

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

The cattle on pasture still require salt.

Land yet unplanted can be sown with buckwheat.  
Make every acre do its bit.

The codling-moth spray should not be neglected.  
Wormy apples are now "taboo".

Now that the corn is planted, oil up the cultivator  
and keep it going. Much depends on it.

Under present conditions there is a good market for  
the extra spear of grass, when two grow where only one  
grew before.

Scrub bulls running at pasture are a menace to the  
live-stock industry. The law in regard to them should  
be observed.

Do not forget that the Canadian winter is sometimes  
rather severe. Lay in a fuel supply for that period when  
the sun goes south.

Canada is pretty well organized this spring for  
handling the wool clip co-operatively. The Ontario  
branch is all filed and set.

At the prevailing prices of milk it will pay to feed  
for a heavy summer flow. Green feed and soiling crops  
should be used extensively.

The Ontario fall wheat crop will be very small this  
year. Even at \$2.21 per bushel farmers in this province  
will not get exorbitantly rich out of wheat.

Something should be done in regard to non-essential  
industries, even if the Government has to deal with  
them through that over-worked medium of Order-in-  
Council.

Organization is quite in keeping with the times,  
but promoters of the same should move slowly and be  
sure that every step will be in the interests of the in-  
dustry to be fostered.

Unanimity and oneness of purpose are necessary  
to defeat the Huns and that is the foremost object of  
the civilized world to-day. All other considerations  
are secondary to the job in hand.

Contagious abortion in cattle exacts a much heavier  
toll than is realized, and it gets in its work in summer  
as well as when the stock is closely stabled. Read  
the article concerning the subject in this issue and  
fortify against it.

The time when the railroads will be taken over by  
the country and run without such a needless duplication  
of lines and equipment seems to be drawing nearer.  
If patronage and graft can be banished from the public  
control system this change will certainly be for the better.

Enquiries have already come from Serbia as to how  
much Canada can do in supplying cattle to assist in the  
rebuilding of the devastated herds of that country.  
The live stock industry should be secure, for the European  
demand after the war will surely maintain values at a  
satisfactory level.

The efficiency and usefulness of inexperienced help  
will depend on the treatment they receive during the  
first few days. Employers should not be too exacting  
at the beginning, for the work is new and the muscles  
none to rigid. There are many backaches when the  
urbanite first goes to work on the land.

## Dairy Councils.

Now that a dominion dairy council seems likely,  
it is quite in order that a few considerations relative to  
the formation of this organization and the provincial  
council, proposed at the meeting in Guelph early in  
April, should be enlarged upon somewhat. At the out-  
set it might be well to state that according to our best  
information, negotiations looking forward to the forma-  
tion of a national council were in progress previous to  
any steps being taken provincially. Furthermore, it  
would also seem that a realization of a national council  
should be the ultimate aim in the deliberations of dairy-  
men generally, owing to its greater economic signifi-  
cance. Past experience has shown, however, that  
efficient organizations are best built from the bottom  
up, which would necessitate the existence of timber for a  
national council from several provincial councils, or  
from provincial organizations fairly representing the  
various interests of the dairy industry. A national dairy  
council, if formed, could not be expected to concern  
itself with matters of purely provincial interest to the  
satisfaction of the provinces, while the work of either  
council must be to some extent determined by the com-  
plexion of the other. Will the national council be re-  
presentative of all the dairy interests, as contemplated  
for the provincial council, or, will it be confined simply  
to the interests of the dairy farmer, who may, as in the  
Western Provinces, share also in the ownership of a co-  
operative factory? An answer to this question is obvious-  
ly impossible until the matter has been discussed in  
conference by representatives from the various pro-  
vinces. Our own opinion is that the national council  
will prove most effective from the standpoint of the  
dairy farmer if devoted solely to his interests, and,  
should this view of the matter prevail finally, there will  
undoubtedly still remain a field for a provincial council  
representative of all dairy interests, one which should  
be occupied without delay. Many considerations  
commend the idea of such a provincial dairy council  
composed of strong, representative men. Neither  
council, however, can fairly be realized short of a year,  
since no action of the various representatives who might  
now be called together to consider the matter, could  
become binding upon the organizations they represent  
until it has been ratified at an annual meeting of the  
associations. Anyway, these matters are too important  
to be hastened unduly and, at the best, satisfactory  
working plans will take considerable time to mature.

Should a provincial council for Ontario be deemed  
advisable, after the various aspects of the case have been  
duly considered, there would seem to be three points  
deserving of special emphasis as we view the matter.  
In the first place the personnel of the council should be  
limited to a few strong men, no more than fifteen at the  
most, and fewer, if satisfactory representation can be  
secured; this also should be made to apply in the  
case of a national council. The producers also, should  
have a majority representation in the council. This  
is eminently fair by reason of the dependence of the dairy  
industry upon them and because of the great excess  
of capital invested in this branch of the industry and,  
by virtue also of the greater number of persons employed  
as producers. We do not anticipate that other dairy  
interests will question the fairness of this fundamental  
principle. In the third place we hold very strongly that,  
contrary to some opinions which have been expressed,  
the Department of Agriculture should not be represented  
in the council, since Department officials are but servants  
of the people, whose services can be called in at any time.

Proceeding further, however, the acceptance of  
these three fundamental principles merely aggravates  
the difficulty of organization rather than smooths the  
way. It is well known that neither the Eastern nor Western  
Ontario Dairymen's Associations are distinctively  
producers' organizations, although ostensibly it might  
appear so, since they are to a considerable extent fostered  
by the Department of Agriculture, receiving regular,

substantial grants from the Government as do most  
other provincial agricultural organizations and include  
in their roll of membership a small percentage of dairy  
farmers. These associations are, in reality, strongly dom-  
inated by cheese and butter manufacturers and cannot  
be rightly classed as producers' organizations. This may  
be due to a failure on the part of the producers to identify  
themselves with the organizations, but it will be seen,  
nevertheless, that the cheese-milk and creamery-milk  
producers in the Province have really no organization  
from which their representation in the council—and  
it must needs be very substantial—could be drawn.  
There is, in fact, only one simon-pure milk producers'  
association of a provincial nature in Ontario and this is  
composed, with few exceptions, of men who cater to the  
city milk trade. From whence, therefore, is a majority  
of the representatives of the producers to be recruited.  
The interests of the cheese or creamery milk, and the  
city milk producer, are to some extent, but by no means  
entirely, similar and therefore the latter could not in  
all fairness be given more than proportionate representa-  
tion.

We have no criticism of the Eastern and Western  
Ontario Dairymen's Associations as organizations of  
cheese and butter manufacturers. While our sympathies  
have been, and will continue to be, identified in greater  
proportion with the welfare of the dairy farmer in all  
matters pertaining to the dairy industry, we recognize  
with due appreciation the important and essential  
part played by the cheese and butter manufacturers  
in the development of the dairy industry. We deplore  
only the general impression that the organizations above  
referred to are producers' organizations. Our purpose  
has been to protect the interests of the producer in  
urging caution, and while we favor the most complete  
organization, each link must serve an undoubted  
purpose and not minimize results by duplication of  
effort. It is to be hoped that those who are taking the  
initiative in the movement will, in view of the con-  
siderations which we have endeavored to bring out,  
consider carefully the sources from which representation  
in the council is drawn.

## Live Stock Needs in the Maritime Provinces.

There is no doubt that the lack of adequate market-  
ing facilities for meat animals in the Maritime Provinces  
has delayed the proper development of the industry  
in that part of the Dominion. Pasturage is comparative-  
ly plentiful in the extreme East. The climate is particu-  
larly adapted to the growing of roots, and coarse grains  
can be produced satisfactorily. The dairy industry has  
gone ahead, of late years, by leaps and bounds, but  
beef cattle, sheep and swine have not increased as they  
should, for the simple reason that short of Montreal  
there is no dependable market for the product. Halifax,  
Sydney, and St. John are not sufficient in themselves  
to consume the output of an enlarged enterprise, so  
the producers have restrained themselves that the  
supply might correspond more or less with the demand.  
Prices, too, have not been encouraging, so development  
in the East has been retarded in live-stock lines other  
than dairying. We learn from Prof. J. H. Grisdale,  
Director of Experimental Farms, that only recently the  
best offer they could obtain for a bunch of good steers  
at one of the Branch Farms in Nova Scotia was 10  
cents per pound on foot, while similar quality was  
commanding 13 and 14 cents at Toronto, and 16 cents  
was being bid for toppers. Eleven cents per pound was  
finally obtained for a bunch of steers at Amherst, N. S.,  
when it was felt that they would have been worth  
easily 14 cents on the Toronto market at that time.  
Such disparity in values must be overcome before the  
Maritime Provinces can do their part in the production  
of meat animals.

Adequate abattoir and cold-storage facilities at  
Halifax would be a great boon to the live stock industry