

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

In the long run Democracy wins in war as in peace.

Clover seed may be dear but sowing it is just about the cheapest way to increase soil fertility.

Are you keeping cows or are the cows keeping you? The only way to be sure is to weigh and test.

This will doubtless be a great year for weeds, judging from the prominence given to backyard gardening.

When the government of all the nations of the world is left to the people of those nations, world wars will be things of the past.

It is easier to prevent sore shoulders on horses than to cure them. Fit the collars to the horses, not the horses to the collars.

If the German retreat means, as stated by German military experts, defeat for the Allies, why didn't it take place a year ago?

When pork packers pay a premium for the bacon hog, farmers will produce that hog. There is room for some more educational work.

When Lloyd-George and Bonar Law begin to place food production first in importance, it is time the matter was better understood in Canada.

Again we say put in good seed and sow it in a thoroughly prepared seed-bed. Do not sacrifice yield and quality to acreage and slip-shod methods.

A farmer recently remarked in our hearing: "We don't want men to come out from the city to tell us what to do and how to do it. We want men to help us do it. We know how."

As a warning we would like to state again that communications to this office, if they are to receive attention, must bear the name and address of the person by whom or for whom written.

The city man who tells the farmer how to operate his farm is something like the civilian recruiter. Both are safety-first men. The former doesn't want to farm and the latter doesn't want to fight.

When you buy fertilizer be sure that it contains available plant food, not merely a number of non-essentials with big sounding names. There are many good commercial fertilizers sold in this country. Stick to them.

Some Toronto business men and manufacturers have offered employees three weeks holidays if they will go out and help farmers with hoeing, haying and harvesting at \$1.10 per day with board. The idea is a good one.

Some closer relation between the work of some of the branches of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the work of some of the branches of the Provincial Department might avoid duplication of effort and confusion of results.

Underdrainage and line fence disputes are the most common sources of trouble between neighbors and all could be settled satisfactorily were people only a little more reasonable, and it is not always the other fellow who is the most unreasonable.

## No Peace Without Victory.

No peace can come without victory—no peace was ever established without victory. For what do nations fight but for liberty and freedom? In the end victory must come for the people. Democracy will overthrow autocracy and that is victory—victory for the people of all civilized nations. Already there has been victory in this war. Nations which slumbered in sloth; nations which galloped for gold; nations which rolled in wealth, lolled in leisure, pirouetted from innocent play to questionable pleasure and revelled in it; nations which were drunk with wine as well, and nations which lived in the darkness of a bureaucratic night have awakened and have shaken themselves clear of many of these trammels—idleness is no more. The race for pleasure and for gold has been forgotten in the rush to overthrow militarism and absolutism and maintain freedom. King Alcohol has lost many of his domains forever and a large part of the civilized world enjoys greater freedom than it ever did. The people are busy in the righteous cause of defending and promoting liberty and justice, and their efforts are being daily crowned with victory. The first autocracy to meet the doom which awaits all absolute monarchies of Europe was that of the Romanoffs of Russia. The birth of a new Russia was victory for the people of Russia and for the people of the world, and more such victories will surely follow. The Hapsburgs and Hohenzollerns totter. Their fall will be more victory. The war has brought one victory after another and peace will come to the world only after greater and still greater victories of the armies of democracy. Peace without victory! There is no such thing.

## Farm Survey Needed Now.

There is something unprecedented in the anxiety shown by certain city business men and manufacturers to get acquainted with agriculture and the men engaged in that noble calling, but there is good to come of a getting-together if the proper steps are taken. We are pleased to see city Boards of Trade taking an interest in the problems of the farmer. It is gratifying to note that agriculture is beginning to be looked upon as the real "backbone" of Canada, not the political wishbone—that agriculture is the real "basic industry" upon which all the superstructure rests, not the industry to be "sat upon" by all others. The war is bringing to light some heretofore dimmed facts. When the fight is over what will happen? Canada is essentially an agricultural country and this fact is beginning to dawn upon the minds of a few more people. Perhaps the price of potatoes had something to do with the dawning, but at any rate more people than ever before are commencing to realize that without a prosperous, populous and stable agriculture, Canada cannot develop into a great nation—large cities and busy towns cannot exist. After the war it will be our fertile fields which will be looked to to pay the debts, to keep the wheels of industry and commerce turning. The manufacturer will need a prosperous and increasing farm population to ensure his business. The business man will depend upon the stability of Canada's agriculture in the great "re-construction period" of which we hear so much and it is well that agriculture, business and manufacture should be closely related, but agriculture must be made more profitable and so more attractive. We have contended that, in the past, the farm could not pay as high a wage as the factory and that interest returns from agriculture were infinitesimal when compared with the percentages made by some manufacturing and city businesses. We have held that higher wages, bigger opportunities and better returns have been the reasons for rural depopulation—that the rural problem is one of finance. Have we been right? There is a way

to prove or disprove our contention and at the same time to obtain considerable first-hand and valuable information on farm management—information sorely needed in this Province and this Dominion—and that is for the Department of Agriculture to make an analysis of a number of farms, do a little expert accounting on them, find out what the returns are, and show what is necessary to greater success. If the farms are paying big dividends on investment, then farm wages should go up and prices come down, but if, as we believe, the cost of production is so high that farmers are making comparatively small returns on investment and cannot afford to pay wages which will keep the men in the country, then what can be done? It appears that the manufacturer and business man are ready to do a little co-operating with the man on the land. Would it not be good policy to encourage this? A good start would be to show by a careful analysis of a number of farms what is wrong and how to right it. The city man and the man on the land are now both desirous of seeing agriculture prosperous. It may be that an extensive farm survey would help. It might show that the city man so far had the best of the deal and changes might follow. It would also reveal other sources of weakness in production and particularly in marketing. More co-operation is needed. Every Province in the Dominion should get busy on this farm survey work. Let the Department of Agriculture take it up immediately. We believe the plan is already under consideration in Ontario.

## Hints Which May Help.

The problem of the Canadian producer at this time is how to produce more with less labor. It looks difficult and yet there are many places in the year's effort which offer opportunities for getting higher returns without greatly increasing labor. Not a kernel of poor seed should go in the ground this spring. If the seed isn't pure and plump, clean it until it is. This may mean extra work, but it is the work that brings results and compared with the increased returns is a distinct saving of labor. Sow early. Plan to get the seed in the ground as soon as the land works well. Use wide implements, and ride. Save your legs, for there are generally chores enough to be done morning and night to give them sufficient exercise. Work three or four horses instead of two and on wide implements wherever possible. Of course, the narrow implements in good condition cannot be thrown away, but, in the case of harrows, two narrow sets can sometimes be made into one set, by using a long doubletree. Then fasten a cart behind the harrows. It is not an indication of laziness, but rather of ability to use your head in place of your feet. Some, also, will drive the grain drill and lead a team behind to do the harrowing. This is quite practicable and is a means of making good use of rather narrow implements. If the harrows are twice as wide as the drill a double stroke would be given after the sowing. Sow the grass seed in front of the drill. Save time by sowing it from the seed box on the drill, rather than with a hand seeder. If it is necessary to roll, give a stroke with a light harrow afterwards. It might be possible to lead a team on the harrows behind the roller. No matter how you do it, save time and make the horses do the work. Most farmers have too many horses; make them all work. Ride the drill, the cultivator, the cart behind the harrows and make seeding as fast as possible. Where more horses are kept than can be used at one time by the men available, work them in shifts and increase the speed. It is necessary to be careful of the horses on the start, but if worked half-a-day about they can be fairly well "pushed" from the start. Treat seed for smut. Take no chances. Smut may be bad this year or it may not. Play safe and give the seed the dose of formalin recommended in this paper last week. Sow all the plowed