

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Help the local fair.

Help, boost and be optimistic.

Pasture for the hogs reduces the feed bill.

Have you cut the thistles and burdocks growing along the fences?

Don't let the other fellow form your opinions; think and act for yourself.

Make sure of the seed for that field which is being prepared for fall wheat.

Are you planning to exhibit any live stock at the fall fairs? If so, begin to fit and train the entries now.

The continued dry spell reduced yields somewhat, but in spite of this Old Ontario will give a good account of itself this year.

Give the new seeds a chance by not turning the stock on to them. The dry weather has been hard enough on the tender stand.

The drying of fruits and vegetables is gaining in popularity. This practice in many cases seems to have advantages over canning.

In wet seasons and in dry the farm heavily stocked gives the best crops. This harvest and the two previous ones substantiate this statement.

School teachers and inspectors, 444 in all, completed their summer course at Guelph last week. These can do a good work in the rural schools.

We complain too much about the weather. It's too dry or it's too wet; it's too warm, or it's too cold. We can't change it and perhaps it would not be good for us if we could.

It may be well to keep most of the eggs in one basket, but it is not a bad plan to have a few stored in another container in case of accident. The farmers of Eastern Canada enjoy this privilege.

Forty barrels of whiskey concealed in a carload of baled hay was discovered recently at Guelph. It must have been meant for some point in the West where it has been so dry this summer and feed is short.

In too many townships the roadside is the seed-bed for practically every known weed. How can the farms be kept clean when the roadside produces a fresh supply of seed each year? There is need for action on the part of weed inspectors.

Farmers and their families who have been working from daybreak until long after Old Sol sinks behind the western hills have earned ten days' or two weeks' vacation. But who will carry on the farmwork if they leave? No matter how deserving of a holiday, the tiller of the soil finds it difficult to leave for more than a day at a time.

Play and Recreation.

Play and recreation are not very popular terms in these times when all are bending to the work in hand and making every moment count. Nevertheless there is such a thing as getting too friendly with toil and reducing one's efficiency. Long hours do not mean the greatest output and manufacturers find that short shifts with fresh labor bring the best results. Such a policy cannot be adapted to farming conditions but life in rural communities can be brightened and the effectiveness of agricultural workers increased through the introduction of games and organized play. Those who completed their course in Rural Leadership at Guelph, last week, will probably carry back to their communities altered ideas in regard to recreation and a very favorable opinion concerning play. During their short period of tuition they entered enthusiastically into games new to them, and many long since arrived at man's estate became as much engrossed in the game and as interested in decisions as a school boy of twelve. If they carry this spirit back to the country and introduce the community idea linked up with games and recreation, their course will not have been in vain. Already, under the leadership of A. MacLaren, many games have been organized at picnics and gatherings throughout the country with gratifying results, and with a great deal of pleasure to those who took part. Volley Ball, and indoor baseball played outdoors, seem to meet with a large amount of approbation on the part of old and young alike. In several instances this season these and other games have been welcomed as a means of providing sport at picnics instead of sitting around on the ground and fences. Adults as well as the boys and girls should enter into the spirit of this form of relaxation and recreation. There is rest as well as pleasure in a good game and those who participate once are the best exponents of this idea. While the course was calculated to increase the efficiency of Home, School, Church and Community, it seems necessary to emphasize the importance of play and its direct relation to the health and happiness of those who live in the country.

The Hog Situation.

There is a hog situation developing which requires some careful consideration and oversight on the part of the Dominion Government. It is a peculiarity of hog harvest that it usually comes on with a rush and with a consequent drop in prices during October and November. The reasons for this are obvious: Spring litters must go off in the fall after the early threshed grain has become available for feeding; fall litters are then coming and require room; taxes fall due and funds are necessary. These all contribute to the unequal distribution of finished stuff throughout the seasons and make the slaughter and storage of hogs a difficult proposition during the late months of the year. In addition to these factors which always prevail, we have in 1918 abnormal conditions to cope with. In response to the appeal made by the Government last fall, farmers have increased their stocks and now the product which was so urgently requested is becoming available. Conditions in Western Canada will unquestionably result in an increased slaughter of meat animals which will in turn make unusual demands upon storage facilities. When product moves steadily into consumption the coolers and storerooms are ample, but exceptionally heavy runs and supply exceeding demand, as it is likely to for a period this fall, all make for congestion and demoralization of trade. History has a habit of repeating itself, but if the movement of hogs this autumn brings with it the customary drop in price it will strike production a hard blow and tend to weaken confidence in the future.

The increase has been brought about, not through any expectations of abnormal profits but that the Empire and our Allies may not want. However, all war material

of a manufactured kind has been produced at a profit and farmers are entitled to the same consideration on the part of our Governments. If storage facilities are not adequate to meet the situation, the state should take the matter in hand. The packer is not likely to suffer from any serious drop in prices for his product when placed on the market, so why should the original producer? A more even distribution of hog delivery throughout the season would help to solve the price problem but the customary sale of finished stuff in the fall seems to be an absolute essential and a factor very difficult to overcome. To use a colloquial phrase, "it is up" to the Government to see that some form of equity and justice reigns. They are in touch with overseas demands, transportation, storage facilities, and should know conditions in the country. It is a time when the authorities, packers and producers should get together and handle this situation in the best manner possible and in the interests of the country at large.

New Representation on The Railway Board.

On September 17, 1918, two members of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada will have served their allotted time and appointments will be in order. It is essential that agriculture be represented on the Railway Board but since the retirement of Dr. James Mills this fact has been overlooked. The Government is aware of the importance of husbandry in this country and realizes, we believe, that upon it will depend the welfare of the nation during the uncertain period which will follow the war. A natural course of events would insure the appointment of two representative agriculturists to take part in the deliberations of this body of officials. A proper railway policy will do much for the country and the upbuilding of agriculture and, in turn, farm products and rural requirements will contribute a large part of the revenue received by the roads, and it is revenue that most of them require. It does not seem likely that the Government will overlook these facts when the appointments are made. Production has, in the past, been looked upon as something that would "carry on" of its own accord and if it didn't, it was not a serious circumstance. In the future, however, with a national debt of huge proportions hanging over the door, we shall be obliged to view agriculture as the important factor contributing to prosperity. Transportation and production are interdependent one upon the other, and what industry represents more capital than does farming? Surely agriculture will be given representation on the Railway Board when the opportunity presents itself on and after September 17.

Standard Feeds for Live Stock.

The new standard feeds being made under contract should bring a measure of relief to Ontario stockmen, and many are now waiting for an opportunity to purchase a supply. The wheat, oats and barley mixture cannot be fed this season unless the wheat was grown with other grains and in such proportions as to make it impracticable to separate it. Those responsible for the standard hog feed claim that a ton of it will cost \$9.45 less than equal feeding value in oats and barley. This may appear too good to be true, but it is, no doubt, made possible through the use of by-products of the mills and the importation of concentrates from the United States. Canadian plants are now milling large quantities of corn flour of which process corn feed is a by-product. Analysis of this feed made at the Chemical Department of the Ontario Agricultural College revealed as much as 11.5 per cent. protein and 13 per cent. fat. This valuable product is being incorporated to some extent with the standard feed and should be very effective in the mixture or fed otherwise as a farmer may desire. The limit of 6 per cent. crude fibre will bar a