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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 26, 1918.

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EDITORIAL.

Speed the plow. *

Try your hand at the plowing match.

Save the mature corn suitable for seed.

Now is the time to prepare for next season's crop.

The fall of the year is a good time to lay in a supply of concentrates.

Allow no weeds to mature and go to seed where early crops have been harvested.

The Entente Allies refuse to swallow any Austrian peace drinks compounded in Germany.

The milch cows are better housed on such cold, raw nights as we frequently have at this season of the year.

Many different makes of tractors are illustrated in this issue as they appeared recently at the tractor demonstration.

Yearling ewes are going to the shambles. Surely these could be purchased and put into the breeding pens to advantage.

Give the fall litters plenty of run and keep them and their dams on grass if possible. It is a mistake to confine pigs too closely.

Hogs recently soared to a record at the Buffalo yards, but the impression it made on the Toronto market was nil. Hogs is hogs at Toronto.

Chickens have finished gleaning the harvest fields. Now is the time to crate-fatten the cockerels and select the good pullets for the laying pens.

Grease up the two-furrow gang or riding plow and hitch on four horses. A man's time is too valuable to follow a single-furrow, two-horse outfit.

Pile up the sticks and save the chips; we might have a hard winter. There are many empty coal bins in the cities, and fuel in the country is none too plentiful.

No wonder Austria wants to have a little chat about peace after Lloyd-George's remark that the American boys in France were only the vanguard of an army of 10,000,000 men.

The large summer exhibitions for 1918 are well over and the Fall Fairs are in full swing. Have you produced something this year that would look well in competition at any or all of them?

It is reported that the United States will eliminate 5,500 styles of rubber footwear. What an appropriate place to begin in the simplification of fashion! However, if this course is pursued the city will soon lose its charms.

There will not be many "bright, red ears," such as the maidens used to look for so urgently at the husking bee, found in the crop produced this year from the southern-grown seed. However, the tonnage will be good and the quality fair for silage purposes.

A Suggestion for the Western Fair.

Years of experience in reporting exhibitions throughout Canada lead us to make one recommendation to the Western Fair Board with the hope that it will be seriously considered. The suggestion is this: That the judging be extended over a longer period than has been the custom in the past. Any lengthy explanation concerning this is unnecessary, but it might be well to call attention to the fact that the judging of Clydesdales, the leading breed of horses in Eastern Canada, is commenced on Monday afternoon, when a very small attendance of farmers are on hand. On Tuesday all the breeds of cattle (beef and dairy) are run off in one small ring, which is an inconvenience to the exhibitors and judges as well as making it very difficult for those at the ringside to follow what is going on. So congested was the ring this year that during the afternoon the different breeds were battling for position and space, and in one of these crowded moments a Holstein exhibitor had the annoying experience of being kicked by a Hereford. Wednesday is Farmers' Day and is always well patronized, but after Tuesday the heavy horses and cattle are tied and blanketed in their stalls. This seems inconsistent, for the judging of live stock should be taking place when the people are there who would most likely be interested in it. More than that, the exhibitors are in the habit of changing work on show days, but when all breeds are judged at once the scarcity of labor becomes a serious handicap. The group classes particularly require many hands, and at the recent Fair some entries were not led out of the stable for the simple reason there was no one available to do it. We would suggest that dairy breeds be judged on Tuesday and the beef breeds on Wednesday, or vice versa. This arrangement would meet with popular approval among the exhibitors. If it is a question of requiring the ring space after Tuesday for the parking of cars the problem should be solved in some other way than by completing the judging before people begin to come in large numbers. The Western Fair has become a very popular event, and the good live-stock exhibits which are brought out annually are worthy, we believe, of such recognition as has been suggested.

Save the Mature Corn For Seed.

A note of warning has been sounded that the corn produced from Ontario-grown seed may not meet the requirements for next spring's planting, and that this season's crop, where it is at all suitable for seed, should be given special care. The sooner we can get back to the place we were before the disastrous corn season of 1917 the better off we will be. The crop grown from southern seed has given plenty of tonnage, but the maturity is not all that could be desired. We should have Ontario-grown corn for seed for then a reasonable degree of maturity could be expected in those districts of the Province which do not lie in the corn belt proper. This is becoming such an important and necessary crop, and so much depends on the seed, that too much interest cannot be taken in the matter now by the farmers of Ontario and other provinces as well. Those who have matured a crop of the suitable varieties should save all the seed from it they can, as a demand is sure to exist. Those in need of seed corn would also do well to get in touch with reliable growers or dealers and lay in a supply at an early date. Furthermore, it is wise to buy the very best seed obtainable, for in no crop is the difference so marked between that produced from strong seed of good vitality and that of low vitality and poor germinating properties. A bushel of seed will plant four acres, so a few extra dollars expended on what one puts into the ground may easily make the difference of a hundred dollars in the value of the crop produced from it. Certain counties in Southwestern Ontario were placed in a favored position last spring in regard to the

seed they might use. This was done that the planting season of 1919 might see an ample supply of seed throughout all corn-growing districts. It is only fair then to expect the growers in those protected districts to do their part. Farmers are willing to pay the price for good quality in seed corn, and any worry in this connection is unnecessary.

Should Victory Bonds be Tax-Exempt?

During the past summer there has been an under current of feeling that Victory Bonds should be taxable, and early in the autumn exponents of this doctrine among financiers began to voice themselves openly and press for a taxable Victory Bond. More lately, I. W. Killam, President of a securities corporation in Montreal, addressed an open letter to the Right Honorable the Prime Minister, the Honorable the Minister of Finance and to the Press setting forth in detail the case against tax-exempt bonds. It has been evident that Canada is not paying as she goes to the extent she should, and not until the session of 1917 was the Bill, providing for the imposition of a graduated income tax, introduced in the House. Our Government has been too tender hearted in dealing with the large incomes and accumulations of capital. Our men have been doing their part, but our wealth has not. Mr. Killam writes:

"Although the value of Canada's field crops alone for the years 1916 and 1917 amounted to nearly Two Billions of Dollars, the total sum paid towards the cost of the war out of ordinary revenues during the same period has been only \$113,000,000, or much less than has been expended by the Canadian people for pleasure automobiles since the outbreak of war."

In another place the writer of these letters states: "If the present issue of Victory Bonds is exempt from all income taxation the result will be that Sixty-seven and One-half Millions of Dollars, representing the annual income from Canadian tax-free securities, will make absolutely no contribution to the revenues of the State."

The objectionable feature of a tax-free bond is that the big investor can tuck large amounts of money away in a secure place where it will yield a satisfactory dividend and still be free from Dominion taxation. Taxes after the war are sure to be heavy in order to meet our obligations, and when large amounts of wealth are wrapped up in tax-immune securities the burden must bear correspondingly heavy on the shoulders of the less-favored classes. There are other objectionable features about tax-exempt Victory Bonds, but these are the principles upon which a negative argument is based.

On the other hand, Sir Thomas White apparently feels that the supreme object now is to raise the funds with which Canada is to continue to do her part in the war and maintain healthy economic conditions at home. This responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Finance Minister, and if tax-exempt bonds are a mistake it should have been pointed out long ago before three-quarters of a billion dollars were already loaned by the Canadian people. If the next issue should be made taxable the previous investors would be placed in a favored class, and Mr. Killam asserts the agreement with them cannot be repudiated.

While we believe these bonds should have been made taxable from the beginning, it seems too late now to institute a change with the end of the war drawing nearer. Something might be done, however, to tax those investments over a certain amount and leave the earnings of the average small investor exempt. It is the savings of the common people that the Government requires so as to leave the capital of the country free for the carrying on of industry and development. Above the whole question, however, rises the image of war and the great need of funds; this will be the deciding factor after all, for the country must carry on.