

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1886

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 27, 1914.

No. 1144

## EDITORIAL.

Once again the futility of despotism must be proven.

The police of the ocean are the finest squad in the British Empire.

It is not too late yet for shallow, after-harvest cultivation.

Cattle reached ten cents per pound on foot at Buffalo recently. Beefsteak is now one of the luxuries.

Wet days may be profitably put in cleaning up around the barns and stables in early preparation for stabling the stock.

Unprecedented preparation for war did not prevent the clash, but war itself is now likely to make for permanent peace.

One-man rule is tottering on the brink of an awful abyss, but awful only to the autocratic ruler—the people must win.

One serious side to the conflict, as far as Canada is concerned, is the throwing out of employment of large numbers of men.

So often it happens that late seeding is delayed by heavy rains, and the consequent late harvest suffers from the same cause.

Rough feed, provided one has the stock to which to feed it, is likely to prove more valuable this winter than for some time.

Many people seem to think that war makes farmers rich, but the greatest "haul" is generally made by the middleman or some clever financier.

Rains have proven a great benefit to pastures, but still there is need for extra feeding, and the corn crop is filling a big space in the milk cans.

The outside world knows little of the carnage at the scene of battle. Secrecy is a great aid to success in modern warfare, but the "war extra" is always busy.

The Commissariat Department is the most difficult to handle, and also the most important consideration in modern warfare. Men must be fed, and the land must still produce the food.

Horsemen in this country seem to be loath to part with horses for the war. As high as \$450 each has been asked for remounts. We wonder what these same horses were worth before the war broke out.

The present session of Parliament should be short, as the matters to be brought up admit of no party differences. Canada is one in her efforts to aid the Motherland, and all party politics must be sunk.

It is difficult at this time to think of anything other than war, but there are a few exhibitions coming on which are deserving of some attention, and which those who attend can make of profit to themselves if they will.

## The Beginning of the End.

Although fully recognizing the impossibility of forecasting where or when the present great European conflict will cease or what will be the outcome, authorities who have made a study of the economic and social condition of the world predict, and there seems no other alternative possible, the end of autocratic government the world over, and rule by the people will replace despotism. With this will come the end of great wars, and the establishment of world-wide permanent peace. If this is to be the outcome, and we hope it is, a beginning has already been made, for so soon has that most powerful of all autocrats, the Czar of Russia, promised to grant Russian Poland political autonomy if the Poles give him their support in the struggle with Austria-Hungary and Germany. This so far is only a promise, but it is the thin end of the wedge and a promise which must eventually be fulfilled, together with scores of other measures for the emancipation of the slaves of the system of bureaucratic control. This move on the part of the ruler of all the Russians will force Germany to offer like freedom to the part of Poland which she gobbled up two centuries ago. Whether it is granted now or not it will come before the end of the war. From this time forward the people are going to have supreme command of the situation, and the rights of the people have always been sufficient cause for war; and, moreover, the people have never received the fulness of their rights without war and bloodshed resulting from stubbornly contested battles. Great Britain entered this war on the side of the people with their freedom as the goal. It is not possible to foresee all the obstacles which may yet have to be overcome before Europe has been transformed from a powder magazine ready to explode at the heated word of an absolute monarch to a quiescent, secure and satisfied continent with good government by the people for the people. It is to be hoped that the war is soon over, but it must be remembered that the greatest freedom the world has known has only come after the fiercest of fighting. It may be so again, and it is always well to be prepared with a grim determination to calmly yet decisively see the thing through and never relinquish the firm hold on the side of right. Few can comprehend that the people would so soon be reaping a great reward as has been offered Poland. Such action on the part of an absolute monarch is almost unthinkable. And yet it is so. Why? Because it must come before the end of the war. The people will have their rights. The wedge of freedom has started to cut. Gradually it will be driven in and in until the toughest knot of bureaucracy splits into a thousand pieces and is dismembered, yes, dissolved before such justice as democratic government brings. The end is yet a long way off, but the goal is in sight.

## The Farmer's Busy Season.

Many people, including some farmers themselves, seem to think that after the grain harvest is safely stored away in the barn there is little more to do on the farm until the following spring. What few farmers believe this are not good farmers, and other people who allow their thoughts to run in this direction know nothing about farming. Fall is the busy season on the best-ordered farms. Perhaps we should not put it just that way, because a well-managed farm knows no slack season, but at any rate fall

is as busy as any. What with the preparation of the land for next season's crop, the harvesting of corn, roots, potatoes and apples, the threshings to attend and neighbors' silos to help fill, an increasing amount of chores incident upon the approach of winter, preparation for the stabling of the stock, and scores of odd jobs to be attended to, the up-to-date farmer finds no time to loaf around the village grocery and grumble about conditions generally. Show me a farmer that is not busy in the fall and I will show you one that is making a very indifferent success of his business. On the other hand point out one of the men who makes his autumn as busy as any other season of the year and more so than some, and you will hit upon a successful farmer, provided his efforts in some other direction are not too faulty. There is really no limit to the amount of work to be accomplished at this season. Cultivation is never over done and the fields are sure not to get too much; fences may be repaired, and there is so much to be made ready for winter. If you are not busy now Mr. Farmer there is something wrong with your system of farming.

## Fall Cultivation the Best Cultivation.

In reading a recent Government report of crop conditions in Canada we came across this significant sentence—"Crops after summer-fallows distinctly superior to those prepared by fall or spring ploughing." This is no more than one would expect, but the statement carries with it a hint for farmers generally to improve their methods of cultivation if they wish to get larger crops. There has been in some sections too much "running" of the land by successive grain cropping with no season of rest or change for the field. Fields sown to cereals year after year with only the minimum of cultivation necessary to prepare the land must soon become infested with the worst of our weeds, must also lose greatly in fertility, and consequently, when a year of adverse climatic conditions comes, show the greatest loss and the nearest approach to a crop failure. In the past many people have not been too favorable to the summer-fallow, and there is no doubt but that a bare fallow is an expensive method of cleaning ground, nevertheless the fact remains that according to the system of farming followed by some of our oldest and most successful farmers the summer-fallow was considered one of the most important parts of the regular cropping system, and when traveling about the country this summer one could not help but notice that crops, especially fall wheat, which had been sown on a carefully-worked and prepared summer-fallow yielded immensely more than those sown on a hurriedly-prepared stubble field. We sometimes wonder whether the loss of one year's crop and the extra time spent on keeping the summer-fallow cleaned would not be out-weighed by the increased crop on the fallow, and the advantage of being rid of large numbers of weeds which would otherwise infest the field. Summer-fallowed fall wheat fields this year are yielding in some localities between thirty-five and forty bushels per acre, while other fields not sown on fallow are not yielding half this amount.

For cleaning land there is nothing much better than the summer-fallow if it is worked properly. Of late it has been necessary on most farms, owing to scarcity of labor, to use some