

never had any other in our chute and don't intend to. The rungs are perhaps a trifle far apart, but we don't have to go up many steps, and it is very much handier to step into the silo from this ladder than any other we have seen. The expense of the gas pipe and a little extra lumber for doors, is offset by the saving in concrete and material for a ladder.

Prince Edward Co., Ont. MORRIS HAFF.

Two Ways to Save Labor.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Request was made in "The Farmer's Advocate" of Jan. 21st for suggestions from experience in economizing labor on the farm. I will comply briefly by citing two, but before doing so wish to express my appreciation of the reports which have been appearing in several issues past of important dairy and agricultural gatherings in different parts of Canada. These I consider a most valuable feature of the paper, and in fact I have seen nothing elsewhere to compare with them in completeness and freedom from verbiage. Five times the year's subscription price would be a modest valuation to place upon the issues for January alone. The pressing duties of the farm and distance in the majority of cases, prevent our attending these meetings, but your columns, like a cream separator, make the best of them available while they are fresh.

Pending the arrival of the farm labor policy of our now awakened Governments, "The Farmer's Advocate" renders the campaign for greater production real and immediate help, by publishing plans whereby two hands may perform the work of four. Many may be tempted to rush into the broad way of exclusive grain farming, but it will prove the pathway of folly, and I propose sticking to live stock as the foundation of operations, doubly so when, after the war, the inevitable collapse comes. Wherever the giant cereal thrives, corn and the silo solve the cattle feeding problem, and the windmill, in my experience, most economically provides the next great essential—water. The wind sends me no bills for its service, but day after day and week after week the mill goes whirling around with the application of a little oil and an occasional touch of the hand, a wonderful release from laborious hand pumping or driving stock to "the crick." The next and for nearly one-half the year a still greater saver of labor of the most disagreeable sort is the plan of applying fresh manure directly upon the fields, which I am glad to observe has the endorsement of farms connected with the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. No more valuable experiment or rather demonstration was ever conducted than that by the late Dr. Wm. Saunders and Prof. F. T. Shutt, at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, showing that pound for pound, green manure was equally valuable as rotted (so persistently favored by some old writers), and that under reasonably fair conditions in no way would the loss of fertility (through heating and farmyard soakage) be so small as by immediate application to the land. In fact, if I remember correctly, it was shown by seven years' trials in applying fresh and rotted manure to various grain crops that pound for pound the fresh manure gave remarkably better results than the rotted manure. On behalf of fermenting and rotting manure the advantage of killing weed seeds is some times claimed perhaps more than is really warranted, but the preferable policy is surely one that aims at not having weed seeds in the fodder and manure to destroy. In winter there is time to spread the manure evenly upon fields where crops like corn are to be grown the following season, whereas in spring with little or no extra help available every hour is precious, and the hot weather makes re-loading manure a most arduous and disagreeable task. In the district from whence I write the snow this winter has been continuous and unusually heavy, but not enough to interfere with the manure going regularly to the fairly level fields. Some times in the soft spring weather it may be desirable to make a small, temporary pile not far from the barn, but in many years' experience this has been the only exception, and I would not dream of going back to the old plan of accumulating the winter's manure in a pile in the yard. Of course, for other dressings other than these referred to (corn, etc.) a portion of the manure produced may be stored or piled till required. Practically it cuts the labor of the season in two, and those who once try it continue to do so. Therefore, when plans are being made for the erection of new stables or the re-construction of old ones, about the very first point to be secured is sufficiently wide doors and passages behind the stock for a team to drive through. One may save a few dollars of initial cost by cramming down the stable space of a stable, and then suffer for it the next fifty years to come. Conversely the advantages of ample space begin multiplying like compound interest.

ALPHA.

War a Cleanser.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In one of your editorial notes in a recent number of "The Farmer's Advocate" you say, "Someone has said that war is a great cleanser, how?" Taking it for granted that you are looking for an answer and not that you are expressing a disbelief in the statement quoted, I am undertaking to point out, how, in some ways at least, war may act as a cleanser and a renewing agency in society, though in itself it be an undesirable thing.

Our case can best be proved by taking examples from history, ancient and modern. "In Biblical times war was looked upon as an effectual means of bringing a degenerate nation to their senses and to a better mode of life. The elimination of idolatry and some of the other vices of the ancient Jews was finally effected by the reverses which they suffered in battle, and by the general discipline of war. Coming to facts dealing with a later period, we are met with a continual series of reforms due to war, from the time of Alfred the Great on through European history until the present time. The war we are now engaged in is no exception to the general rule. England, France and Russia, as we will readily admit, all left something to be desired when we come to judge them from standards of moral character and general efficiency. England was given up as a nation to commercialism, France to pleasure, and Russia to "vodka" drinking. What is the result after six months of war? In England this: the spirit of commercialism has given place to ideals of patriotism, national morality, and a sense of the rights of weaker nations and individuals. These ideas are inherent in the Saxon race, but they have been gradually getting into the background, and were in a process of being covered up with the accumulation of years of peace and prosperity. A cleansing ordeal was necessary, and I maintain that it has come.

As to France, the situation is well expressed by her Premier, who, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, recently said, "In this war France has found her soul. Nowhere was it thought that she had such inexhaustible reserves or moral strength as she is now proved to possess. The war has revealed to the world a new France, regenerated, purged of dross, virile, enduring, capable of any sacrifice."



Moonstone III.

First cross-bred steer and reserve best steer at Norwich, 1914. Also first at Birmingham.

In the case of Russia the "cleanser" has operated more quickly, effectively, and we might say dramatically, than with any other power engaged. The absolute prohibition of the sale of "vodka," and the subsequent successful carrying into effect of the law, was a greater triumph for law and order and morality, in other words for the best there is in Russia's national life, than any victory on the battlefield would have been. From a condition of despair and comparative degradation she has been raised to one of hope and moral progress, and it was war that did it. The Czar knew he could never win battles with his drunken soldiers. And what of the case of "our friend the enemy"? We are told that the transformation in Germany is no less noticeable than in other countries affected by the war. It is said that the religious life of the people has been deepened, that immoral plays have been taken off the stage, that books and post-cards that were, to say the least, not very elevating in tone, have been removed from shop windows and that a changed Germany is everywhere in evidence.

Truly, it would seem that war is something of a cleanser.

The matter appears to me in this light. The civilized portions of the world have for a considerable period been enjoying an amount of commercial prosperity that is almost without precedent in history. And drawing on history for proof, prosperity is one thing that mankind cannot stand up under. His spiritual fibre seems to weaken, and he sinks into the mire of moral and frequently physical debility. When man gets more of the world's goods than he needs, when to struggle for existence is no longer necessary, then he immediately begins to plan for his pleasure and for a life of ease. "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay." Luxury and degeneration go hand in hand, and this degeneration will continue until some drastic remedy is applied. Such a remedy I believe war to be.

The inevitable result of the world-struggle now in progress must be, in years to come, unimaginable poverty and hardship, for the waste of this war can bring no other result. Man will have to fight for the means of existence as he did in certain former periods of the world's history, the result being that some qualities necessary to perfect manhood, and to a great extent lacking in present-day civilization, will be developed, much to the advantage of humanity in general. If this world is not run by chance entirely, but has some outside controlling force to reckon with, as most of us believe, then I am confident that the "wrath of man" can be turned in the end to his benefit, and war made one of the means whereby he will finally reach his destiny. As things are, and have been for some time, in this old world, I think we will all admit that a cleaning up of some kind is necessary, and if war is not to be the "cleanser" what is?

Glengarry Co., Ont.

J. E. McINTOSH.

Produce More.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Produce more! Doubtless a very timely sentiment! A very appropriate battle-cry for this country, and for every occupation and business in it at the present time! Perhaps even we may admit, what most of the newspapers seem to think, that this slogan is peculiarly suitable for the farmer. The farmer himself will scarcely be disposed to deny that. He may indeed reflect, made wise by past experience, that if he does

"produce more," there are plenty of other interests waiting to gobble up the lion's share of it, leaving him precious little better off than he was before. And so this exhortation so pointedly and unctuously directed at him from some of those quarters that are indeed "deeply interested" in the matter, may not always impress him in the most favorable way. But for all that he will not deny that in every view of the situation this is a time to increase production. And there is not a farmer in Ontario or in the Dominion of Canada anywhere who is not willing to try, who is not anxious to do everything in his power to swell the production of the country, and so enlarge the resources and confirm the strength of the Empire.

But how? It is easy to tell the farmer to produce more, but how is he to do it? He is no wonder-worker; he has no resources of magic upon which he can fall back, no philosopher's stone with the touch of which he can double his crops. Everything the farmer gets has, in the most literal sense, to be dug out of the earth. And if he is going to produce more, there will have to be more "digging" done in some shape or form. That is something we shall do well to keep in mind.

There are, in fact, just three ways in which the farmer may go about to increase his production:

One, by the application of increased labor. Two, by the application of more intelligent and scientific methods and management. Three, by the application of increased capital.

It is not meant, of course, that these are three entirely independent and exclusive lines of procedure. On the contrary they are closely interdependent. No one can be applied by itself