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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

It is time the stock were stabled.

In the winter, as in the summer, milk cannot be made without feed.

Our fiftieth anniversary number will be out next week. Read it and keep it.

The man who puts the fat on his beef fast generally makes the best net returns.

The Germans seem to have been experts at "diplomatic lingo" in the Balkans.

The season when the stockman must look after the exercising of his stock is here.

The pig generally proves the best medium through which to sell coarse grain.

An outside yard to which the sheep have free access is essential to success with sheep.

The implement shed or barn roof will make a better covering for the farm implements than will the snow.

Go to the Winter Fair. It will pay you to see what the other fellow is doing and hear what the other fellow is saying.

Farmers, old and young, should plan to attend their local Short Course this winter. No one is too old and the boys are not too young to learn.

If you value Canada's historical agricultural happenings you will find our half-century issue—this year's Christmas Number—unique in this particular.

If the Kaiser goes to Constantinople he will have Turkey for Christmas, and if Kitchener catches him there he will have Turkey and sauer kraut both.

Christmas giving may be slightly curtailed but the spirit of giving should not suffer. If the gifts cannot be as large as usual, give anyway and manifest the proper spirit.

There is one thing in which Britain is supreme—what she cannot produce she can import, and she is fast learning to produce things which she formerly bought abroad.

The problem of many farmers—how to make their extra horses earn their keep until the authorities are ready to take them to the war or to open the market for their sale.

Few farm papers last 50 years in any country and still maintain the pace of the times, but "The Farmer's Advocate" has; it is the only one in Canada and it has always set the pace.

Let the air and sunlight into the stables—neither is poison, but the way they are kept out of some stables would lead one to think they were as destructive as the poison gas of the Huns.

Manufacturing Crop Reports.

The Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa and the Ontario Department of Agriculture at Toronto perform a service to the community by issuing crop bulletins and estimates of acreages and production. Almost every enterprise in Canada takes its directions from the outlook in the country. Banks desire information from their branches as to the crops and prospects for crops in the different localities. The speed of the wheels of industry depends upon the lubricating influence of farm crops and agricultural prosperity. It is necessary then that the fountain of this information be pure and undefiled.

During the first part of November, this year, from both sources mentioned came crop reports. The Ontario Department of Agriculture reported conditions in Ontario only, while the information from Ottawa covered the Dominion, in some cases making special mention of provinces. It is in cases where the Dominion and Provincial Departments attempt to make estimates for the same province through two sets of correspondents that confusion is likely to arise that may depreciate the value of such work. For instance, the Census and Statistics Branch at Ottawa credits Ontario with over 167 bushels of potatoes per acre last year while the modest Department at Toronto claims only 159 bushels per acre. In 1915 the Ottawa service states that Ontario's yield this year is not over 92.6 bushels per acre. Ottawa is safe in this statement, for Toronto admits only 76.5 bushels. The Department of Agriculture at Toronto puts the area under potatoes in 1915 at 173,934 acres. If the correspondents who report to Toronto could only see things in the same light as those reporting to Ottawa, Ontario would have produced 1,043,604 more bushels of potatoes this year worth, according to present prices, nearly \$1,000,000. We earnestly hope that the extra million bushels of potatoes may yet be found somewhere in the province for that commodity threatens to be scarce this winter. If the Ontario Government would say that we grew 76.5 bushels per acre, why of course we grew them and we would let it go at that and likewise we would credulously accept the Dominion report if it were the only one. However, when one arrives from each quarter hearing divergent views our incredulity is awakened and we begin to wonder what Ontario's crop really was.

No one can expect to get an accurate count of the bushels of grain, potatoes or roots grown in Canada or in a single province, but it is unfortunate that the two systems do not work more in harmony with each other. Year by year people are becoming more impressed with the value of thorough and reliable crop reports, for they now comprehend how much depends upon them. Ontario's Crop Bulletin was compiled from the reports of 1,000 correspondents. If these are reliable and other provinces have as authentic information we cannot see how the Census and Statistics Branch could do better than to use the reports of the different provinces and combine them into one for the Dominion.

It appears also that Ontario's work could be strengthened if the different items making up the report were submitted to the different branches of the Department of Agriculture for consideration. The recent dispatch from Toronto contained this statement regarding fruit: "Apples suffered from the codling moth, although there was but little

complaint of scab this season." Had the remarks regarding fruit been submitted to the Chief of the Fruit Branch we are sure this glaring error regarding the quality of 1915's apple crop would not have appeared.

The branches of the agricultural departments both in the provinces and at Ottawa have representatives out over the country during the growing and harvesting season. If each province would institute its own system on a sound basis and allow its authorities to pass on the reports they would be more reliable. Furthermore they could be verified at Ottawa before going into the Dominion report. If the Government would only do the people the honor of speeding up its slow departmental machinery this information would be in the hands of interested parties in time to be of value to them and at the same time it would carry with it the mark of authenticity. Crop reports are valuable; let us have them correct.

Is Winter an "off" Season?

Winter—the off season? Why should it be? Yet it is generally considered that the farmer has little to do in winter and then takes his holiday beside the kitchen stove, where he hibernates until the south wind with its shining haze silvers the horizon and he repairs to the stable, harnesses up the old team and starts out to fill the furrows in the ten acres on the hill, announcing that seed time has arrived. The arm-chair farmer is the only agriculturist which in any way approaches such a winter of ease. The cityman may imagine all sorts of winter leisure for the farmer but that does not feed the horses, slop the pigs, milk the cows or shake hay out to the sheep. The real successful farmer is busy in the winter and is tied at home looking after things which are just as important to the success of his farming venture as any work he can do in the summer. The farmer that is idle in winter, unless he be engaged in some superlative form of specialized agriculture too elevated to be called "farming" is usually not the most successful farmer in his neighborhood. Farming cannot be made pay on six months work and the other six play. The winter is meant for feeding the grain and roughage produced in the summer. It is the manufacturing season for the farmer, only it is not as profitable as some manufacturing enterprises of which we have heard, yet it is more remunerative than sacrificing the raw material. Any farmer who does not, in winter, keep a good-sized manufacturing plant busy is not making the most of his farm and if he keeps such working to its capacity he will not be idle.

Besides this, he must utilize the long evenings in reading, in planning and in preparation for the next year on the land. The farmer who does not read and think for himself is behind the times. There are fields which present new problems; there are buildings to be overhauled; there are conveniences to be installed; why, if we do not stop winter will be even busier than summer, and so it is with many. Make the most of this winter.

Remember, in starting to feed the store cattle, that it is a long way to spring. While it never pays to starve it also is poor policy to use up all the feed in the beginning of the winter and fall short toward spring.