

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

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LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 21, 1918.

1326

EDITORIAL

Tap the maples this spring.

Worthless dogs should be taxed or shot out of existence.

Fill up the woodshed and be on the safe side for next winter.

All but a mere handful of Canadians would appreciate a knightless year.

There is a bright future for the breeder of choice, pure-bred stock in Canada.

Old Sol did his best to make the "heatless" days not entirely without heat.

It is time to begin putting implements and machinery in order for spring.

The seed-corn situation is worse than anticipated. Secure your supply and carefully test it.

Many would rather buy coal than cut wood, but most would prefer cutting wood to freezing.

It is said that tractors may be allowed to come into the country duty free. This is a move in the right direction.

German subs succeed in sinking Allied shipping, but they can never cause the spirit of the democratic countries to be submerged.

Many a man has said that he couldn't afford the price of a high-class sire. None can afford to buy a scrub because it takes less money.

Canadian wool growers are keeping abreast of the times when they organize a Dominion-wide selling association. The get-together idea is growing in favor.

We have had a taste of heatless and meatless days. Unless labor is forthcoming in larger supply for the farms we may be called upon to face real eatless days.

There is room in this country for a big national winter live-stock show. Plans should be laid now so that it could be inaugurated as soon as the war is over.

In buying foundation stock more success will follow putting all the money into one or two animals of the right stamp and breeding than by purchasing double the number of an inferior sort.

Reciprocal arrangements re registration of pure-bred live stock, brought about by the breed associations in Canada and the United States, will be a lasting benefit to all concerned and a boost for pure-bred stock.

If you are planning to sell your wool co-operatively make over some old jute bran sacks into wool sacks. Large wool sacks will be scarce this year, and by putting three or four bran sacks together a fairly good-sized wool sack may be made. Be sure the sacks are jute.

An extra run through the fanning mill may increase the yield from the seed by two or three bushels per acre and this after it is fairly clean. The first cleaning, of course, makes a much greater difference than this. Second and even third cleanings pay. Increase production through the use of better seed.

Sheep More Valuable Than Dogs.

We understand that the Act regarding the taxation and status of dogs, and dealing with the remuneration due owners of sheep worried by said dogs, is to come up for revision at the present session of the legislature. At any rate the dog nuisance is still with us, and each year at the annual meetings of the Sheep Breeders' Associations it is discussed at some length, whether on the regular program or not. If the Act is revised, as it should be, the provisions should be made as drastic as possible. A good dog, in his proper place, whether that be as a worker on the farm or as a pet in the house or yard, is a friend which deserves every protection, but the worthless, half-starved mongrel is the enemy of the good dog, of sheep, and so of mankind. The tax on dogs should be raised so high that it would help put the needless canines out of existence. Particularly should this be the case where two or more dogs are kept, and more important still where two or more females of the species are harbored. The new Act should make it law that the owner of pure-bred sheep be allowed full value for sheep destroyed and full damages for those worried in so far as it is possible to ascertain these damages. Getting full value for a grade when the loss is a valuable pure-bred is not enough. To ensure this, arbitrators appointed by the Sheep Breeders' Associations should be called in to act where any dispute occurs re value. Then, too, dog taxes might go into the general fund of the municipality and sheep losses be paid out of the general fund. It might also be good practice to have all dogs tagged as is now done in towns and cities, and make it law that any dog not tied up between sundown and sunrise and running at large on any property other than that of its owner is liable to be destroyed at sight. There should also be some provision made for dealing with unorganized districts in the Province. People living in or adjacent to these should not be placed at a disadvantage in the working out of the Act. Where the owner of a dog cannot pay for sheep his dog has destroyed, some penalty should be applied and the sheep owner reimbursed. Many of these suggestions were brought out at the recent meeting of sheep breeders in Toronto. The Legislature would do well to consider them in the framing of the new Act.

A Dominion Organization of Stock Breeders.

At the live-stock meetings recently held in Toronto the various associations appointed representatives to confer regarding a proposed scheme of formulating a central organization of all the live-stock interests. Matters are continually coming up which require the attention of someone in authority to act for the stock breeders. Only recently, in the matter of proposed freight and passenger rates it was necessary to call a special meeting of stockmen. A central body already appointed would have been in a position to act immediately. As it was a special meeting had to be called on short notice and action taken "off the bat," so to speak. Canada's live-stock industry is a billion-dollar industry. It is big enough to warrant the doing of big things in a big way. When any other industry of anything like this magnitude desires to make representation to the powers that be, it is done through their organization. So should it be with the live-stock breeders. A Central Board should be appointed representative of all the live-stock interests in the country with full power to act. It would definitely represent a big interest and would command respect everywhere. The nearest approach to it so far has been the National Record Board, but this Board has had no authority to act on matters other than those pertaining to the National Live Stock Records. It might be possible to make it a Central Live Stock Board, or it might be possible to select members from the Eastern and Western

Live-Stock Unions to compose the central body. One thing is certain, such a body composed of the right men would be of great value to the industry. Organization should not be deferred. It is time to act now. Select the good men representative of all Canada's live-stock interests.

Is This a Waste of Feed?

A short time ago a prominent Western Ontario farmer drew our attention to what he termed a gross waste which was going on at the Stock Yards where large quantities of feed are fed to pigs immediately before slaughter. It is said to be the common practice to feed wheat to the pigs to be sold "fed and watered," as the market term goes, and the grain simply increases the selling weight of the hogs so fed. The Toronto Mail and Empire recently made the statement that in 1917, at the Union Stock Yards in Toronto, 1,862,000 lbs. of wheat was fed to 294,854 hogs for slaughter. This is over six pounds per hog, which nets the seller of the pigs a considerable profit. He buys his wheat at less than four cents per pound and sells it as pork at from seventeen to nineteen cents per pound, making, possibly, fourteen cents per pound on about six and one-third pounds of wheat, or nearly ninety cents per pig. True, where stock is unsold for some time, or where suffering would come from lack of feed, certain feed should be given, but it does seem unreasonable to cram pigs full of wheat or any other grain for that matter and then slaughter them before said feeding adds any appreciable weight to their carcasses. Tests have shown that this feeding does not give very much more dressed meat than where no feed is given. In a time when wheat and all other cereals are in such demand and food is so scarce in the Allied countries, and high in price here, what reason is there for such waste? Is there any good reason for it at any time? Of course, the drover would carry any loss he would sustain by a removal of the feeding privilege back to the producer and expect to buy with a larger margin, but this would soon be regulated. Hog raisers in the country could use the feed so wasted to much better advantage in their own pens. Good wheat should be banned anyway as a stock-yard feed in a time like this. Has the Food Controller's Department any authority over this particular practice?

The Wool-growers' Organization.

Farmers and stockmen—producers of foodstuffs—those people whom politicians like to call "the backbone of the country," are gradually developing organizations which will ultimately work great good for the agricultural industry of Canada. In the past the men on the land have been what a speaker recently termed "the voiceless multitude." In the future they will be so organized that they will have a voice in the affairs of the nation, and a voice that will speak in no uncertain tone. All any producer of standing asks is fair play, and at last, after it has been brought home in so many ways that without organization a fair deal is almost impossible to procure, men engaged in all branches of farm production are getting together so that when matters of import to them are up for discussion, organized industry will have a voice. A case in point is the formation of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited, brought about week before last in Toronto. This new company is to be a selling agency for the wool clip of Canadian sheep whose owners see fit to have it graded as has been done by the Provinces in recent years, and sold according to quality. It is likely that in its first year this Association will handle millions of pounds of wool, and doing business on a large scale it will be in a position to look after the interests of the wool grower as no other association will. It is representative of all the wool-producing provinces. The directorate is composed of men vitally interested in wool