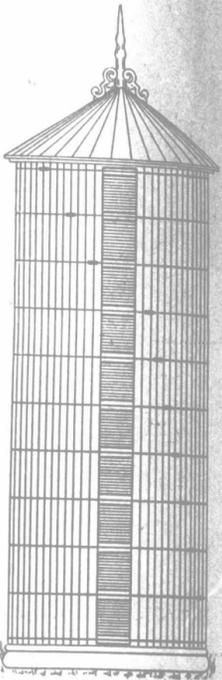


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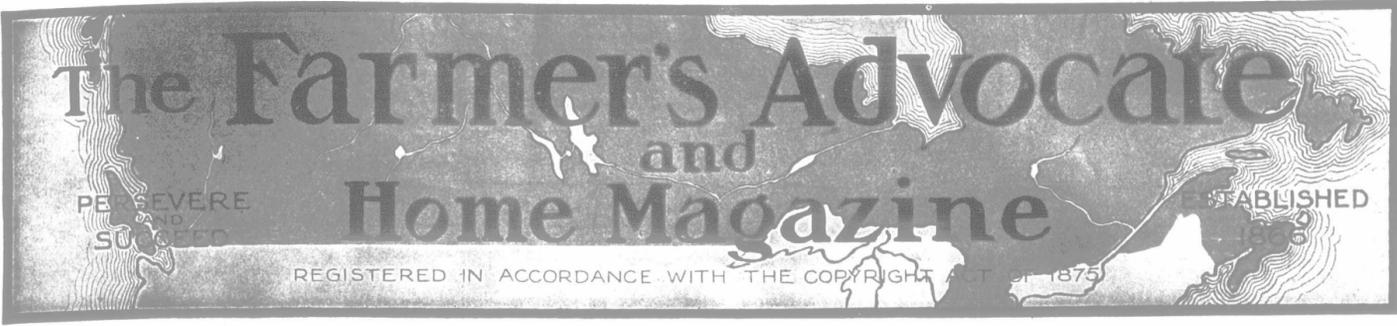
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Vol. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 12, 1915.

No. 1194

EDITORIAL.

Start a flock of sheep this fall. They will pay.

Again we advise that feeding cattle be purchased early.

Water and weeds—the product of underdrained and half-tilled soils.

One of these wet mornings cut the weeds along the roadside before they go to seed.

Frequent showers and sultry weather have brought the later grain on very fast.

Rural Canada east and west calls for men for the harvest. Enlist in the army needed for this work.

A weedy pasture may be improved by running the mower over it to prevent weeds going to seed.

A correspondent in last week's issue gave some very good hints as to roadside weeds. Did you read them? Then act.

Where there is much growth to be plowed down put a chain or skimmer on the plow. Much better work will result.

The Empire needs men—men to fight and men to grow food and make munitions so that those who fight may win quickly.

A real estate dealer states that one of the marked features of the present situation is the number of town properties available in exchange for farms.

Where hay is scarce the second cutting of clover may be more valuable for feed than for seed. It is making a rank growth and may not seed very heavily anyway.

A German paper has gravely proposed that Christianity be suspended until after the war. In so far as the Kaiser and his war lords are concerned that was done a year ago.

Did you ever notice how much better a mixed crop of oats and barley stands up in heavy storms than a crop of oats alone? And, besides this, it yields better as a rule.

In some sections the fall wheat sprouted owing to the excessive amount of moisture. Just another place where the man with the live stock will win out. It will make great feed.

The owner may have pruned badly in the eyes of the scientific fruitman, but if he gets a heavy load of good fruit every year who can blame him for sticking to his established practice?

Canada is at war. Canadian soldiers are laying down their lives for those at home. We are told that the enemy has forty machine guns to every soldier used by the Allies. Let every municipal body get busy and help equip our brave boys. Machinery for fighting is the big thing in this war. Help put our boys on a stronger footing than the enemy.

Rouse up and Give.

We are told that the German army is equipped with forty machine guns to every two in the Allies' lines. We know that the enemy, through years of preparation, entered this war furnished to the utmost with all the machinery of modern warfare, and our boys have stood up against it and blocked its progress. There is need of more machine guns in the ranks of the armies of the Allies—in the ranks of our own Canadian regiments at the front and to go to the front. As time goes on there will be need of other things. Another winter is drawing nearer, and with it will come the difficulties and discomforts of mud and water in the bleak trenches in Flanders. Money, and aid of various kinds will be needed in abundance. The country districts of Canada have done nobly, but we must remember that we are living in a land of plenty, free from the awfulness of destruction and carnage, free from the trials and hardships of those who are fighting our battles, and, remembering these things, have we all done our share? Municipal organizations in the country districts can still do much. A machine gun or its equivalent from each township means very little to the people in that township, but it means hundreds of guns or thousands of dollars for the protection and comfort of the men at the front. Those who stay at home should give, and give freely. The donating of a few dollars may mean a slight sacrifice to the giver, but this is nothing compared to the sacrifice of the men in khaki bearing the brunt of the onslaughts at the front. Our armies must be equipped. They must get the comforts which the people at home can send them. Now is the time to act. Do not play the "waiting game" any longer. Every farm home can contribute something. Every township and every county can do its part. The need seems urgent. "The Farmer's Advocate Dollar Chain" is still stretching out, but it could and should grow faster. There are many avenues for work to be done. We must continue to give freely. Who knows, the war may be only in its infancy? More men are going, and more men going increases the need for equipment and money. Rouse up rural Canada and help make our army the most formidable fighting force in the world!

Roadside Weeds a Menace.

In last week's issue a correspondent brought up a good subject when he discussed roadside weeds, and their prevalence in some parts of this country. We have often wondered why a farmer will put forth strenuous efforts to keep his crops clean, and at the same time allow noxious weeds to grow and go to seed in abundance on the road bordering his farm. Of course, the cutting of roadside weeds comes under local municipal control, and like some other laws is not in every instance rigidly enforced. Pathmasters or road bosses do not always take the interest they should, but there is nothing to hinder the farmer from taking the matter in his own hands and cleaning up his roadside, no matter whether he is warned out to do the work by the Pathmaster or not. Once his own side of the road is cleaned up he is in a position to talk to his neighbor about cutting the weeds on the other side, and if he does not do it then he should see that the Pathmaster, or whoever is in charge, has the weeds cut or forces the man to destroy them. We believe it would be better in all instances for each farmer to take enough interest in the gen-

eral appearance of his place and his section of the country to see to it that no weeds are allowed to grow and seed on the public highways. It is only a matter of from a half day to a day with a good, sharp scythe around most Ontario farms, and times can usually be found during a wet spell in haying or harvest to look after this work. Or, it may be, that the weeds require cutting earlier on. They should be carefully looked after before any chance of producing seed is allowed. And again, seeing that there are laws on the subject, why not enforce them? If Pathmasters or men appointed to look after this work neglect their duty then someone should complain and see that the matter is righted immediately. There is no use of attempting to keep a clean farm while a weed patch is developed on the other side of the fence.

We recently traveled through a section of North Middlesex in Ontario and also in South Huron, and in several localities found farmers taking special interest in roadside weeds. Many old fences had been pulled away and the bottoms cleaned up, and these roadsides, and in some cases the ditch right to the road edge, had been plowed, worked down and planted to potatoes. Others were one year removed from the potato crop, and were producing a crop of barley with clover and grass seeded in. Still others were in grass, having been broken and cleaned up before. These roadsides were smooth, and where in grass were carefully cut with the mower and kept clean. Each farmer was taking care of his own, and he knew that it was done and done at the proper time. It will always pay to clean up the roadside.

Why Did They not Pass?

A writer in a leading Ontario daily and signing herself "Country Mother" recently brought up a question, which, if her statements have any foundation in fact, reveals a sad state of affairs. The contention made was that a pitifully small percentage of the country children are allowed to pass the "exams." This refers to the High School Entrance Examinations. This statement was also made: "In the country schools around, in which our own is a centre, not one child passed the examinations. * * * * Why? We employ none but the Normal teachers. Surely the fault cannot lie in the inferior intellect of our country children. Might it not better be blamed to those who, in their blindness, conceive of a greater agricultural Canada forced on our farm children by sheer inability to pass the examinations, whereby another life might be developed."

We know nothing of the circumstances of the case, but it does seem strange that all the candidates from more than one rural school in one district should fail. If there was nothing wrong with the marking there must be something hopelessly inadequate in the teaching. The boys and girls who failed are the real losers. We might call them the victims, for it is not possible for all to take extra years at school to accomplish that which should be accomplished in one year. It seems absurd to think that examiners would discriminate against children from the rural districts simply to keep such on the farms. If such a thing could possibly have occurred we feel sure the examiners were not considering the welfare of either agriculture or the farm boy and girl. We sometimes wonder how much teachers, and examiners also, know or care about agriculture and