

### Capital on the Farm

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Capital is needed in running a farm as well as in any business. Land poor is a very expressive term, and it is a condition that too often exists on farms. The new beginner cannot be blamed if he is short of capital. He does wisely in securing a farm, even if he does not have capital enough to equip it as well as he would like. The trouble comes when this farmer makes enough to pay for his farm and then buys more land instead of thoroughly equipping the farm he has. Such a policy is a good deal like that of the merchant who, having goods enough to occupy a small part of his store, buys another store instead of buying more stock to put on his shelves.

This argument might be used—that it will rise in value—and so might the store. Will this bring in more than working the farm to its full capacity? The store with but few goods on the shelves is not likely to increase in value very fast, and the half-worked farm does not increase in value as fast as the well-tilled acre. And when it does go up in value it is not due to any efforts of its owner, but will come as a result of the greater demand for land or because of up-to-date farmers on the surrounding farms.

It has been found from experience that at least one-half as much money should be put into equipment and buildings as into land. This proportion of working to fixed capital will, of course, differ a good deal, yet it is an idea of the necessity of something more than land to make the most successful farm.

### The Farmers and the Election (Grain Growers' Guide)

By a very large majority the actual working farmers of the Prairie Provinces have endorsed the principle of reciprocal trade with the United States. It was the organized farmers who forced the question of reciprocity into the forefront and when it became an issue they stood to their guns in a manner that challenges admiration. They did not stand for a party but for a principle, and they endorsed that principle in the Prairie Provinces in nearly every rural seat. They were not fighting to have the Liberal Government sustained, but to have the tariff wall broken down. The farmers of the Prairie Provinces demonstrated in a way that will compel every government and all special interests to give them careful consideration. Had the question of reciprocity been submitted to a Referendum in the Prairie Provinces without being handicapped by appeals to party loyalty the farmers would have endorsed it to the extent of ninety-five per cent. of their number.

It has been remarked that the farmers might as well drop their organization. If the farmers in the rest of Canada had fought their fight as we did in the Prairie Provinces reciprocity would have been endorsed. But why should the farmers of the west be discouraged now? Why should they cease their efforts? They are stronger and more influential to-day than ever, and the Government in power is solemnly pledged to grant a larger percentage of their demands than any government ever granted.

Not often before have the farmers been able to secure concessions from the federal government. In 1896 the Liberal Government had all arrangements made to raise the tariff still higher. Had not the organized farmers met the tariff commission at that time with most decided protests the cost of living would have gone up and the farmers' tribute to the manufacturers would have been increased. The same thing will happen to-day. The manufacturers are anticipating a considerable increase in their protec-

tion. The railway companies are planning to prevent the Government from building and operating the Hudson's Bay Railway. The Retail Merchants' Association will fight to prevent the Government passing the cooperative bill. The elevator companies will fight against Government operation of the terminals and all the big packing interests will do all in their power to prevent any relief being given to the farmers through a chilled meat industry.

Now, if the farmers cease their work of organization and education, what will happen? All the big interests will work day and night to prevent Mr. Borden making good his pledge. They believe that they are now in control of the situation. Never was there a time in the history of Canada when there was so much need for the farmers to organize and educate and to make every preparation for mutual protection.

### Points About Weaning Foals

Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Ottawa

It is a good plan to teach the foal to eat out of the same box as his dam, and it is astonishing how little tuition, even with very young colts, is necessary when the food is placed within easy reach. For some time also before the foal is actually weaned he should be schooled to drink milk, if there is milk to be had, and it is well to remember in this connection that milk drinking is an accomplishment of no little value for any horse to acquire. Nothing is more advantageous to an animal suffering from any feeble or debilitating disease than the voluntary absorption of milk in lieu of other fluid when the appetite for solids is capricious, or altogether lost.

As regards the diet best suited for young foals, many different opinions are promulgated, but in the experience of the writer nothing is equal to good sound oats, with a moderate admixture of bran twice a day, and a well-scalded, not too bulky, mash of the same materials, seasoned with a tablespoonful of salt, and perhaps a handful of crushed oil cake for the evening meal. Many recommend crushed oats, but repeated trials have convinced the most successful breeders that whole oats are more nutritious, and if properly masticated, as they generally are when fed with dry bran, more easily digested than chopped feed of any kind.

#### HALTER BREAKING IMPORTANT

Colts should be halter-broken and taught to lead when yet with the dam, as this renders them much more tractable and easily controlled during the excitement inseparable from weaning, and also facilitates housing when the accommodation is limited, and there are several to be kept together.

Loose boxes are preferable to ordinary stalls for young stock, provided the stable is clean and well lighted it will do no harm to have them tied at night, taking it for granted that they enjoy for the greater part of every day the freedom of a roomy, and, in winter, well sheltered yard.

This latter point is of very great importance. Your youngster must have a chance to develop bone and muscle, and in no way other than by lots of exercise can he be reasonably expected to properly assimilate the generous diet recommended above, for despite all old-fashioned ideas to the contrary, without a liberal grain allowance he will not likely be much to look at when the sun begins to melt the snow in the spring.

When two or more colts are kept together it is better to have them separated at feeding times, or the strongest of the lot will be apt to wax fat at the expense of the weaker.



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