

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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"boards." The effect will change as soon as the sea becomes safe again, and the insurance rates drop accordingly. Then we may look for a stiffening of the market.

Down in the Southern States there is a bumper cotton crop. The belligerents in Europe ordinarily take a large proportion of this crop. If war goes on exports of cotton cannot be safely made, and prices are likely to drop to less than half the average price expected. This means that unless the government takes a hand speculators will make money while producers lose heavily.

These are only two of many instances which might be cited to show how inter-dependent the countries of the world are after all. In the face of all the loss of life the loss to trade and commerce and the suffering and privation caused through this reckless onslaught of nation upon nation, one would think that even an autocratic ruler would shudder to precipitate his people into deadly conflict from which the world must suffer as a whole. The peoples of the world must trade with one another. Anything which seriously holds up this trade is a detriment to the general prosperity, and nothing is more detrimental than war.

There is a tendency in war time for the people to lose their heads. This applies to farming communities as well as to urban centers. It looks like dear wheat, but even though wheat may be high there is no reason why an unreasonably large acreage should be sown to this crop. Wheat land must be well prepared, and unless it is prospects of higher prices should not induce farmers to sow the poorly prepared soil to this crop. "Be careful" is good advice.

Reports state crops in Europe are none too promising, and just at a time when men were ready to harvest them a call to arms came, and left the women and children to do most of the work of reaping and saving. No doubt they will do their utmost for their armies must be fed, but devastation is sure to be widespread and the loss enormous. There will be a big gap in production this year.

### The Live-stock Outlook.

There is some speculation in the minds of stockmen at the present time as to what will be the effect of the war in Europe upon the pure-bred live-stock business in this country. It is impossible for anyone to estimate the outcome of the conflict recently begun, but it does seem that the products of the farm will, at least, hold strong in price if they do not make a rather marked advance. With 20,000,000 men under arms in Europe production must of necessity be neglected. These men must be fed, and where the hostile armies are marching across country no doubt thousands of head of live stock of all kinds will be slaughtered and used for food. This will surely have the effect of stiffening the price of meats, because scarcity always increases demand, and there was a scarcity of most kinds of live stock even before the war broke out. Already those in touch with the sheep-breeding business are prophesying very high prices for mutton and wool, especially the latter. It has been pointed out that the huge armies in the field must be clothed, and with winter not very far distant, and through which no doubt they will fight, more woollen garments will be needed than if they were comfortably housed in barracks on a peace footing. Advance in the price of wool and woolsens would not surprise people who have made a study of conditions.

We are told that there is no fear in this country of a great shortage of meat, but at the same time we are informed that there is comparatively little meat in cold storage. This being the case, if the export trade opens up, and the Motherland must be fed, no doubt, there will be a great out-pouring of cured meats to Great Britain, which, at any rate, will keep the price up to a high level, if not raising it considerably above that of the present time. One of the largest packing houses in Canada, while assuring the people that there would be no shortage in this country, pointed out the fact that if the trade between Denmark and Great Britain should for any reason be cut off, pork products would naturally advance in price.

We hear very little about the beef trade, but we know that there is a shortage of good beef cattle the world over, and with all Europe at war this shortage is going to become greater and greater. The real value of pure-bred stock must be based to some extent upon what the meat is worth on the block, and with all kinds of meat high in price and in demand it would seem that dealers in pure-bred live stock are assured of a good business in the future. No doubt, thousands of cattle will be sold off if prices get very high that would otherwise have been kept, and the shortage will become more acute. This will have a tendency to increase the demand greatly, and when the demand increases more farmers will be going into the stock business. The day of the scrub is passing, wide-awake stockmen realizing that they might as well get all possible out of the undertaking, and to do this there is only one means and that is, keep and breed the very best. Herds will be graded up and improved and pure-bred sires will be needed.

It may be that trade will be rather dull for a short time until the outcome of the affair in Europe is known. Buyers will not care, in some cases to pay as high prices for valuable breeding stock until they are assured that things are beginning to right themselves and trade will be flowing through natural channels as it does in times of peace.

It is not likely that large live-stock deals will be put through for the next few months unless the war clouds clear away much more quickly than is anticipated, but the men with the good stock are safe to hold on to it for a short time, even though sales may be a little slow for a while. The stock is in the country, and the market cannot be anything else but good when rifts in the war clouds appear. Buyers will likely buy carefully for a time, and sellers should exercise the same cautiousness in making sales. Do not be too anxious to get rid of the good stock. After the war is over a period of unprecedented prosperity for the live-stock men may be in sight, and the man with the good stock is going to reap the greatest benefit.

### Conservation is the Watchword.

Canadians living in a land of plenty have heard a great deal about conservation of this and that, but a super-abundance of necessities and luxuries caused them to turn a more or less deaf ear to the plaintive cry raised by the few who have foreseen a time of need ahead. There is a time of need at hand; and the first great shortage will not come in the products of the mine or the forest, but rather in the food supply, or in the means of earning money to buy the necessities of life. A great war besides the awful slaughter on the field of battle so disorganizes business and commerce that many are sure to be thrown out of work through the closing down or running on short hours of large manufacturing plants and business houses. It is not safe to undertake big things, and large firms, while they would do all they can for their men, may be forced to suspend operations. This means men out of work, and in large cities men out of work for any length of time means homes without some of life's necessities.

Through it all the farmer occupies the best position. He can at least produce his own food in plenty, but even he should be careful at this time. If he never was of a saving disposition before he should try it now. It is a good time to be cautious, to conserve feeding stuffs for the live stock, and to keep the live stock rather than sell them off on a rising market. Unnecessary expense should be avoided. In short, do as the business man does, "play safe." All this can be accomplished without furore or excitement. Simply resolve to cut out unnecessary luxury, and conserve the products and profits of the land to be used to best advantage. Look ahead and plan to meet all possible complications squarely. Cut out all waste, and above all put forth every ounce of energy to make the old farm produce as it has never produced before. You are not likely to hear much about over-production for a year or two. First of all conserve this year's resources of the land, and lay the plans well for a bumper crop in 1915. The Canadian farmer has an important duty to perform, both as regards his own welfare and that of his country. He has always done what was expected of him, and he will do so again. Conservation is the watchword.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

An animal which is quite common and which is usually called an insect is the Daddy-longlegs. It is truly enough closely related to the insects, but cannot be classed with them because it has eight legs, while all insects have but six. Longlegs is certainly an appropriate name, for this animal appears to be nearly all legs. These long legs are seven-jointed. The first segment of the leg is short and apparently soldered to the body, the next is a mere knob, the third segment is long and is termed the femur. Next is a short swollen segment, the "knee-joint" termed the patella. The fifth segment is rather long and is called the tibia. The next two segments are long and are known as the metatarsus and the tarsus.

The second pair of legs are the longest, the fourth pair next in length, and the first pair the shortest. The legs of the second pair are used in exploring the surroundings, and when a "Daddy" is running they are spread wide apart and kept in rapid motion. The tips of these legs are wonderfully sensitive.

The Daddy is a good traveller and moves along with great rapidity, and it is no wonder, since if our legs were as long in proportion they would be forty feet in length. When the Daddy is running the body is always held a little distance above the ground, but when the second pair of legs suggests to it that there is something to eat in the neighborhood, it commences a peculiar teetering motion of the body, apparently touching it to the ground at every step. As the body is carried with the head down, this movement enables it to explore the surface upon which it is walking with its palpi. These palpi are usually carried bent beneath the face, with the ends curled up under the "chin." They have four segments and can be extended quite a distance. Beneath the palpi is a pair of jaws.

The body of the Daddy-longlegs is a little oblong object, looking more like a large grain of wheat than anything else, because in these animals the head, thorax and abdomen are all fused compactly together. On the top of the body at the front end is a little knob, and on each side of this is a little shining black eye.