand four-square to all the winds that blow. The rural verdict will be based not wholly, but largely on the policies affecting agriculture, education, highways and conservation of natural resources. Urban opinion will depend considerably on the administration of those departments having to do with education, public works, control of profiteering—so far as the matter can be handled provincially—public health, and other matters of vital concern to city dwellers. While labor cannot be segregated, in the broad sense, from the urban population, yet as workers they are presenting certain claims for special consideration. Certain elements in the population have been mentioned separately, but their interests interlap, and what is vital to one, in many cases, deeply concerns the other. The people of Ontario as a group, we believe, will demand economy so far as it is consistent with efficiency and progress; nevertheless the response to the last Victory Loan appeal shows the Province to be wealthy and not in dire need of foregoing necessary developments where urgently called for. Education is as vital to one element as to another; Hydro-electric development will be demanded by all; our public institutions, jail and industrial farms cannot be relegated to the background by any class of citizens; the people's will, as expressed in the Referendum, must be enforced; and the burden of raising the nineteen-million-dollar budget must be equitably and justly distributed. All these matters concern the people of Ontario as a whole.

The problems confronting agriculture are largely economic, and depend for solution more on Federal than Provincial action. The Provincial Department confines itself largely to agricultural education and production, but in this spends more than one and one-half

million dollars. Throughout Canada there is need of closer co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Departments, and Ontario stands to profit by a get-together, work-together understanding with the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Education is distinctly a Provincial matter, and a very live subject at present. So far as rural education factors, and in that we are particularly concerned here, the problem is as much an agricultural as an educational one. The small attendance at rural schools is a complication no Minister of Education can deal with; the underlying causes are economic. However, in a desire to rehabilitate the rural school, the new Minister should not allow the fundamentals of good education which have characterized the curricula in our schools and colleges to be carried away on the tide of commercialism now sweeping the country. Changes are necessary in rural schools, and a different viewpoint must be sought, but certain interests would like to see the rural school devote more of its time to corn-growing contests and hog-feeding competitions, with a view to making hewers of wood and drawers of water out of rural youth, rather than broad-minded, independent citizens qualified to work out their own destiny in whatever field they choose. The fundamentals of an education that will equip boys and girls for citizenship should not be tampered with too much in the public schools and colleges. Special training and technical schools will look after the requirements of those who seek special education.

The slogan of good roads for all should be implemented as soon as possible by a live, progressive policy looking particularly to the improvement of market highways radiating out to the side-roads and concessions. In the Provincial Secretary's Department there is need of some consideration of the system which purports to punish juvenile offenders, but which tends to poison their minds and makes of them confirmed criminals or ruins them for citizenship. This matter, and that of mothers' pensions are of vital importance at this time. Hydro-electric light and power must be made available for agricultural uses, and this feature of the great Hydro scheme should be given consideration before the Province becomes heavily involved in radials and other undertakings which can wait.

These are only a few of the tasks which confront the new Cabinet, but they are of vital importance to the people of this Province.

Government by Commission.

The great body of farmers in Canada will probably not look too kindly in the future upon the creation of commissions to handle the problems of Government. We hope we have passed the era of prolificacy in this regard, and that in future such bodies of men as are set up under authority of Government will be able to act in co-operation with each other; at least to the extent that they will not be treading on each other's toes. Queerly enough, the farmer nearly always draws unlucky numbers, an instance of which lies even now at his door. In response to a considerable volume of opinion, especially from the Prairie Provinces, for some scheme to stabilize the price, the Canada Wheat Board was set up to take care of the marketing of the 1919 wheat crop. One of the first acts of this Board was to restore to higher levels the price of bran and shorts, which, under the stress of war and the urgency of agricultural production, had been arbitrarily lowered by the Canada Food Board, now happily at rest. While it cannot be denied that strong arguments are available to justify this action by the Wheat Board, and while it seems only fair that farmers should pay market prices for the feeds they purchase, it is a matter of argument whether the lower prices would not have been more than justified by their effort upon Canada's live stock during the present very trying period. We believe they would.