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EDITORIAL.

"Cold and backward weather" has been the current lament, yet about one hundred days hence we expect to be surveying as usual some bumper crops of corn.

Our heart-felt gratitude hereby awaits some alert meteorologist who will provide us with a certain indicator of what night to cover up the tender plants from killing frost.

"The Human Slaughter House," is the gruesome title of a sensational little book by a German school-master, which an American reviewer describes as a "photograph of hell inspired of heaven." It is said to be the most powerful and remarkable indictment of war ever written.

Hon. W. T. White, Dominion Minister of Finance, during the course of a recent speech in Parliament declared that unproductive expenditures upon war and armaments had produced the world-wide high cost of living.

As indicative of the drift of the dairy business in some sections, it was reported by the instructor at the annual meeting of an Eastern Ontario Cheese Board recently, that while there were more factories than ten years ago, the make of cheese had fallen off fifty per cent. This was attributed chiefly to the shipment of cream to the cities.

A variety of causes, fiscal and otherwise, have no doubt tended to the massing of the consuming populations in cities and towns, thus restricting the production of food and clothing, but Hon. Mr. White, the Finance Minister, of Canada, has given pointed expressions to a terrible fact—the burden of war and armaments—that is slowly but surely fastening itself upon the public consciousness in a way that ought yet to find expression in relegating to the scrap heap of barbarism all the "pomp and circumstance" of war.

Discussing the subject of weed protection, a Saskatchewan farmer gives vent to his feelings in this vein:—"That expression 'Let the Government do it' makes one weary. The Government can and does do things for large corporations, but the farmer gets his in newspaper talk. If a railway company wants a law for its protection or benefit it gets it; if a farmer wants a law for the same purpose he waits until he gets it, which is seldom, or after a very long wait."

Well, why?

Alas, alas! Pretty soon all the romance and quaintness and other distinguishing characteristics of farm life will have been abolished. Judging by a news item from Indiana, the elaborate threshing dinner is to go the way of the sugar camp, the soap kettle, the apple "dry board," the preserve jars and the dairy churn. Threshing is there being done by rings, composed of men who take their dinners with them, and go home for supper. Many a house wife will sigh with relief at the thought of it, but the prospect of eating a cold lunch, after a dirty forenoon's work, without even a cup of hot tea to cut the dust, will cause the farm hand to sigh from a different sensation.

The National Winter Exhibition.

In the first 1913 issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" there appeared an article discussing the need of a truly National or International Fat Stock Show in Canada. In that article the belief was expressed that there is ample room in Canada for such an exhibition, and if properly conducted and really national in scope, it should not detrimentally affect other shows already inaugurated.

Since then there has been considerable agitation in various quarters regarding the project. At a banquet held in Toronto during the week of the Live-stock Association meetings early in February such prominent live-stock men as John Bright, Dominion Live-stock Commissioner, and Wm. Smith, M. P., of Columbus, Ont., expressed the opinion that the time was ripe for such an exhibition, and urged that steps be taken immediately towards the end of launching the greatest Canadian live-stock show. Since that time several developments have occurred. It will be remembered that the exhibitors of dairy cattle at last year's Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, not being satisfied with the accommodation furnished at Guelph, held what might have been called an indignation meeting and decided to take steps towards the formation and establishment of a National Dairy Show. The fire, so hastily kindled, smouldered for some time, blazing up periodically, until it became spread over a large area, and then it gained such headway that a meeting was called in Toronto the last week in April. This meeting composed almost altogether of Ontario dairymen, decided in favor of a National Dairy Show. The day following this meeting another was held, this time at the instance of the Toronto City Council, who suddenly roused up and decided that Toronto was the only place to hold such an exhibition, and that Toronto Civic Officials were the most capable of conducting the affairs of such a far-reaching enterprise. This latter meeting, was attended by a few stockmen and some of the dairymen. It was decided by those present to hold a winter fair in Toronto, and they decided to call it "National." They proceeded to elect an executive and planned to hold their first exhibition in November next. A portion of the executive again met in Toronto (all Toronto residents but one) on May 26th, and named the show the "National Live-stock, Dairy and Horticultural Exhibition,"—too long and cumbersome to be popular or effective. Very little was done and another meeting was called for June 5th, when the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition are to be visited.

The subject is receiving the deepest consideration by stockmen. At the annual meeting of the National Record Board, reported in our last issue, it was one of the three main topics of discussion. The idea of a national exhibition was favored by all, and this resolution was adopted: "This Board is unanimously of the opinion that the time has arrived for the holding of a truly national, agricultural show—live stock, seeds, etc., and organized on broad national lines, and having a board, truly representative, covering every Dominion agricultural interest." A committee named in the report was appointed to interview the Dominion Minister of Agriculture.

This is the situation. Toronto is sure the show is to be located there, and through local effort is strenuously working to establish a win-

ter fair. Unless such show has the support of practical stockmen and agriculturists over the entire Dominion, and is controlled by these men in all its branches, together with Government aid it cannot be a successful National Agricultural Exhibition. If men, primarily interested in things other than agriculture and its products, are placed in positions of authority in connection with the various departments of such an exhibition, it will never be a national, agricultural exhibition in anything more than name. While not disparaging Toronto's claim to the location of such a show, it is premature for any city to decide within itself that it is the only best place to hold the exhibition. The matter of locating the show is one of the most important questions and should be left in the hands of the competent committee or board representing all agricultural interests. In short, everything should be in their hands and upon the advice also of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, from the very genesis of the movement.

Matters are now in a tangle. Toronto believes she has launched a national show. The live-stock men have appointed a strong committee to wait on Mr. Burrell to discuss the best ways and means of inaugurating such an exhibition. As pointed out by them, such an exhibition must be in the hands of the breeders and producers, and no man should be on the board of management by reason of his holding any political or civic position. As matters stand, there seems likelihood of a clash. It is now too late to get government aid for an exhibition this year, and such must be forthcoming if the show is to be national in scope. Toronto may start a show, but unless the breeders and agriculturists generally are placed in control and support it strongly it can never be more than a local exhibition. From opinions expressed at the National Record Board meeting, and from the resolutions passed, the live-stock breeders do not seem to favor Toronto's start, and, unless they support it, what success can it attain? The National show is coming, and we believe the move made by the Record Board is in the right direction. It is up to all other agricultural organizations to busy themselves and start the exhibition under the right management, in the right place, and covering the right field—all Canada.

Making the Farm Richer.

A knot of farmers were discussing the question whether it pays to buy grain for cows. "I'm not sure that it always pays directly," said one, "but I believe it may pay indirectly. It is a means of building up the land. It makes your farm more valuable." "Oh! phaw!" exclaimed another, "I'm not working to build up this old farm, I'm after the cash." The remark carried the crowd, most of whom failed to perceive its stultifying effect. If that man was dairying merely for the sake of cashing in all the dollars he could in any particular year, he was a fool to be keeping cows at all, or at least to be keeping more than a few to provide a little winter employment and steady cash-income. Unless he had an exceptionally good herd he could rake in as much cash with less effort in almost any given year by selling his crops right down to the straw and saving the labor of attendance. But how long would such a policy last? Where would it land him in a few years? When we get right down to the bottom