

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Make 1918 Canada's greatest year.

More is generally accomplished by working with men rather than against them.

Class consciousness without leadership leads to disorganization and disintegration.

We heard a speaker declare, the other day, that the people can be fooled all the time.

Canada desires that all the pages in the 1918 diary of affairs be kept "clean sheets."

The organized farmers of Ontario are growing in numbers. Like all such organizations in their infancy they require leadership.

Any class of people which allows others to do for them what they should do for themselves can never fill a commanding place in the affairs of men.

Farmers realize that the Food Controller has a big task, but they often wonder how it is that the bulk of the price fixing is confined to farm products only.

The people of Canada have spoken at the polls. Now they expect pre-election promises to be carried out, and they are in no mood to be fooled with this time.

Registration of the workers and putting each at what he or she is most capable of doing toward necessary industries to win the war would be a long step forward.

The "knocker" knocks and remains out in the cold. The diplomat tries the door, enters softly and is welcomed. He succeeds while the "knocker" fails miserably. This is human nature.

The Canadian farmer should watch the progress of public affairs more closely than ever before. He is ready to pay his share of the country's debt, but is not willing to pay the other fellow's too.

If there should be any of those young men who received telegrams a short time ago informing them that they would be exempt from military service drafted, they will wonder what the telegrams were sent out for.

In proportion to population, agriculture has least representation in Parliaments. Farmers keep on complaining about it but remain quiescent when men are chosen to represent their ridings. It is the electors' own fault if they choose a lawyer or doctor to represent them.

East of Manitoba, Canada elected an exactly even number of representatives belonging to the two political parties—Unionist and Liberal. The great West gave a majority of nearly 50 to the Unionist side. The West will rule, and the West wants duty-free farm implements and machinery. Will the Canadian farmer get what he asks?

The speaker who, at the United Farmers' Convention, advised farmers to change work was right. While every available laborer should and will be used, greatest results come from the best use of the men now on the farms. There is much work on the farms that one man cannot do alone. At this labor two experienced farmers are generally worth more than half a dozen inexperienced men. Co-operate in work as well as business.

## Canadians All.

Canada is entering upon a new year. It does not promise to be a year of great happiness. The war appears to be still far from won. It will mean another year of separation and sorrow for thousands. It is the duty of those left behind to see that it does not cause greater privation to many. And yet the year 1918 may bring peace to the warring nations. Everyone hopes that it will see the dawn of a lasting period of good will toward men. And in this respect we might bring the matter right home to Canada. Let us all be Canadians in 1918. This is no country for hyphenates—this is Canada and the people of this Dominion are Canadians. True, Canada is divided into provinces and is the home of people of many different tongues, but they are none the less Canadians. Canada will have no race problem if all forget the past and remember the best interests of the Dominion.

While it is necessary that there be no race prejudices in this young country, it is just as imperative, particularly under conditions which have arisen out of the war, that there be no class differences and distinctions. Farmers are the great producing class and are doing a necessary work at any time. Right now food production is war work. Without it the Allied cause would be lost. Farmers expect a square deal. They have not always had it. They have borne heavy burdens, and financial returns for efforts expended have been comparatively small. Moreover, some of those living in cities have not been disposed to treat farmers as altogether human. Sometimes city consumers still say hard things about producers—call them profiteers and blame them for being tightwads and poor business men—tell them their wives and daughters ought to get out and work in the fields and pig pens that they in the cities may be sure of plenty to eat, and so on. The farmer resents all this, and justly. And on the other hand, sometimes we as farmers criticize too severely the people of the cities. We think they have all the money with little work, that they reap undue profits, that they control everything to the disadvantage of the men on the land, and that they are a pretty mean set of individuals. Both viewpoints are wrong. The great mass of people living in the farming communities are good people, honestly trying to do what is right and make a living. There are a few of the wrong kind, that is true, but they are few. The same is true of the cities. The great rank and file of the people we meet on our city streets are good people, earnestly striving to make an honest living and this country a bigger and better Canada. There are a few bad ones among them, but they, too, are few.

These being the facts, Canadians should get together for better things in 1918. Because one farmer has done wrong is no reason why city people should brand all farmers as hogs, and because some city man has manipulated wheels within wheels is no reason why farmers should condemn all city people. There is room right now for a better feeling between city and country. Neither can prosper without the other. It is time, then, that city people stopped telling farmers and their wives what they should do in this crisis. The people on the land know better what they should do than any city folks can hope to, and are doing it. No class works harder and longer hours than the farmer, his wife and family. Some statements have been made about what the farmer and his wife and daughters should do which have been insults to the hardest working men and women of the land. City people should stop this in 1918 and lend a hand at the work, rather than keep up the worn-out and useless practice of giving advice. And on the other hand, the farming community should be fair to city people. Canadian cities have responded nobly to the many calls made upon them. Men, material and money have been forthcoming in ever increasing quantities, and the people are anxious to accomplish more. City people are human and prone to err just as

country folks are. Farmers should remember that the great bulk of the people of the cities are right at heart and anxious that all Canada, farmers and city dwellers, should prosper. They do not wish a wider breach between producer and consumer. This being true, farmers should strive to get better acquainted with city people, and the people of the cities should make an honest effort to know more of the country districts and their conditions. Getting together will bring better results than drifting apart. What is good for rural Canada is good for urban Canada. This should be remembered. This is an agricultural country first, and when agriculture prospers all Canada prospers. Mr. Cityman, when you feel like telling the farmer to work longer hours and get his wife to work outdoors, ask yourself to work longer hours and exhort your own wife to work in the fields. And, Mr. Farmer, when you feel like condemning everything that city people do, be careful. You can spend your time to better advantage in productive effort. We believe in organization, city and rural, and that these organizations should ultimately work together for the good of all the people of Canada regardless of whether they live in city or country. In 1918, then, let us be Canadians all! Let us strive to know one another's problems, and to work together toward their solution. This will be an eventful year.

## Organize Now.

Never before in the history of Canada was it more necessary that farmers be organized than at the present. These are trying times on the farms of this country, but there may be a more strenuous period ahead if those responsible for looking after the interests of agriculture are not on the alert, and it is farmers themselves who should see to it that their industry is in a position to hold its own with all other industries of the country. It is a matter of organization and representation. All other industries of any size are organized. They have been organized for years, because their leaders understood that by getting together they were able to build up stronger industries. It has been a case of building up rather than one of tearing down, and farmers should profit by the experience of the other industries.

Farmers have been slow to get together. Disloyalty to their own cause, lack of patience and distrust have broken many a promising organization. All these must pass away if farmers are ever to unite for the common good. The time is now ripe for the movement to get on its feet. Not a moment should be lost. Big men are needed to guide the ship. Farmers' rights must be safeguarded and when the war is over the agriculture of this country must be on a firm footing, for it will be to agriculture that those at the head of affairs will look to carry the burdens of the country during the period of reconstruction. Without organization, and by this we mean the proper kind of organization, of course agriculture will be at a disadvantage. At the recent meeting of the United Farmers of Ontario one of the speakers representing the organization in Western Canada made the statement that capitalistic industries in the Dominion are forming an organization within themselves against the organized farmers and organized labor now and after the war. If this is true, farmers should benefit from the hint. And whether it is true or not, an industry of the size and importance of agriculture should present an organized front, to work with other organizations representing other industries for the ultimate good of Canada. We believe that all industries should be well organized, not for the purpose of gaining the strength to stab weaker industries in the back, but that all might work together in the interests of the country and people generally. All organization should be brought about with the purpose of construction rather than destruction, and now that it has reached the high standard in other industries it becomes absolutely necessary that agriculture be organized, else the