

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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L.V.

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EDITORIAL.

When arranging programs, don't overlook local talent.

Good seed is just as essential as good live stock; one is the corollary of the other in good agriculture.

Sawdust and other insulating material is not so plentiful as it used to be, but there is no dearth of ice this winter.

A ring should be placed in every bull's nose by the time he is a year old, and renewed as often as necessary to keep it strong.

The greatest wonder of the age is how many rural clergymen are able to live and survive on salaries set ten or fifteen years ago.

Argentine butter exports for the nine months of 1919 were practically six times as much as was exported during the same period in 1914.

Many of the old gentlemen who have seen thousands and thousands of Januarys without a thaw will have to make an exception for the January of 1920

Indications point to a considerably increased interest being taken in the grading and marketing of butter according to its commercial value this year.

The live-stock breeders' meetings at Toronto during the first week of February always mark a new epoch in the year's live-stock business and operations.

Silage may be fed with safety to the young calf and is very much relished by it. It is a good idea to pick the pieces of ears out of the silage fed to calves.

Scours in calves are by far the most common source of trouble in calf raising. If a feeder is able to avoid the occurrence of scours in his calves, it is very seldom that other ailments will annoy.

Immigration to Canada for 1919 totalled 117,633, an increase of 67,363, or 134 per cent., over 1918. Of the immigrants in 1919 there were 57,000 from the British Isles and 52,000 from the United States.

Make the hens work for what they get during the winter months, by feeding a scratch mixture in the litter. Feed about one-third of the mixture in the morning and two-thirds in the afternoon.

A progressive, ambitious program of investigation and experimentation should be outlined and undertaken by our stations and colleges in 1920. Work of this nature has been dragging for five years.

To be successful at the shows next fall, begin now to prepare for them. The number of fairs at which one can exhibit is growing, and the compensation for fitting and showing will be increased proportionately.

January, February and March are the months when most of the pruning work of the orchard can be done. Utilize any bright, mild day and save labor in the spring months. Grapes, in particular, should be pruned early before there is any chance of bleeding.

When old Sol gets control of the situation and the weather becomes mild, time might profitably be spent in cleaning some of the dead wood and rubbish out of the orchard. It will do the orchard good and much of the timber cut out can be used for firewood.

Production Increases the Value of Our Dollar.

There is a cry being heralded across the land to buy made-in-Canada goods so our dollar will be worth one hundred cents wherever it may be presented. In other words, buy less in United States and our dollar will be worth more there, which is true enough. When our exports to United States balance our imports then our dollar will be worth one hundred cents to Uncle Sam, and his dollar will be worth one hundred cents to us. More than that, everyone likes to see home industries prosper by square dealing, for then we have well-balanced communities and a well-balanced nation. However, there is another way of restoring our financial equilibrium, and that is by increasing our exports. Let everyone give agriculture a boost, make profitable production a possibility, popularize farming and we shall have sufficient exports to balance the ledger. There is no reasonable excuse for the unfavorable balance of trade continuing to depreciate the value of our currency. If we would all go to work and produce we would soon make United States our debtor, for they are quickly becoming a consuming nation, and we could supply them with their wants. Let the cry be produce! produce! and we shall soon be able to meet any nation on an equality basis so far as our currency is concerned.

We should curtail in the use of all luxuries, whether they are purchased across the line or in Canada. Luxuries and extravagant living have played a large part in the depreciation of our currency. There is an element of selfishness in the slogan "Buy made-in-Canada goods," which we do not care to endorse. We prefer to take the broader view and to urge production in Canada to such an extent that our own needs will be supplied by manufacturers and producers here at home; and still have a large exportable surplus. We would furthermore urge that agriculture be given every consideration, for upon it the future prosperity of this country must depend. Sir George Paish, the eminent British economist, is reported to have said "Europe needs and will continue to need all the produce Canada can create." If we keep this in mind, and endeavor to produce to the limit of our possibilities we shall have no need to worry about a depreciated currency.

Pass Your Ideas Along.

If you have an idea or bit of information that is worth dollars to you, it would be worth thousands of dollars to a neighbor farmer, and by discussing the subject privately or publicly you do not lessen the value of the idea to yourself. Our experiment stations arrive at certain conclusions which are applicable in a general way, but they are not dividend producers until farmers take them up, try them, and determine their suitability for the various localities and special conditions. Here is where farmers might co-operate more with one another by making known the results they have on their own farms. Many farmers, too, happen on to bits of information and learn things from experience on their own farms. Many labor-saving devices and certain practices in regard to cropping never originated at an experiment station. They were the outcome of someone's experiences or experiments. Gradually these findings have been disseminated and thousands of farmers are now using implements, or cropping methods, without any idea where they originated, and in fact, it matters little so long as they are useful.

Farmers entertain differences of opinion these days regarding certain crops and cultural methods. They are seeking the truth, or, in other words, they want to know just what method is best for their district, and in no way can this be better dealt with than by farmers describing their own experiences and results for the benefit of others. A short, pithy article, outlining your experiences, experiments and results, published in

"The Farmer's Advocate," would reach thousands of farmers and be eagerly read. For instance, what has been your experience in growing corn for silage? What rate of seeding do you find best? and where do you find the greatest production, from hill or drill planting? Are flints or dents most suitable for your districts, and of these what varieties do you find most suitable for husking and silage purposes? There is considerable discussion now about sweet clover, and there seems to be some uncertainty as to the rate of seeding, whether white or yellow varieties are best, and whether cattle will bloat on it when used as pasture. Hundreds of farmers have had experience with sweet clover for pasture, hay, seed, and as a soil renovator—their experiences would be valuable to others. Winter hog feeding, too, is not an all-round satisfactory business. Some are successful, others are not, and right now a great many farmers want to know how they can raise hogs when their whole milk is sent to the condensery or milk-powder factory. In the dairy line, a discussion on economical feeding would be valuable, and this would embrace the mixing of rations, compounding purchased concentrates with home-grown feeds, and methods of feeding. Calf rearing, too, is important and in this connection experienced dairymen could add a great deal of information to what is already known.

We have only mentioned a few items that would make interesting and profitable discussion. There are other important phases of live-stock husbandry and general farming that might well be discussed. Farmers seem to have got out of the habit of writing about their experiences and results, and we invite all those who think they have an idea or a bit of information that would be useful to their neighbors to set it down in the form of a short, pithy article for publication in "The Farmer's Advocate."

Seed Improvement Necessary.

Just now both Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are co-operating for the elimination of the scrub bull. Everyone realizes the importance of live stock in Canadian agriculture, and those who know anything at all about dairying will realize that the dairy cow can claim perhaps a greater place in the upbuilding of Ontario agriculture than any other single production factor. At the same time, when we talk about live stock and its very great importance, we are apt to overlook the tremendous significance of good crops. Just as the scrub bull is a menace to the live-stock industry, so is scrub seed a menace to the production of field crops. Dr. C. A. Zavitz has said recently that the average yield per acre of our field crops has been increasing, due to the influence of better seed and better varieties, and points to the fact that under normal conditions, as they existed twenty years ago, yields per acre were decreasing, but that dividing the last thirty-six years into two periods of eighteen years each the last period shows in yields per acre of field crops an appreciable increase over the first. In our issue of February 5 appeared a report of a conference held under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and which dealt with the problem of good seed almost entirely. As brought out at that conference, the problem that faces those interested in the distribution of good seed is a big one, because not only does it involve the education of farmers to the use of better seed in the district, but it involves the working out of some plan whereby those who are growing seed commercially may obtain sufficient quantities of pure foundation or stock seed. Thus it is suggested that the Government should assume the responsibility of originating new varieties, or making such selections from established varieties as will meet the varying conditions of soil and climate found within the Province. It is also assumed to be the duty of the Government to see that pure stock seed of such varieties is multiplied sufficiently and

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