

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Keep the sheep and kill the dogs.

Breed the work mares this year and work the brood mares.

The nation can keep up its spirits without pouring so much down its neck.

The German defensive war grows rather aggressive on the Eastern front.

The better prepared you are for spring, the less you will feel the labor shortage.

The farms of Canada are looked to in 1918 for the biggest yields they have ever given.

The Railways got what they went after. They generally do for they are strong lobbyists.

The war must be won now or our children will have to take up the fight for liberty later on.

Get the best help you can; use it the best you can, and if you can't do any better help yourself.

When the knolls in the country whiten and the land pulls up loamy and friable, be ready for the field.

Tractors are here to stay and are a big help, but on the farm the horse will still be relied on for the draft work.

If Russia does not soon awaken there will be some re-formed spelling of the word with a capital P and a small r.

The man who put in high-priced steers last fall to feed through the winter doesn't see any big profits at present beef prices.

The feed question is still unsolved. Everyone hopes that a favorable crop year will put an end to some of the difficulties now experienced.

At the time of writing "sap's running" and doubtless by the time this reaches our readers some of them will be "boiling down," or "sugaring off."

Many complaints have come to hand that millers in Western Ontario have been overcharging for millfeeds. The set price should be lived up to. Laws not enforced are worse than useless.

The Newark News says that the most courageous slacker was the fellow who married his mother-in-law to evade military service. Most men would rather be officered by the military than the militants.

Seed corn is said to have sold at from \$30 to \$50 per bushel at an auction sale in Essex Co. the other day. Good seed pays. This was guaranteed to germinate 98 per cent. The cost of filling the silo is going up too.

## Beef Prices.

At the present time there does not appear to be any chance that prices for live cattle will advance very materially this spring. Those who put cattle in to feed last fall at prices around ten cents per pound run a small chance of making any great profit this year, and the man who eats the expensive cuts of beef from city tables is far from justified in calling the cattle feeder a profiteer. Figured any way you like, with feeds as high in price and as hard to get as they have been during the past few months, the margin between the purchasing price of the cattle last fall and the selling price this spring is bound to leave little more than the manure for the work of the field. Of course, there will be special cases where a small margin of profit will be made, but the great bulk of the cattle which will go on the market during the spring months, unless prices advance which does not seem likely, will net the feeders very little for their efforts. In this there is a danger that fewer cattle may be fed next fall and winter than has been the case during the winter of 1917-18. The producer will not continue any line of production which does not leave him at least a living profit, and any attempts to beat down prices only have a tendency to discourage production. It is true that eleven or twelve cents per pound live weight is a big price for finished beef, but it is also true that the cost of producing this meat has advanced so rapidly that there is less profit for the feeder in a great many cases than accrued from the cattle-feeding business when the finished product sold at about half the price.

## Uses for Spring Wheat.

This spring there will be more spring wheat sown in Eastern Canada than has been the case in any single season for some years, and circumstances justify this departure from the general cropping system. Wheat is needed to support the Allied cause. A question has been raised as to whether or not it would be advisable to plan to sow spring wheat in with fall wheat on such fields as may show considerable winter killing. Provided the fall wheat is not of a too early ripening variety, and the spring wheat used is fairly early in maturity, sowing spring wheat crosswise of the drills of fall wheat might give very good results. Another important point to remember in this spring's cropping is that there is some likelihood of there being an order passed before next fall prohibiting the use of marketable wheat for feed. Keeping this in mind and knowing that peas are hard to get for seed this spring and that husking corn seed is practically out of the question, it might be well to mix a fair proportion of wheat with oats or with oats and barley in the seeding this spring, in order to have some heavier feed for pigs, fattening cattle, and cows on test next winter. A peck to one half bushel of spring wheat to the acre mixed with oats and possibly a little barley would ensure some heavier feed. It would be well to consider the time of ripening in arranging the mixture. Spring wheat should ripen fairly well with Banner, or O. A. C. 72 oats.

## Titles.

It has been reported that some hold-up has taken place in the putting through of titles for Canadians. We believe that the list has not been sent to the Imperial authorities. Most Canadians, democratic in spirit, believe that we already have enough titles in Canada, possibly too many. Titles can never be anything else but a menace to democracy. They promote class distinction. They tend to set apart those who are fortunate, or unfortunate, enough to have them bestowed upon them. They are not in the interests of the public welfare, and are a relic of feudalism. Hereditary titles should from now on have no place in Canada.

## Municipal Garbage-fed Piggeries.

Some steps have been taken to induce urban dwellers to "keep a pig" as the slogan reads, but a number of cities are adopting the wiser and more feasible plan of establishing municipal garbage-disposal piggeries. The garbage from one home will not go very far in maintaining a healthy, growing pig, so the greater part of the ration will necessarily have to be purchased in the form of grain. Those people who would keep a pig around their dwellings at all are the class who do not throw much valuable food into the garbage pail, hence grain will have to constitute the bulk of the pig's ration. But grain or millfeed is the controlling factor in hog production right now, and nothing could be gained by diverting the inadequate supply from one channel into another. More than that, under farm conditions there are usually by-products of the dairy and kitchen, roots, soiling crops and pasture, which decrease very much the grain required to produce one hundred pounds of gain. On the other hand, the urban dweller, usually inexperienced in hog feeding, must purchase practically all the feed required to develop and finish his pig at the highest market price. His grain comes dear, and he has next to nothing which will act as a substitute to conserve feed and cheapen production. If there were plenty of grain and few already engaged in swine production, the situation would be vastly different, but as it is nothing can be gained by drawing on the now-limited supply of feed in order that it may be fed by inexperienced hands under altogether unfavorable conditions. The feeding of domestic garbage by untutored people is also a great source of danger to the industry for disease is sure to result and control would be difficult. The most valuable garbage comes from the homes of wealthy people, hotels, clubs, restaurants, etc., and the poorest kind is found in the garbage pail of the ordinary, thrifty wage earner. The latter class of people would be the only kind so situated as to look favorably on the back-yard pig sty and with little or no table offal to be disposed of, grain or millfeed would be resorted to.

The city of Worcester, Mass., has operated a municipal garbage disposal piggery for forty years, and their scheme, which is discussed elsewhere in this issue, is considered the most successful and efficient on the American continent to-day. True, some grain is fed there, but it is dispensed by trained, practical feeders who so manage the plant that garbage is the main ration and grain or millfeeds a secondary consideration. If those interested in production would assist the cities in utilizing a valuable product which is usually incinerated, and show them how it might be converted into a kind of food for which the whole world is clamoring to-day, some good would surely result.

## Real Breeding Classes.

The Farmer's Advocate has pointed out in times past the mistake of over-loading mature breeding stock with fat for the show-ring. Repeated extra fitting undoubtedly injures individuals as breeders, and as it is the best individuals of the respective breeds that go into the show-ring, eventually considerable injury is likely to be done the breed as a whole. Of course, there is no compulsion to highly fit for the show-ring, but the judge is called upon to place the animals according to their condition on the day upon which he is judging them. This being true, and fat covering a multitude of defects, the animal most superbly fitted generally heads the line. In some cases doubts have arisen in the minds of the spectators regarding mature females in high fit. Many will say they are non-breeders, and too often in the past such over-fitted animals have proven of little value as breeders. In the West, one Exhibition Board, at least, has seen fit to revise the prize-list so that only breeding females shown in breeding condition are eligible. It has been made necessary to show the females in mature classes with offspring at