

well advanced, but more ginger could be injected into them. There is no proof like something tangible, nothing so convincing of a fruit-growing locality's worth as the taste of some of its own product.

Good Time for Expansion

The United States Department of Agriculture advises farmers that live stock supplies are approaching a dangerously low level. Feeders have been going out of the stock business during the era of high priced grains, and the Secretary of Agriculture opines that American farmers during the next few years are going to find themselves short on what will be one of the highest priced of farm products. Conditions very similar prevail on this side of the boundary. While figures are not available to show the progress of the live stock industry, it is safe to say that this branch of agriculture has not kept pace with others in the progress made during the past few years. When grains are high in price cereal production offers an easier avenue to wealth than the making of beef, pork or mutton, and curtailment of operations in live stock follows as a consequence of rapid development in grain farming. It is to be remembered, however, that the world demand for meat products does not decrease simply because meat production becomes less profitable. Meat demand for a good many years has shown substantial annual increases, and according to the authority above quoted has now reached such a point that live stock supplies in sight will be inadequate to meet it. Hence the likelihood of live stock prices in all classes being maintained or improved.

It would appear then that the present is an opportune time for expansion in the live stock industry, a time for increasing the breeding contingents and bringing them up to the highest notch possible in quality, for unless all data are incorrect and facts authoritatively offered not facts at all, America has gone light in live stock, and animal prices for the next few years are bound to rule high.

The Maelstrom of Militarism

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

Lord Charles Beresford does not know it, does not intend or construe it so, but the plain, unvarnished truth is that he is preaching paganism. His view is warped by the very influence which he alluded to recently, when he said Canadian fathers would take pride in the navy when they had sons in it. He himself is a child of the navy. He has been so long identified with it and concerned in it that it has become the scene and center of his pride and ambition. As an instrument of imperial ambition, he delights in it, and as such he is seeking to enlist the moral support of the colonies. The excuse which he uses to justify the crushing expenditure and vicious purpose is that world-interests demand Britain's pre-eminence on the seas. Of course, every nation pretends to believe its ambitions are in accord with world-interests, but are they? Just at present there are certain facts which lend plausibility to the British viewpoint, Britain having pushed aggression to the limit, and being now in favor of maintaining the status quo. Nevertheless, it is as clear as noonday to every unimpassioned mind that military and naval aggression are in nearly all cases rooted in vainglory and barbarous race-pride, or else in religious bigotry. It is to vanity that Lord Charles makes his subconscious appeal—to that elemental instinct, weakened by reason, but yet dominant and assertive—the instinct which causes the Briton's breast to heave at the words, "Rule Britannia, Britannia Rules the Waves." It is an instinct that will be sobered some day, when another race adapts those words. For adapt them it will. The idea that Britain, even with the help of her

daughter nations, can always rule the waves, is as short-sighted as it is selfish. The most elaborate preparations that Britain and her colonies can make will only postpone the Armageddon, and the later it is postponed, the longer we keep on whetting the ambition of rival nations by the herculean efforts we put forth to keep ahead of them, the more terrible will be the disaster when it comes.

Meantime, what of the consequences in peace? What of the awful, sodden, bloodless, hopeless condition of Britain's oppressed and war-burdened nether millions, which a Canadian journalist recently pictured so graphically? Is that what Canada, Australia and South Africa are invited to court? Are we to be drawn into the devastating and devouring and ever-accelerating maelstrom of militarism and naval extravagance just to gratify race-pride?

The industrious husbandman from prairie and valleys says NO! The grimy artisan, whose earnings are absorbed in effort to maintain his family in plain comfort, cries NO! The toiling laborer, who ekes out a frugal existence as it is, calls NO! The babes and children of hard-working men, prospective soldiers and sailors, plead NO! The worn wife and mother whose husband is now hard enough pressed in the industrial army, prays NO! Let her voice be ever for peace.

Let Canada keep out of it. Let Australia keep out of it. Let South Africa abstain from the blighting curse of military and naval ambition. Let Britain cease her policy of world-aggression. Let her practice disarmament, relying upon the moral support of well-doing, rather than the strong arm of force. Let Britain and all her colonies exert, by example, a telling influence for disarmament and peace. Let her mind her own business, and forsake the white man's burden, which, disinterestedly interpreted, means the white man's ambition, and then the British Empire will contribute to the world a benign and upward influence, instead of striving ever harder to plunge it downward into a veritable hell on earth. The end of the present policy is destruction and chaos.

Don.

Employing the Farm Help

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

In speaking to one of our leading farmers a few years ago he said the reason of so much non-success in Manitoba is that "farmers are too parsimonious in the expending of labor on their farms."

It is all very well to read in the latest American novel about the Western farmer rushing his wheat in in the spring and then turning all his horses, except one or two, into pasture and driving around with his wife in a buggy watching it grow until harvest, then another rush to get it into the cars, and then after it is sold, taking his daughter away to Chicago or New York, or perhaps to Europe to finish her education. That is an interesting way to farm and makes good reading for city people, at least for those who have been unfortunate enough not to have spent some part of their lives on a well ordered farm.

From my own observation I can see quite clearly that the financial success of our whole year's operations hangs on the use we make of the time between seeding and harvest. If we do not utilize this period we are not ready for harvest, and we are doing work in the fall that ought to be done in summer and winter is on us before we are ready, and we are not ready to house our stock until a large portion of the summer's gain is already wasted. In discussing matters of this kind in farmer's institutes or the agricultural press we are liable to tend toward ideal conditions instead of sticking to conditions as we find them on the average farm, and I take it that live stock figures to some extent on the average farm in this Province at least, so it is only a matter of detail in arrangement as to whether it is going to be dairy products, beef, pork, mutton, or pure-bred breeding stock or horses.

So the problem with some of us is not so much to find something profitable to do during the so-called slack period, but to get done all we feel we must do. I also take it that the average farmer still practises summer fallowing. So when we have finished sowing our barley, green oat sheaves, or corn, we have an opportunity for a good clean up, and a time for making repairs in fences or buildings, because no matter how well those things are done in the first place we have to fight a continual battle with wear and decay. An old time writer recognized this when he said,

"by much slothfulness the building decayeth," and the most of us could not at first afford the best kind of building or fence, consequently the repair bill on those we have to do with come higher than it would on what might be called the more permanent structure. I remember reading in the ADVOCATE years ago a good article on thrifty farming. The writer said that they made their own butter and in order to always have enough they must sometimes have some to sell with their pork and beef. He also said they raised their own horses and in order to always have plenty they had to have some to sell. So if it is true of those things it is true of labor. If we are always going to have enough labor on the farm to keep our work right up we must at times have some to spare. Indeed, I am persuaded that the right time to get the greater part of the extra harvest help is at the beginning of seeding. It does not take so very much more to hire men at this time for seven or eight months than it does for three in the fall, and by having the extra help the few weed patches that need looking after are no trouble.

There are two buildings needed on most farms that we don't always find there. One is a fairly comfortable workshop heated with a stove, and equipped with an ordinary set of farmer's tools (both carpenters' and blacksmiths'), and also a few awls and harness needles, thread and wax, and a box of assorted copper rivets and a gallon or so of harness oil. The other building is a shed for machinery of all sorts, including wagons, buggies, etc. In this building should be kept a few cans of paint of different colors, and every implement should be brought in here when not in use. I do not mean here that every time one unhitches off his gang plow he ought to bring it home, but when an implement goes out of use for some time, such as between seeding and summer fallowing. Or, if you are only using one plow the other is much better in here than at the end of the field. So by having a few cans of paint on hand all the time you could open one some wet day and give a coat to the machine or implement you have in. The things I have mentioned do not cost much and men are much better employed at work of this sort and will take far more interest in their outfits than they would if they are allowed to lie around the hay lofts and smoke and tell yarns.

It does not take the average man very long to learn how to wax a thread, or oil a set of harness if given a chance, and if set to repair his own outfit when he has a chance it is not likely to get very sadly out of repair, because when anything goes wrong he will be watching his chance to get it fixed, and if he takes no interest in his work the sooner he leaves the better. He may find some place in town where he can be used profitably but he certainly is out of place on a farm.

As to the profitable employment of horses, they do not need to work every day in the summer to be profitable. In every eight or nine horses employed on our farms three or four should be brood mares. Our horses, instead of being a bill of expense, should be a source of profit. I know one of our old timers who began with a four-horse team, two mares and two geldings. Years afterwards he said he then had seventeen horses, the produce of those mares, and over 1000 acres in crop at that time. He said, "the boys objected to being bothered with colts, but where would we be if we had to buy all those horses?" But even a gelding is better to have a few days at pasture every summer. It is nature's renovation and cheap medicine.

As to quitting at six o'clock, under ordinary circumstances it is all right, but in seeding we often have the ground frozen half of the forenoon and we must try to get in a day's work. Then in haying and harvest it is often too wet to cut before nine o'clock, so we must keep the machine going while we have the conditions to work in. Then again, if a man can finish a piece of work by staying twenty minutes more it is much better to do it than perhaps lose an hour going back to it again when it is far from the place you are going to work at next. So one has to be all the time adapting himself to circumstances, and a man's success, to a great extent, depends on his ability to do this.

Man.

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W. I.