

The Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, and is published with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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of meat to the United States would mean cutting off a market of approximately \$8,000,000 worth of live stock annually. These figures will serve to bring home to the stockman the necessity of doing all in his power to keep his herds and flocks free from the disease and it will also serve to bear out the policy and efforts of the Live Stock Department, at Ottawa, in taking all precautions to prevent the disease entering this country. Regulations cannot be made too rigid and too much care cannot be taken to confine the disease to the areas already infected and to aid in stamping it out entirely.

We would caution breeders and feeders not to lose their heads and to watch the market conditions closely, being careful to avoid over-supply. Nothing can be gained by indiscriminately rushing cattle to market in the hope of getting them sold before the prices drop or the disease develops. This will be the surest cause of lower prices. It would be safer to play a waiting game and take precautions in the herds.

Already the increased demand for wheat and grain has caused a rush of live stock to markets. This war bids fair to undo much of the good work accomplished in building up mixed farming. A wholesale return to grain growing will prove disastrous in the end when farms become impoverished and demand slackens.

Writers who have seen a part of the destruction and slaughter in Europe say, with others who have been in actual touch with the conditions, that the result should surely be a permanent peace in place of the armed truce which has so long been forced upon the people by armament manufacturers and bureaucrats.

At the Right Time.

"The Farmer's Advocate" is all that can be desired because it says the proper thing at the right time.

N. B.

C. H. SPIKE.

Farmer and Manufacturer Getting Together.

A number of leading grain-growers and farmers of the West recently held a conference with some of the most prominent members of the Manufacturers' Association in Winnipeg, and the results of the convention have been summarized for the press. Great interest always attaches to any meeting of manufacturers and agriculturists, representatives of Canada's two greatest industries, for somehow the false impression is abroad that these men are enemies and that what is good for one industry is detrimental to the other, and a lively time is generally anticipated when leading manufacturers and wide-awake farmers come together. Moreover, when appeals are made to Governments the petitions of the one class of men generally draw forth counter petitions from those interested, in the other industry, and it is said that the manufacturer has profited more often than his farmer friends. However, for some reason representatives of the inseparable industries are drawing closer together, and they now meet to discuss the biggest problem in Canada, viz., the "Rural Problem."

At their meeting in Winnipeg, no doubt after long deliberations, they decided once again that "something must be done to make life upon the farm more attractive in all its aspects." This had been decided many times previously, but they went a step farther and suggested how in part it might be accomplished. Foremost among their remedies for present-day conditions they placed "technical instruction"; not the kind of instruction given at schools and agricultural colleges, but the kind that is taken to the farmer on his own farm at home. This is the class of work that is already being carried on to good advantage by District Representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture in this Province. The convention hit upon no new idea in so far as this phase of the work is concerned. The movement is, however, worthy of extension. Ontario is profiting greatly from this class of work, and the West is beginning to follow her lead.

The second means by which farm life could be improved, according to the ideas of this convention, was in the methods of distribution of supplies to the farm, and of produce from the farm to the market or consumer. Organization and business methods was the remedy proposed to overcome the present-day ills.

Third in the list was placed transportation, including good roads, better shipping facilities and lower rates.

Next in line, and one of the most important of the lot, was cheaper money and easier credit. One very good feature of this part of the discussion was the advice that it is desirable to modify the present practice of insisting that payment shall fall due immediately after the harvesting of the crops. This often places the producer in an awkward position, and compels him to sacrifice his produce, including live stock, on an overcrowded market at resultant low prices. It is a general practice to have notes, and all other monies, falling due just after harvest, sometimes almost before threshing can be completed, or at such set dates as the first of September, first of October, or first of November. Anyone who has watched market reports and conditions knows what happens to prices around about these dates.

This convention even went so far as to discuss the tariff, and advised that in so far as the tariff was responsible for handicaps, under which the farmer labors, it should be carefully studied with a view to rectification.

It seems to us that, taken on the whole, the convention ended about where it began, for after defining the underlying weaknesses that are at present a hindrance to agricultural development, the convention passed resolutions asking that a searching investigation be made by a committee dealing particularly with production, transportation, distribution, markets, and finance; that the committee be comprised of non-partisan men of outstanding ability, broad experience, high ideals and unquestioned probity, first to acquaint themselves with the needs existing, and second of evolving and submitting to the Government in

time to report to the approaching session a plan calculated to meet these needs, and follow this up by putting the plan in operation with Government approval.

The public generally is of the opinion that we have had about enough commissions of one kind and another in this country up to the present time. It has been surfeited with copious volumes familiarly known as blue books, the resultant reports of the investigations of commissions. Many of the best of these have been shelved without further action, and is it not probable that another of the same kind might go the same way? Most of the remedies mentioned are in the hands of the farmers and manufacturers themselves. Why can they not carry them to a successful issue without calling upon the Government and the accompanying red-tape to solve the question for them? True, the Government can help some, but the thing for the farmers of this country to do is to help themselves, stick together and make conditions such that no Government dare turn down their appeals when they represent an absolute need and a lasting good to the country.

Farmers, themselves, by co-operation and organization through farmer's clubs, and farmer's associations and societies, with the help of capable District Agricultural Representatives already appointed by the Department in Ontario counties, can do much to make life on the farm more attractive, and more remunerative than it is at the present. Organization will teach modern business methods, will make public spirited men, will eventually procure cheaper transportation and an easier and readier line of credit. Why should not farmers form their own credit societies and set their own rates of interest? As far as the tariff is concerned, it has always been a political question, and farmers themselves are divided upon it. If it does the harm which some claim it does, then why do farmers not bury their political feelings and demand tariff re-adjustment favorable to their business?

Much good should eventually come of this class of meeting. Without some sort of organization, such a meeting would have been impossible, because there would have been no one officially authorized to represent the farming class. It is to be hoped that meetings such as this will be carried on in the future and much good come out of them, but we have little faith in Government investigations by the commission route as a solution to "The Rural Problem."

Isolated, But Capable of Holding Out.

As far as the live stock trade is concerned, Canada is at the present time in a condition of almost entire isolation. The war has cut off all chances of importing horses from Belgium and France and only a few are being exported from Britain, Canada getting a small percentage of these. On top of all this comes the announcement that the United States has placed an embargo on all Canadian stock and that Canada, in turn, has placed an embargo on all United States stock, other than horses, this embargo to last for, at least, a period of six months. This latter step, of course, is due to the most serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease which this continent has ever known.

All this, however, should not spell discouragement to the Canadian live stock man. Our abattoirs will still be open and with the increased demand for cured meats which may still be exported freely larger quantities than ever before should be handled in our packing houses. This is good for the industry and stock which otherwise would have been killed and prepared for the plate in American packing houses will have to be dressed here. It is to be hoped that the powers that be, on the live stock markets of the country will not take an undue advantage of the present-day conditions to force prices of all kinds of live stock placed upon the market down below the line of profitable production. This would be in the end disastrous to Canada's live stock industry as there would be an undue rush to get out of the live stock business and back to the wheat-growing industry, the rosy outlook for which has been so