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The Farmer's Advocate

Home Magazine

1866

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LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 14, 1918.

EDITORIAL.

That co-operation is the child of adversity has been amply proven by the war.

Because a cow gives milk is no argument that she is profitable. Apply the test and see.

There is still an opportunity to buy Victory Bonds. November 16th is the last day of the drive.

A mere house does not constitute a home. Convenience, comfort and restfulness are essential.

The pullet that is laying now is earning her board. A single egg is worth as much now as a dozen, years ago.

Those who have taken advantage of the open fall to prepare for next year's crop will surely reap their reward next season.

We are approaching the season of the year when concrete in the barnyard and around the buildings affords some comfort to man and beast.

To abdicate or not to abdicate seemingly is the question which is troubling the crowned heads of Europe. If they "stick" they will find ruling a different job.

There are slightly more horses than milch cows in Canada, and twice as many other cattle as milch cows. There is plenty of opportunity still for dairy expansion.

It is a good plan, when feeding silage, to mix with it 10 or 15 pounds of cut hay or straw for each 100 pounds of silage. If space and time permit, 2 days' supply can be mixed at one time.

Apples for winter use should be stored in a cool, dry place in order to keep well. A temperature just above freezing is best as it retards the process of maturity. After the fruit is fully mature it begins to decay.

Seed corn may be injured in many ways. It is very susceptible to frost injury before maturity. Care is all the more necessary since it is not always possible to detect injury to vitality from outward appearance.

The Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association cannot consistently drop the word "Industrial" from its name, as has been suggested, without giving representation to all industries and all the component parts of our national life.

Parcels for the Boys overseas should be mailed before November 15, if they are to reach the trenches for Christmas. If you have no relative "over there, remember someone who is not likely to be so fortunate as his comrades.

Since the beginning of this war Canadian horsemen have been treated unfairly in regard to the sale of horses for war purposes. A nigger has been lurking in the woodpile all the time. The over-worked excuse that horses could not be obtained in Canada in sufficient volume, sounds unreasonable, when anything else we have to offer is gladly accepted down to the smallest

Our sheep and dog laws still afford too much protection for the dog, and too little for the sheep. We require a statute that will permit a man to shoot a dog found in his pasture with the sheep, regardless of the dog's errand there or the position of the sun. Clause (b), Section 8, of the revised Ontario Act would be improved by deleting "between sunset and sunrise" from

The Compromise with Capital.

A special issue of "The Financial Post," recently published, carries in its pages a large number of articles written by men representing all branches of industry except agriculture, which is mentioned frequently but not championed by anyone actually engaged in this, the greatest industry of all. In spite of this apparent neglect, the edition to which we refer is replete with ideas and it voices, no doubt very accurately, the opinions of capital regarding the coming transition period and the following era of expansion which all but the chronic pessimist look forward to with confidence. Throughout these articles the following thoughts are expressed:

1. A period of uncertainty will follow the cessation of war; manufacture will be unsettled, munitions will be a thing of the past, labor will be thrown more or less out of employment, and hardship will surely result if some well-planned Government scheme is not ready to handle the situation. Agriculture, it is felt, will be least seriously affected.

2. Following this period of uncertainty will come an era of expansion, when capital will flow from the United States into Canada, our resources will be developed and our export trade greatly enlarged. The warning is sounded that our exports should not be made up of raw material, but that every commodity should be subjected to final processes of manufacture before it is allowed to leave this country. The leading nations are preparing for aggressive trade efforts, and it behooves Canada to be on the alert and ready to defend herself in the trade strife which is to come.

3. Our enormous national debt will prove burdensome if all classes are not prosperous, and in a position to bear their just and proportionate share of the taxation.

4. The sacrifice made by so many Canadians shames anyone who puts selfish interests first, and their great devotion to country will force us to realize that, like the soldier, we live to serve mankind and the nation to which we owe allegiance.

In this last paragraph should be found a healing salve for the feeling between labor and capital, and agriculture and capital. The attachment between these elements of our national life is not as strong as it should be for various reasons. The Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association think it advisable to drop the word "Industrial" on account of a suspicious feeling existing amongst the masses that obstructs the progress of that organization. The existence of this sentiment is admitted on every hand, and the first thing to do is to eradicate it through a policy of equity and justice to all. Any remarks in this direction lead one ultimately and unavoidably to the tariff, which at this time we do not care to discuss. In one of President Wilson's pre-election campaign speeches he referred to the same matter thus:

"The tariff is situated in relation to other questions like "Boston Common" in the old arrangement of that interesting city. I remember seeing once, in Life, a picture of a man standing at the door of one of the railway stations in Boston and inquiring of a Bostonian the way to the Common. 'Take any of these streets,' was the reply, 'in either direction.' Now, as the Common was related to the winding streets of Boston, so the tariff question is related to the economic questions

Thus it is when the national readjustment comes, the "readjustors" will congregate at the same old Common—"tariff." The outcome is still in the "Lap of the Gods," for who knows what commercial treaties will be subscribed to and what trade relations will be established or overthrown? It is to be hoped, however, that in our domestic dealings, one class with another, selfishness will be banned; that one man will not be taxed to enrich his neighbor; that it will not be necessary to tax the farmer in order to give work to the working man, or necessary to tax the working man in order to give better prices to the farmer. More should

we strive to give what Sir John Macdonald claimed for the National Policy "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." This doctrine should be made to apply in the broadest sense possible, so that Canadians will look to agriculture instead of away from it to the regrettable extent they have; and to such a degree that we now find it reduced to a very low ebb, so far as man power is concerned. In spite of the Draft, in spite of the economic forces at work for a quarter century calling men from the farm, and in spite of the restrictions thrown around profitable production, we find that agriculture has exported during the period of the war up to the end of August last, foodstuffs to the value of \$1,874,701,900. Against this, total war commodities representing the output of other industries amounted to \$1,164,904,400. Thus, the basic industry of Canada, in the face of hardship, has maintained its supremacy and awaits that day when a gathering of the clan may evolve a more equitable system of tariffs and taxation.

Some time ago it was agreed that the manufacturers would meet representatives of the organized farmers of the West and amicably discuss questions of vital concern to capital and agriculture. The date for the meeting has been postponed, but there is no reason why at such a convention the whole matter could not be discussed in a way that would make for a better feeling between these two essential industries. If the tariff had long since been removed from politics we might by this time have made a start upon which our coming expansion would find a footing.

The interest we owe abroad must be largely paid with an exportable surplus, and in this effort to satisfy our creditors the products of farms and herds will have to be depended on for a major share. We must have enterprises of all kinds, but we cannot afford to develop them at the expenses of agriculture as we have done in the past. The farm and the factory must be on equal footing, and all classes must be allowed to play their part in the great scheme of development that will lift Canada to her rightful place among the nations of the

Co-Operation and the War.

It has been frequently pointed out by close students of co-operation that the principle is most readily accepted in times of hardship and adversity, and that the natural independence which is common to nearly all classes of people does not bend itself readily to the idea of mutual assistance. This is undoubtedly true, and it is probably natural to expect that, as a result of the war and its attendant sacrifices and discomforts, cooperative enterprises should multiply. Nevertheless, it is an accepted fact that although the war has brought about heavy increases in the cost of doing things, it has also brought a condition of affairs wherein farmers, as well as other sections of the population, have experienced a much larger cash turnover than ever before While this advantage is far from being as marked as some would have us believe, it nevertheless exists, and tends, therefore, to lessen the expectation for marked co-operative development.

But anyone who has followed co-operation in Canada must admit at once that progress in co-operation has been accelerated during the war, and that the spirit of mutual help has gained much greater prestige than it held before. Probably the war has thus shown its psychological influence, and the spread of co-operation in the face of an apparently marked increase in prosperity and at least some real increase, must be due to social or political ties which have suddenly become real and have conspired to further the support of the democratic co-operative principle. At any rate, it is of interest to note a similar progress along co-operative lines in other countries since the war began. Despite the general economic ruin in Russia the "Co-operative Society Organization" has greatly prospered and no sphere of activity is, apparently, untouched by it. This activity