

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Make fewer new-year resolutions, but make them so they will not be easily broken.

Free the live stock from vermin if such be present in the herds or flocks. Lice and such cause a wilful waste of feed.

Poultrymen should remember, when feeding animal feeds of any kind, that meat scraps are no substitute for sour milk.

The season for conventions, live-stock meetings, etc., will soon be in full swing. Don't fail to attend the event which has to do with the particular line in which you are interested.

Isn't it about time that poultrymen put into effect that long-wished-for system of pedigreeing stock? Every other important class of live stock boasts of "registered" animals—why not poultry as well?

After a busy season has passed and before another begins, is an opportune time to make plans and lay out a program for the coming years. In this one must be guided by the experiences of the past and demands of the future.

Just at this time of year is a good time to appreciate good roads. An improved road system not only works in warm weather, but when clay roads are ankle deep with mud, one gets a real appreciation of good roads when the solid bottom of a well-built stone or gravel road is reached.

Now that the war is over it is time for Ontario fruit growers to "buck up" and put into working order a good co-operative selling organization. The apple industry needs it badly, and the tender-fruit districts would also be strengthened on the markets by a concerted move in this direction. There are more ways than one in which such an organization would pay.

What's the matter with a National Fruit Council for Canada? We already have a National Live Stock Council that has justified itself, and a National Dairy Council just ready to harness itself up to some big problems. Just as big problems exist in the realm of fruit growing as in live stock, and the industry certainly needs a guiding hand, independent of Government agencies. Think it over.

The aggressive extension work begun recently by the Ontario Milk Producers' Association looks like a step forward. Organization alone will remedy the unfairness by which different prices are paid for milk of the same quality, but consigned to different branches of the industry. The cheese-milk and creamery-milk producers should have some organization working on their behalf; enlarging the scope of the Ontario Milk Producers' Association will fill this need.

An attempt on the part of certain city officials in Sarnia to limit the price of farm produce and keep it below a reasonable level met with the results one would expect. Farmers shipped their produce elsewhere and shopped elsewhere, with the result that Sarnia was obliged to send out S. O. S. calls for fowl and other lines to supply the Christmas trade. Price fixing is a dangerous practice at any time, but when a few local men get together and, without sufficient knowledge of market values, set prices it is difficult to say just what the outcome will be. The annoying part of it is that farm produce is the one thing which engages their attention.

The New Year.

We are beginning a new year and a new era. It is the time for new year resolutions and promises as to what shall and shall not be done. Many of these resolutions are broken before January gives way to the following months, and if the past be any index to the future, by the time three months are gone we will forget we ever pledged ourselves at all. However, human nature seems to be changing; the war has altered our viewpoint as well as our outlook on life, and agriculturists in Eastern Canada are determined, as were those in the West two decades ago, to have something to say in the affairs of the country, at least, insofar as agriculture is concerned. This indicates that a new era is dawning which, we believe, will see, before it ends, a closer affiliation of farmers in all provinces, and a supreme council that will act as the mouthpiece of the organized farmers of Canada. That cannot come any too soon, and the consummation of this ideal will benefit the masses as a whole, rather than any one particular class. Farmers are not striving to dominate; their motto has always been, "Equal opportunities for all but special privileges for none." For almost twenty years the farmers of Western Canada have been forging ahead, overcoming obstacles at every turn and combatting the big interests at every milestone on the highway of their progress. By overcoming these difficulties when they approached them, they have added strength to their cause, and now in the neighborhood of 100,000 Western farmers are united for a common purpose. But the enormous strength which is theirs has never been used to inflict hardship on any other class. When "special privilege" is cast out "equal opportunity" comes in, and a true Canadian citizen cannot rightfully ask for more.

We are confident that the incoming year will see great progress in agriculture as a business, and in agriculture as a directing force in our country's affairs. In the coming conflict, if such there be, class hatred should be dispelled. There is nothing to be gained by slandering the whole urban population on account of a few unkind words or wicked deeds, for which only a few may be responsible. On the other hand, the rural population is not entitled to abuse for delinquencies or lack of wisdom on the part of one or two in the neighborhood. It is this wrangling and piffle that stirs up class hatred and retards progress. Fight a clean fight and the verdict in the end will exonerate those who win and bring no disgrace to those who lose, provided they, too, live up to the rules of the ring. Let every agriculturist do his part in the coming year towards the upbuilding of the basic industry, and every forward step in this regard will benefit the nation as a whole.

Sending Draftees to Siberia.

At the United Farmers of Ontario Convention, held recently in Toronto, the Agricultural Representative on the Leave of Absence Board for Military District No. 3 stated openly and emphatically that drafted men were being sent to Siberia. The daily press has also carried several news items regarding the refusal of men to go on board ships destined for Siberia. This is a peculiar situation and puts a new interpretation on the Military Service Act. A war Government was placed in power, and the Military Service Act carried to enable Canada to do her utmost in defeating Germany, the common enemy of the Allies. However, this forcing of men to take part in a domestic quarrel in Russia does not meet with approval in this country, nor will it until some satisfactory explanation is made by the authorities at Ottawa. We have read considerable about what is going on in Russia, but Canadian citizens will want some authentic statements from our Government before they will condone this act of the Department of Militia and Defence. More than that, there are soldiers

willing to volunteer for service in Siberia, and probably all the force that is required could be raised in this way. It appears now, after Germany is thoroughly whipped, that information could be given out regarding operations in the different countries, and just what the purpose is of the force that is being maintained in the East. A statement in this regard would be welcome. In any case, we believe the Department of Militia and Defence is going beyond the wishes of the Canadian people when they force draftees to do service in Russia.

Shelter the Farm Machinery.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost every year on Canadian farms, due to failure on the part of the owners to take proper care of the farm machinery. This is a loss which is largely preventable. Although it is known that exposure of the implements is detrimental and shortens their life of usefulness, it is not uncommon to see plows, cultivators and even haying and harvesting implements left standing in the field from one season to another. Carelessness, lack of appreciation of the annual loss incurred, and scarcity of room in the barns for housing implements, are direct causes of them being left out in the open. The outlay necessary to build an implement shed is considerable, consequently the erection of a building is postponed from year to year, and the leak gradually enlarges. Implements cost nearly twice what they did in pre-war days. Thus the necessity of endeavoring to make them last as long as possible. The custom of purchasing a new implement when one or more parts become worn, even though the other ninety-nine parts are in good condition, is altogether too prevalent. A little more overhauling of the implements and the replacing of worn parts with new ones would possibly prolong the life of the machine several years and thus be in the best interests of the individual agriculturist, as well as of the entire country. Proper housing, regular overhauling and frequent oiling of farm implements are three practices which should be in effect now more than ever before. Just because the binder is missing a few sheaves is no reason why a new one should be purchased, even though the agent may do his best to persuade you that you should do so. The parts which are worn may be purchased for a few dollars, whereas a new machine now costs well over the two-hundred-dollar mark. The same is true of the other machines used on the farm.

Unite and State the Facts.

The high cost of living is still enthroned and war prices are going on merrily. Of course, conditions have not regulated themselves to such an extent that prices can come down with a bump, but there seems to be a growing tendency to attack food prices first and ignore the high valuation placed on the hundred and one other commodities that are necessities of life. The Fair Price Committee of Sarnia, Ontario, made an attempt to control prices on the market in that city, with the result that farmers simply shipped their produce to other markets that were willing and glad to pay more than the maximum set by the Fair Price Committee of Sarnia. More than that, farmers shipped elsewhere and the city learned its lesson. Urban dwellers in certain towns and cities frequently get up in arms over the price of milk delivered to their doors, and without taking the trouble to ascertain what the producer actually receives for the milk they at once brand him as a profiteer. The difference between the price the producer receives and what the consumer pays is worthy of consideration, for it is here, we believe, that the trouble lies. The consumer should be informed as to the expenses connected with wholesaling and distributing. If they had this information they would not be so quick to attack the producer. Here is where