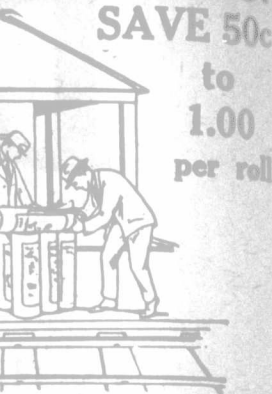


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LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 7, 1920.

1463

EDITORIAL.

Save the brood sows. Canada is already short of breeding stock.

Select a flock-header early and be satisfied with nothing but the best.

Freight and passenger rates are the exception nowadays. They are going up when other things are coming down.

Before putting the laying flock into winter quarters clean the poultry house thoroughly and spray or wash with a good disinfectant.

Early-hatched pullets should now be in winter-laying quarters to get them accustomed to their new surroundings before they begin laying.

If the Board of Commerce can bring down the cost of purchased feeds to the dairymen it will then be more logical to discuss decreased cost of milk for consumers.

Do not forget the two big plowing matches that are to be held at Hamilton and Macdonald College, Que., this month. Every Quebec and Ontario farmer should, if possible, attend one of these big plowing and farm machinery demonstrations.

A pen of ten Barred Plymouth Rocks in the egg-laying contest at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, laid 1,693 eggs in 44 weeks ending September 3. Higher egg yields from the farm flock will reduce the cost of production and increase the profits.

There is no pest that cannot be controlled if properly combatted, and the European corn borer is no exception. However, the borer is a very undesirable visitor, and every effort should be put forth to make its stay brief and its damage slight.

The milk producers of Minneapolis and St. Paul, base the price of the milk they supply to their cities on the prices of butter and cheese, adding to the average prices of these products a differential which varies with each month of the year. This method of determining milk prices is more fully discussed in another column of this issue.

Oxford County will become famous for young judges as well as for dairying. The recent championship judging competition, held at Woodstock and reported in the School Department of this issue, is a feature worthy of wide application. This early training cannot help but develop good live stock judges and live stock husbandmen.

Growers of fruit in the tender-fruit areas of Ontario deserve more consideration at the hands of the railroads than they have yet received this year. Fruit such as peaches, when harvested should get to market as quickly as possible. In many instances this year growers have been forced to take fruit home from the shipping station for lack of cars. Consumers hear of this and blame the farmer for wasting fruit.

Representative Britishers while with the Imperial Press Party in Canada, boldly admitted that it was competition for the feeder cattle of England and Ireland that they feared more than disease in Canadian cattle. This was brought out in response to a request for a removal of the restrictions against Canadian store cattle. When the facts are made known a solution of the problem will be more easily accomplished.

The European Corn Borer.

The European corn borer, which is an exceedingly serious pest in the land of its origin, has secretly invaded Ontario, and the infestation in some of the Lake townships is quite severe. Welland County and Elgin County have apparently provided the gateways for its entrance, but townships more inland have a slight spattering of these undesirable foreigners. Whether the European corn borer becomes a very great menace to corn production in Ontario depends altogether upon the effort made to combat or suppress it. The United States is spending thousands of dollars in order to keep the European corn borer confined to a couple of the Eastern States, and bar it from the great fields of the corn belt. It would be not only serious for us but serious for the whole continent should the borer get beyond control here and leap over the border to the corn fields of the Union. Farmers and all engaged in agriculture, either in a practical or professional way, should be on the watch for the pest, and our Governments should not deal in a niggardly manner with the job they now have on their hands. It would be a serious blow to the prestige of our entomological service should they not be able to curtail the ravages of this pest and prevent its further distribution. In order to handle the European corn borer and protect the corn-growing industry in Ontario, it requires prompt and energetic action combined with investigational and research work of the highest and most advanced character. This matter should be taken seriously by all, and the Provincial Department of Agriculture should do its part in educating growers as to the nature and seriousness of this pest.

Harmony in the Home.

Harmony among workers, harmony in industry, harmony in all the multitudinous branches of society is one of the best assets a nation can have, but in no sphere of human activity is harmony more necessary or desirable than in the home. It is only a home in name where parents do not make confidants of each other, and where parents, sons and daughters are not involved in a frank, harmonious, human partnership. There is a tendency in some farm homes to be rather cynical with the boys and girls, even after they have approached manhood and womanhood, and this is just the time when parents should be complaisant, frank in their discussions, kind in their requirements, and above all reasonable and considerate. Parents should not cease to command the respect of their children, nor are we advocating that ill-advised sort of leniency which encourages youth in wrong-doing. Parents should remain, at all times, masters of the situation, but a kind, though stern, reprimand will accomplish far more than an acrimonious rebuke. Bitter, sarcastic words cut to the heart and leave a wound that is hard to heal, while remonstrations tempered with kindness engender respect and, in the majority of cases, are rewarded with loyalty and obedience.

Many a promising partnership of father and son has been wrecked because of harsh expressions or ill-tempered words. Hard work and long hours do not conduce to a smooth and amiable temperament, and many people through excessive toil develop a nervous irritability that is unpleasant, to say the least. The younger member of the firm may endure the work and retain the complaisant outlook on life more easily than the parent, and for this reason the son should overlook an occasional unpleasant remark. Nevertheless, young and old alike should endeavor to restrain themselves and remember that "Kind words are more than coronets."

Very frequently parents make enormous sacrifices, and labor almost to the breaking point, in order to leave their sons comfortably provided for, or established on a farm of their own. The motives are the very

highest and conceived in parental love and anxiety for their children, but the outcome is too commonly disappointing. Long hours for both young and old rob the parents of needed rest and the sons of the pleasure and recreation to which every young person is entitled. The incessant toil engenders irritability or moroseness, alienates affections and undermines the happiness and well-being of the home. Under just such circumstances as these many young men become sour toward farm life and migrate to the city, when the unpleasantness of it all grew out of a determined and almost super-human effort on the parents' part to provide generously for their heirs.

Farm life at its best is strenuous and exacting, but it can be made almost unbearably so by unrelentingly banishing pleasure and worshipping the god of toil. Youth, as a rule, enjoys work and finds pleasure in it, but the young man and the young woman require sport and recreation to take the rough edges off of life. When farm life is made a grind it is only reasonable that the boy should develop a dislike for it. No better heritage can be left to a son than a sound mind in a sound body, a love for work in general and his own occupation in particular, and fond remembrances of a happy home, the like of which he himself shall strive to duplicate.

The Price Peak Reached.

If the signs of the times are not misleading, the peak of high prices has been reached and they shall soon, no doubt, be sliding down the other side of the hill at a speed which only future conditions can regulate. The automobile business has become a fairly good index to industrial conditions generally. Several large manufacturers in this line have reduced their prices, but manufacturers and distributors of necessities are apparently making a desperate effort to keep prices up when conditions demand that they be reduced. It is repeatedly rumored that in many lines goods are not moving as rapidly as their makers would like to have them do, especially as large stocks are on hand and the banks are rather rigid in regard to loans.

It has been customary to attribute much of the high cost of living to the prices of food materials. Now that these have dropped considerably it will probably be in order for labor to ease up in its demands, which will undermine the manufacturers' arguments about the high cost of production. Food which farmers have to sell and the raw material they have to dispose of is plentiful and is now moving, in many instances, far below the cost of production. If the other half of the social organization will reciprocate and put prices down where they belong it will be far better for all.

Letting Markets Slip.

It would seem that we have the wrong perspective regarding markets for our live stock products. Farmers in Canada have focussed on the production end of their business, and to a great extent have neglected to get the proper perspective, at least, of the great market organizations and requirements of the world. We as growers are inclined to ignore the future and accept a few cents now, which may mean dollars lost next season or the season after. This is particularly true in regard to swine production in Canada. The marketing of bacon has been more or less disturbed by price control in Britain, and many farmers have become discouraged, selling their breeding stock and ceasing to produce hogs. Owing to the unfavorable circumstances which surrounded hog production in 1919, it was to be expected that a considerable number of brood sows would be sacrificed, but unfortunately brood sows are being liquidated continuously and at an alarming rate. According to the Live Stock Commissioner the percentage of sows marketed at Toronto, Montreal, Winni-