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EDITORIAL.

Have you destroyed the last weed in the corn and root fields?

Is there an Improvement Society in your locality, and what is it doing?

The next great step of democracy in Great Britain will be to get its feet upon the land.

A wilderness of weeds gone to seed, is one deplorable aftermath of the shortage of farm help.

This year's weed harvest gone to seed will increase the burdens of 1913.

Thorough after-harvest tillage, warmth and moisture will yet put a lot of noxious weeds out of business.

The seeding of many weeds which come in the clover crop being left for seed may easily be prevented by a little time spent in pulling, spudding or even topping them.

Spare no work in the preparation of the fields to be sown to winter wheat. Cultivate them thoroughly and complete the work in time to have the crop sown in good season.

Most districts are reporting a good harvest. What will become of the crop? This is a problem which concerns every producer, as the future of his farm depends largely upon what he does with his crops year after year.

With eggs selling at 25 cents per dozen in the summer months, the hen should surely hold an important position on the farms of the country. Quite a difference between the seven or eight-cent eggs of a few years ago and the quarter-dollar variety of the present day, but the difference is all in price. Make the hens produce more eggs.

In filling the barn with the season's crop, plan the work so that as much of the straw as possible may be kept inside at threshing time. Keep it all in if it can be done. When next winter's blustery days come, more satisfaction will be felt in getting the straw from the mow to the stables than when it is stacked in a yard. Besides, there is much less waste.

All prosperity, both in the country and in the city, depends very largely upon the success of the rural population. Stop and think what your work on the land means to the country. Its importance can scarcely be realized. Stop the plow and the reaper, and what would be the result? Even in years of light crops the outcome is serious enough. A realization of the importance of the calling should stimulate every individual engaged therein to put forth great efforts, should induce others to turn to agriculture as a means of livelihood, and should influence all to make a more thorough and complete study of the agricultural principles which insure success.

The Season's Crop.

Each year brings its seedtime, and each seeding is followed by harvest. The harvest depends upon a large number of conditions: soil fertility, drainage, cultivation, time of seeding, rotation, variety of seed, quality of seed, moisture, plant diseases, and dozens more. Is it any wonder that the country anxiously awaits harvest each year? Prosperity depends upon the crop. In fact, our very lives depend upon it. Its importance in the economy of a country cannot be overestimated. Even the difference between a good crop and a poor one is often enough to cause alarm. The business man, the manufacturer, the wholesaler and retailer show a great interest in "the crops," for they well know that to a great extent their sales depend upon rural prosperity, which is directly dependent upon the yield from the soil.

This year has been favorable in most localities and the bulk of the crop is a good one. What will the grower do with it? This is a question which should occupy the mind of every farmer in the country. There are many ways to dispose of the crop. Part of it may be sold in the field and removed entirely from the soil, or it may be harvested and then sold. This is a practice which if continued in year after year cannot but have a lasting detrimental and depreciating effect upon the farm. No land is so endowed with the different chemical, mineral and vegetable substances which go to make up the food of plants as to be able to maintain maximum production year after year unless at least a part of that plant food taken by the crop is returned to the soil, and the more the better. Knowing this to be true, it is folly to sell the entire crop in the state in which it is produced, unless some other means of adding fertility are resorted to. The average soil is not by any means a never-failing spring, manufacturing an unlimited supply of material upon which plants thrive. What is drawn from it by the season's crop must be returned at least in a measure in order that the supply does not dwindle below the mark of profitable production. Fertilizers are necessary if the highest yields are to be obtained.

The maintenance of soil fertility has been one of the problems of the agriculturist for ages, and the older the soil the greater has been the problem. Different methods have been resorted to in solving it. Green crops have been plowed down, artificial fertilizers have been used, and barnyard manure has filled a big place in this respect. All these fertilizers are useful, but the one "best bet" of the farmer who produces large crops has been live stock of some kind to consume his season's crop each year, and manufacture it at a profit into meat or milk ready for consumption, and at the same time leave him the greater portion of the plant food, in the form of good manure, to be returned to the soil, there to be instrumental in producing heavy future crops. Let the live stock be the prime factor in maintaining soil fertility, and if this is done the destination of the season's crop is to be consumed by cattle, horses, hogs or sheep on the farm. The class of stock to be kept is a matter to be decided by the farmer. Soil, climate, locality, labor, equipment and the size of the farm are some of the governing factors in selecting the class of animals in which to specialize. The kind of stock does not matter so much as long as it is profitable, as most of them are, all things considered, but it does matter whether or not live stock is kept. The mows are full of hay and straw, the granary filled to the top with

grain, fodder and roots are plentiful, the season's crop is a valuable one, so fill the stalls and pens with the four-footed friends of all and place the crop on the market in its most profitable form, and reserve that which the farm needs for the use of the crops of years to follow.

Where Will We Get Our Steak?

The question of beef shortage is not taken nearly so seriously by the rural population of our country as it should be. The average farmer on a mixed farm pays little heed to the cry for good beef as far as his own table is concerned. He has it in his own hands to eat whatever kind of meat he chooses, for he has the means of producing it. If he wants fresh pork he kills a pig, if he wants cured pork he kills and cures it himself. The same is true of mutton, lamb and beef. In the winter the beef will keep, in the summer the beef-ring is the source of supply. The housewife is always at liberty to kill a chicken or some other poultry, so what concern has the farmer?

Time was when thousands of cattle roamed our Western ranges, and when nearly every farm in the older Provinces turned off its quota of finished bullocks yearly, but this is passed into history. The ranch is becoming extinct. Why? Because the grain-grower has come. Where did the grain-grower come from? In nearly every case from older settled portions where grain-growing had gradually "run out," because it was found that the land would not stand continuous cropping without putting something back to maintain the fertility. He found that mixed farming or at least manure was necessary, and to get manure necessitated the keeping of live stock, which meant yearly labor. So he went West and drove the cattleman out of business. What became of the land in the older settled districts? The answer is short and not hard to find—the dairy cow took the place of the beef animal. Beef was not high in price, and the urban population began to increase very rapidly. The demand for milk and its products grew in accordance with the demand and the beef business suffered. Milk cows offered quicker and larger returns, and no one can blame the producer for putting forth his efforts in the direction which he believes most profitable for himself. The milk cow allowed him to keep his farm enriched, and placed him in a position to grow good crops.

With the milk cow came an indiscriminate calf slaughter, which year after year has grown worse and worse. The idea that dairy calves make fair veal but common beef has been acted upon to the limit. Veal has been a fair price, which has also helped to make matters more acute. The man with the dual-purpose cow has jumped "in the swim" and turned his attention all toward milk, and has for the time being forgotten the calf rearing end of the business until those who would feed cattle if they could get them cannot secure the right kind of stockers.

What is the result? A large falling off in the numbers of beef cattle in Canada, not only in Canada, but in North America. No longer ago than last week a Toronto daily contained a report of ten train loads, comprising some 10,000 head, of Mexican steers coming into Alberta—the first time in the history of the Canadian West that this class of feeding cattle had to be resorted to. The East is not even this fortunate. While the advance of dairying has in some districts encouraged to some extent the keeping of promising