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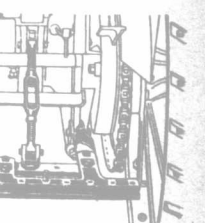
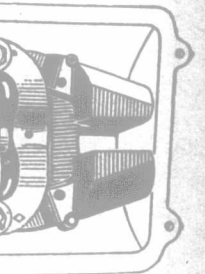
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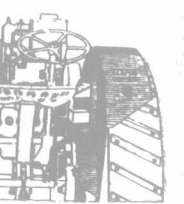
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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 28, 1919.

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EDITORIAL.

See the fair.

Being practical does not prevent one being progressive.

Watch the judging at the fair where there is something to be learned. The midway is a sham and out of date in this age and generation.

The size and broadness of a man can always be determined by the view he takes of matters that affect him personally and in a financial way.

Farmers are entitled to know exactly what enters into the composition of the feed they purchase, and they should make an effort to get a list of the ingredients making up the mixture.

The future ahead of the pure-bred live-stock breeders of Canada is excellent if they steer the proper course. Two objects must be in view, quality and health. The one is as important as the other.

Well-drained fields this year paid off a large part of the investment put into them. They were sown early and produced a fair crop, while late-sown fields were almost a failure. Good drainage pays.

The most successful breeders and feeders of swine are imbued with the importance of pasture and the necessity of allowing hogs to get in contact with the soil. Self-feeders, too, are featured on many modern hog farms.

A day spent off of the farm in promoting a school fair or other educational events for the young may, in a very slight measure, affect the farm crops, but the good influence it will have on the boys and girls will more than compensate for any loss.

In some parts of Western Ontario the Hessian fly is getting dangerously numerous. Late seeding will be practiced there, and when this is done an extra effort should be made to give the seed a good start this fall. Plenty of manure and readily-available fertilizer ought to be applied.

It is going to be very difficult for an animal without a clean bill of health and, in particular, free from tuberculosis to get into the United States in the near future. What are we going to do about our herds here in Canada? Are we going to let matters get gradually worse or are we going to clean up?

In spite of transportation difficulties and fairly high prices on this continent, Europe is taking almost weekly large numbers of work-horses, breeding heifers and some cattle for slaughter. A redistribution of the world's live-stock population is taking place, but it will be some years before we are back to normal again.

The House of Representatives in the United States carried the repeal to the daylight saving law over the President's veto and obtained eight more votes than the necessary two-thirds majority. Opposition to daylight saving was shared in by both parties, for the vote showed 116 Republicans and 107 Democrats willing to over-ride the President's veto. If the Senate does likewise there will be no more daylight saving in the United States, which will bury the last argument left for it in Canada.

Breed Tolerance.

Breed controversies will never seriously hurt any good breed of live stock. An enthusiastic admirer of one breed may have little use for another, but his partizanship, if conceived in loyalty and not in blind prejudice, will help to enlarge the popularity of his favorite breed of cattle without hurting the other recognized breeds. Clean competition always redounds to the credit of a good article.

The voluble and dogmatic breeder who condemns, holus bolus, all other breeds which challenge the supremacy of the one he has chosen to support, is really an obstacle in the road of progress over which his fellow-breeders are swiftly travelling. He recognizes no other breed except the one he handles, and when discussing the others that exist he lets flow a silly torrent of abuse. His profuse phraseology amuses his listeners, and he is thereby encouraged to widen his vocabulary, while narrowing his viewpoint. In time he becomes a positive nuisance. It is well worth noting that a breeder of this type seldom produces good representatives of the breed he supports. In fact, earnest constructive breeders seldom stoop to throw mud at the products of other breeders.

A Prelude to the Fairs.

A series of exhibitions and fall fairs are starting in Eastern Canada, which before they conclude in October will afford practically everyone an opportunity of seeing the best produced this year in the way of farm products and live stock. Interested farmers will be discussing what they saw at this fair or at that, and, while in the minds of not a few a vision of the track and "tests of speed" will be recalled, yet the lasting features will be those exhibits of live stock, farm products, or any handiwork of man or nature that means better agriculture. The Exhibition Number of "The Farmer's Advocate" appears each year as a prelude to this series of fairs, and endeavors to prepare its readers for them, or to create an exhibition spirit, as it were. Withal, however, the downright practical is not lost sight of, for we are living in a world of stern realities and the most of us have to keep our feet on the ground. Nevertheless, one can be practical and at the same time progressive. He who is not progressive in these times is not practical. All should have an ideal to guide them and, while they may never attain to their own high standard in live stock or crop production, their ambitions ought not to be diminished. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Some of the illustrations of animals in this issue are reproductions of winners at the best live-stock shows in the world, and farmers generally would never be expected to duplicate them. They are ideals, or the accepted standard in type, conformation, character, etc., of the breeds they represent. With these in mind, one has something to guide him even in the management of and breeding operations connected with a grade herd. The vast stores of beef, mutton, lamb, bacon, or animal products of all kinds, now required to feed the world are produced from grade stock, and such will probably be the case for a long time to come. A pedigree does not add two cents to the value of an animal for the block, but it may increase the value of a sire to get such stuff by hundreds of dollars. Good, well-bred stock, whether pure-bred or grade, is a paying proposition; he is extravagant who puts good feed into poor live stock. Our live-stock industry will never be established on a firm basis until we are able to say that no scrub sires are being used, and until we treat the scrub pure-bred just the same as we do a grade. That is what we mean by being progressive. "Near bulls" and "counterfeits" are worse than a heavy mortgage on the farm.

After all, our live-stock industry depends to a large

extent on the number and quality of our pure-bred herds and flocks. There is plenty of room for development in both regards, and progressive young breeders who are good stockmen, who will capitalize the experience of others and who will steer a straight course, have nothing to fear when laying the foundation for a pure-bred herd.

As it is with live stock, so it is with all farm products. Breeding and good seed tell. An exhibition which brings together the best produced this year, even though the season has not been a fat one, will serve a useful purpose by reviving our good intentions and kindling a fresh confidence in the minds of all. It is to be hoped that this will be the most successful fair season we have ever had, and that it will be the prelude to a more prosperous and progressive era in Canadian agriculture.

What the Hide Embargo is Doing.

At the beginning of this month an embargo was placed on hides and skins for the alleged purpose of preventing their exportation and reducing the price of finished leather goods to the buying public. Buyers of hides and skins at once took advantage of the situation, quite naturally, with the inevitable results—reduced prices to producers. Now, in all fairness, we will expect a reduction in the price of shoes, harness and leather goods of all kinds that farmers are obliged to purchase. If an embargo injuriously affects one part of the community without bringing relief to anyone, the enactment is a mistake and an injustice. After all is said and done our importations are of such character and magnitude that it is very doubtful if the quantity of hides retained in Canada as a result of the embargo will bring about the desired results.

Hides are going out of the country on the backs of cattle in increasing numbers since the embargo went into effect. Drovers claim that buyers on the Buffalo market are wise to the situation, and pay more for the cattle to the extent of twenty cents per hundred for the sake of the hides. Throughout August there have been a hundred carloads of stock weekly on the Buffalo market and from the West vast numbers have been going to Chicago and St. Paul. Last year 189,000 Canadian cattle went to the United States markets on the hoof, and it would not be surprising if 250,000 found their way across the line this year. The shortage of feed, no doubt, has something to do with this heavy liquidation of cattle stocks, but local drovers claim that a little better price for Canadian cattle on the Buffalo market, due to the hide situation, combined with the gain in the currency exchange, which now covers all expenses, is taking them to Buffalo rather than Toronto. In any case, hides are going out of the country on the backs of cattle in sufficient numbers to render the embargo abortive in so far as it may be of any use by piling up supply in Canada. It has reduced the price of hides all right, but we fear that that is as far as it will go.

More disturbing and serious still is the fact that United States farmers are becoming alarmed at the increasing number of Canadian offerings on their markets, and they are showing considerable hostility to the powers that be for permitting commercial stock to enter free of duty. They would like to see the bars put up. It would be unfortunate, indeed, if we should lose this market that annually absorbs so many of our cattle, and provides an alternative outlet. It would be sadder still if the embargo on hides forced more cattle on to those markets than would ordinarily go and stirred up greater antagonism in United States to the free importation of animals for slaughter or further feeding.

As a general thing, it is best to let trade flow along natural channels, and events in connection with the recent embargo are piling up evidence in support of this doctrine.