

Farm and Dairy

AND

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to compute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

Man Power for the Farm

THREE main factors enter into the prosecution of every great war—an army, its munitions and its food. The production of all three call for man power. Conscription of man power to fill the ranks of the army is now well universal. A sufficiency of man power for munition factories is ensured by the letting of contracts that guarantee a profit on production. Both of these methods—conscription of man power and letting of contracts—have decreased the amount of labor available for the production of the third necessary food. Agriculture has had the stimulus of the draft nor the contract; consequently here that we find the weakest point in the military situation. Plenty of men are being provided for the army, there are munition workers a-plenty, but never were the farms of America so undermanned as at present.

The situation next spring will be more serious than it was last spring. In Canada 150,000 men are to be drafted for military service. By next April the United States will have 2,500,000 men under arms. Many of these will be drawn from agriculture. This year America had a deficit of 400,000,000 bushels of wheat in the supplies which were considered necessary for the feeding of Europe. The planting of even an equal area of crops next spring will be impossible unless conditions change radically for the better. It hinges altogether on man power. If farmers can secure the labor they can produce the crops. Few, however, feel that they would be justified in entering into competition for labor with munition manufacturers working on guaranteed contracts,

when the farmer has no guarantee at all as to his market. Seemingly there are just two ways to secure increased production—the drafting of man power from the cities to the country or the guaranteeing of prices on farm products at such a level as to enable the farmer to compete for labor. Which shall it be? If the situation is as serious as we have been led to believe, radical measures must be taken.

The Pork Production Campaign

EVERY farmer who attended last week's conference in Toronto, reported on page three of Farm and Dairy this week, went home fully convinced that the production of more pork is a national necessity. Every one of these men will endeavor to rear on their own farms the extra litters asked for. They will endeavor, also, to communicate to their neighbors their views of the situation and their enthusiasm for greater production. And everywhere they will be asked the question that they cannot answer—"What guarantee can you give us that the market will not go to pieces if we produce pork in greater quantities?"

The assurance that feed will be made available at reasonable prices and that the spread in price between the farmer and consumer is to be controlled, will help to give confidence. Figures showing the world-wide shortage will also create faith in the stability of the market. But pork has always been a gamble. The market has jumped up or down in accordance with the small or large supplies of hogs available. On many occasions the fluctuations of a day have made the difference between profit and loss to the producer. What guarantee have we that those fluctuations will not occur again? Recently two fluctuations of the leading packers on the Toronto market stopped buying; their storehouses were full and ocean space was not available for shipment. In consequence, the hog market dropped two and one-half cents a pound, and that just at a time when the bulk of the hogs in the country were ready for market. May not the same thing happen again when the greater production of hogs asked for begins to arrive at the stock yards?

The editors of Farm and Dairy have already been asked these questions many times since the campaign was launched on Tuesday of last week. Otherwise we would not ask them here. Some definite assurance as to the future of the market is needed from the Food Controller's office. Farmers are not asking that an exorbitant price be guaranteed. The most of us are willing to produce without profit if our country will benefit thereby. Few, however, can afford to produce at a loss, and for this reason a guaranteed minimum price would be the country's best assurance of securing the greater production desired.

The Victory War Loan

CANADA'S Victory War Loan should be as popular in the country as it will be in the city. The security is the best; it is backed by the entire wealth of our country with all of our resources, developed and undeveloped. It is being issued in denominations that are within the reach of every farmer investor. The interest is the highest ever offered on government securities; they are estimated to yield over five and one-half per cent. These bonds have an additional advantage in that they can be realized upon at any time. As an investment, therefore, Canada's new war loan ranks with the best and discriminating money lenders are viewing it more favorably than even good first mortgages on farm property.

Aside from its value as an investment, there is an additional reason why farmers should pur-

chase these war bonds. On the success of the loan depends, in some measure, the continuance of a strong demand from Britain for our farm products. From now on Canada must finance her own business with Britain. These war bonds will help to supply the money which will make possible the continuance of a profitable cash export trade in farm products. In supporting the loan we are at the same time making a patriotic investment and insuring our market. The loan will probably be over subscribed. It should be over subscribed and Canadian farmers should figure largely in rolling up the surplus.

Value of a Good Sire

"WHAT can I afford to pay for a herd bull?" This question is answered by the Nebraska College of Agriculture by relating some of their own experience in breeding experiments with the college herd. One of their bulls now has five daughters in milk. Their yearly production totalled 833 lbs. of fat more than the production of their dams. At 40 cents a pound this surplus of butter fat was worth \$329, an increase due entirely to the use of an excellent sire. "If one had to borrow the money to buy this sire," says the Professor of Animal Husbandry of that institution, "the increased income would pay interest on \$5,490.30."

Remarkable as this increase seems, it cannot equal the improvement that a good sire will make in an average herd. The dams of these heifers were already high producers, and consequently infusion of high-producing blood would not raise production so much as in the average herd. Nor would a high-priced animal be necessary to effect a great improvement in a grade milking herd. Just in proportion as the females improve will higher priced and more richly bred sires be needed. But if the sire be given an opportunity he will prove profitable at much higher prices than are usually asked. A good sire is the best investment the milk producer and breeder can make.

The Labor Income

A CORRESPONDENT, whose pithy letters on farm problems once appeared regularly in Farm and Dairy, writes us as follows:

"You do well to protest against acceptance of one year's results from the farms now being surveyed in Caledon township by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, as indicative of the average earning status of the Ontario farmer. In many respects this is the best year we have ever had. We have had the unusual combination of good crops and good prices. On our own farm we are doing well. Last year, however, we hardly broke even. Before that we had three years of severe drought, when we made no returns on our investment at all and mighty poor wages for our own work. Did I have a labor income of \$3,000 this year, it would not compensate for the four years in which I worked for a hired man's wage. The only worth while survey will cover a period of years."

The point raised is of paramount importance. The results secured in any one year are not a true criterion of the financial status of the farmer. This is truly an abnormal year. The results of the survey will be of minimum usefulness and liable to lead to a maximum of misunderstanding. So far as possible the results of this year's survey should be made public only along with the full information of the abnormal conditions under which it has been conducted. We have confidence even in those who are conducting the survey to believe that this will be done.

The prices now fixed on potatoes are a guarantee to the farmer that his interests are being honestly considered by the Food Controllers. Again we can say, "Back up, Mr. Hanna."