

THE FARM BULLETIN

MORE FREEDOM TO CONSTABLES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Have just read in the papers about the chief of police in Leamington shooting a man who resisted arrest, being censured, and the coroner's jury recommending that stricter rules be made regarding the use of firearms by constables.

I think if a criminal resists arrest, or a prisoner tries to escape, that a constable is justified in using his gun. It is his duty if he is appointed constable to arrest all bad characters, and why should he have to take all the abuse and rough handling and let his man away? It is small encouragement for a constable to close with a rough at all, if he is not to defend himself and take his man at any cost. Our country would come to a pretty pass if the police were not allowed to use their guns. It is only the gun that makes some criminals submit at all, and with the number of rowdies at large increasing, I say give more freedom to police in the use of guns, clubs, or anything else to gather them in. If the police were given better pay and more freedom, more roughs would be gathered in, and the farmers' wives and daughters, especially on the back roads, would breathe freer.

If tramps and all other toughs were given good long terms in prison, stone-breaking or some other hard labor, we would see fewer of them.

North Perth, Ont.

WILL R. TUMBULL.

MILITARISM AGAIN!

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of June 18th there appeared yet another letter from a Military-trained Farmer. I reply. I do not think that our friend is going too far afield by calling our attention to Switzerland, for this great question of peace knows no boundary line.

Your correspondent says that the military training in the schools of Switzerland is an excellent illustration of his theory. It is also an object-lesson to the farmers of Canada. If they will stop to consider a few figures they will see what is the cost of militarism in the Swiss schools.

Let us compare the area of Switzerland with the 3,456,000-odd miles of Canada. Switzerland has but 15,976 square miles of territory—that is, smaller than any single Province in the Dominion (with the exception of P. E. I.). The population of Switzerland is 3,463,609 (less than that of a large city), yet their military drill and fortifications costs the Swiss \$7,675,057.10 every year.

I once heard it stated that if the population of Canada goes on increasing as fast as at the present time, the period is not far distant when Canada will be the home of fifty millions of people. If Canada is to follow in the steps of this Republic, as Military Farmer proposes, what will be the cost of militarism, if, like Switzerland, we spend \$7,675,057.10 for every 3,463,609 of our population, or for every area of 15,976 square miles?

Last year the Canadian Government spent eleven dollars on the military for every dollar that was spent upon agricultural encouragement, and this in a time of peace. Are we going to follow in the footsteps of European nations, where progress is handicapped, and where the people are starving under the burden of military taxation?

Switzerland's military training has fostered a war spirit, otherwise she would not have been able to supply other nations with soldiers. But a reaction has come, and it is from Berne, Switzerland, that an appeal has come to the world for a book, a manual for teachers, in which the author is to explain the principles of peace and their application, also to show how the duties of the citizen towards his own country and towards humanity can be reconciled and developed.

Let me, in conclusion, emphasize my previous remarks by quoting Benjamin Trueblood:

"Military drill trains the body perfectly for its own purposes, and for the time being has a certain amount of physical value. But its ultimate utility to the citizen in ordinary life has been greatly overestimated. The forms and positions which it enforces are stiff and unnatural, and cannot well be maintained any great length of time.

"Military drill as a training for war is entirely out of harmony with the purpose and ideals of the schools, and if introduced into them will unfortunately keep alive that excessive admiration of the soldier ideal which has been anything but a blessing to mankind. We ought to educate for peace and the future, and not for the past, and war."

Thanking you for your space, and wishing "The Farmer's Advocate" success.

ETNICE WATTS.

Nova Scotia.

Mr. W. S. Hawkshaw, of Chilliwack, B.C., formerly of Middlesex Co., Ont., under date August 5th, writes: Very dry season since April, but have just put up 150 tons hay, running from three to four tons per acre. Wheat all cut, and starting the oats.

Prof. W. J. Carson, B.S.A., who has had charge of the Dairy Department of the Manitoba Agricultural College since its opening, has resigned from the College staff. The Board is said to be considering the appointment of a bacteriologist, biologist and poultry manager, as well as a successor to Prof. Carson.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE CONVENTION AT TORONTO FAIR.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture will erect a tent this year in the usual place, near the judging ring, upon the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition. Farmers and their friends will be made welcome at this tent at all times during the Exhibition. Representatives of the various branches will be in attendance, and may be consulted upon matters relating to the work of the Department.

A Farmers' Institute convention will be held in the amphitheatre of the Dairy Building upon September 8th and 9th. The programme is as follows:—

PROGRAMME.

September 8th.

3.00 p.m.—Presiding Officer, Hon. Nelson Monteith.

Report by the Superintendent, and general discussion on:—

Condition of work throughout the Province, and suggestions for improvements.

Consideration of the advisability of holding the annual meetings in the fall or winter months.

7.30 p.m.—Farmers' Institute Clubs.

Report from Officers of Clubs as to the work done in the past season, and recommendations for future work.

Special Institutes: Fruit, Live Stock, Poultry, etc.

(District representatives of the Department who are teaching in High Schools, and Institute workers, will take part in the presentation of these subjects.)

September 9th.

9.00 a.m.—Advertising: Description of methods now followed; the weaknesses of the same, and suggestions for improvement.

How can we secure a more hearty co-operation on the part of the directors?

Development of local speakers.

Question drawer.

Note.—It is expected that the afternoon and evening sessions of the 8th, and the morning of the 9th, will give sufficient time to deal with the topics to be brought before the convention. If further time is required, an early afternoon session will be held on the 9th.

One of the most important matters to be brought before the convention is that of the establishment of Farmers' Institute Clubs. The reports from representatives of the different Clubs will form a feature of the convention, and should prove of encouragement to farmers generally. Not only the officers of the Institutes, but all farmers will be made welcome.

THE SEMI-ARID BELT OF ALBERTA.

That Alberta has a semi-arid tract of land is true, but that this area is too dry for successful and profitable farming is a mistake common to the East, and to be regretted.

That part of the Western Prairie "so-called the semi-arid belt" is an immense tract of land extending due south from Calgary to the International Boundary. This belt is about one hundred miles in width, but varies considerably with the geographical conditions of different localities. The greater part of this land is made up of a thick layer of rich black prairie loam, with a heavy clay subsoil. Three hundred feet below this coal is mined from a vein five feet in thickness. This vein extends over the greater portion of Southern Alberta.

The climate is ideal. The winters are mild and dry, and the springs are wet and cool. The immense growth of rich, nutritious prairie grass, and the mild open winters, make it possible to rear cattle at a very little expense. For this reason this district is especially adapted to cattle grazing.

WINTER WHEAT MUST COME AND THE RANCHER MUST GO.

But to carry on grazing successfully a comparatively large territory per cow is necessary. During the last few years people, attracted by her soil, climate and wealth, immigrated and took up homesteads by the thousands, and gradually lessened the grazing area. This was robbing the ranchers, and they, to defend their industry, began narratives to the effect that grain could never be successfully raised on this semi-arid belt, that there was scarcely enough moisture for grazing. These stories had their effect; the press, through ignorance, took it up, and for years immigration ceased. At length, after several pioneer farmers had proven that wheat, and especially winter wheat, could be raised successfully on this large area, people gained confidence, and the influx of immigration started in earnest. To-day this land sells at a higher price than the wet lands to the north, and this year she will produce, on the average, about twenty bushels of spring wheat and thirty-five bushels of winter wheat for every acre put under cultivation.

Montana, to the south, experienced the same difficulty in her early days. No one ever thought of raising wheat in Montana, but to-day she exports millions of bushels. If we would compare the annual rainfall of these two territories we would find that this "so-called arid part of Alberta" has over eight inches more rainfall per year than Montana.

We are glad to see in Alberta that the people are gradually gaining confidence in this semi-arid district.

It is true that we could profit with more moisture, but with careful cultivation, and by conserving and utilizing what moisture we do get, this rich fertile country will be called the Banner Wheat District of Canada. Cattle grazing is still a large industry, but winter wheat is the crop for this district. Grazing must in time be a thing of the past.

JAS. A. HAYES.

CROP PROSPECTS GOOD, THOUGH NOT ROSY.

An estimate of the yield of Canadian crops, based on the condition of the fields on the last day of July, has been issued by the Dominion Bureau of Census and Statistics. The report indicates a decline in the prospective wheat yield from 84% of a full crop at the end of June to a 76% crop at the end of July. However, the returns will be a long way ahead of last year. The text of the official report is quoted as follows:—

"The heat and drouth of July have lowered the condition of field crops all over Canada, but less in Ontario and Alberta than elsewhere, because the ripening season in these Provinces has been earlier. Measured on the basis of 100 for a standard condition, being a full crop of good quality, wheat fell during the month from 84 to 76, oats from 90 to 81, barley from 83 to 80, rye from 92 to 78, peas from 82 to 79, mixed grains from 84 to 81, and hay and clover from 87 to 82. Beans alone have not deteriorated; their condition at the end of the month was 75 per cent., or one more than at the end of June. Other crops show conditions for the end of July of 78 for potatoes, 74 for turnips, 73 for sugar beets, 75 for other roots, 77 for husking corn, and 83 for fodder corn.

"It was too early at the end of July to give estimates of production for the Lower Provinces and British Columbia, but from reports of correspondents in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the yields of wheat, oats, barley and hay and clover are computed to be as shown in the following table:

Provinces.	Wheat. Bush.	Oats. Bush.
Quebec	1,575,000	37,008,000
Ontario	18,164,000	111,888,000
Manitoba	56,164,000	54,202,000
Saskatchewan	47,060,000	38,130,000
Alberta	7,280,000	28,026,000
Total	130,263,000	269,254,000

Provinces.	Barley. Bush.	Hay, Clover. Tons.
Quebec	2,289,000	3,616,000
Ontario	20,804,000	4,972,000
Manitoba	21,184,000	158,000
Saskatchewan	2,640,000	24,000
Alberta	4,773,000	10,000
Total	51,690,000	8,780,000

"In the western parts of Ontario harvesting and haying operations were largely completed at the end of July, and in Alberta they were under way. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba cutting was not expected to begin earlier than the second week of August."

SUGGESTIONS FOR SWAMP DRAINAGE ASKED FOR.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have a piece of swamp, all cleared, extending across my farm (80 rods) in a diagonal direction. It is from ten to twenty rods wide; lower side loam on top, then blue clay; center black muck, six feet deep, getting shallower toward the sides; high side hardpan, mixed with chalk stones and inclined to quicksand, with occasional springs; very miry in spring and wet seasons, and no use for pasture. I would like to drain it, and the following difficulties present themselves, viz.:

Size of tile, distance apart of drains, how to prevent tile from sinking in the muck, getting off level and filling with muck. The swamp is high up, and plenty of fall.

Perhaps some reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" may have had some experience with such a piece of ground, and would publish it for the benefit of Oxford Co., Ont.

A SUBSCRIBER.

FAIR DATES FOR 1908.

August 29th to Sept. 14th.—Canadian National, Toronto.
August 29th to Sept. 5th.—Sherbrooke, Que.
Sept. 2nd to 10th.—Nova Scotia Provincial, Halifax.
Sept. 11th to 19th.—Western Fair, London.
Sept. 12th to 19th.—St. John, N. B.
Sept. 18th to 26th.—Ottawa Central.
Sept. 22nd and 23rd.—St. Thomas Horse Show, St. Thomas, Ont.
Sept. 22nd to 25th.—Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Sept. 29th to Oct. 3rd.—New Westminster, B. C.
Oct. 8th and 9th.—Kilsyth Agricultural Society, Kilsyth.
Nov. 28th to Dec. 10th.—International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago.
Dec. 2nd to 10th.—National Dairy Show, Chicago.
Dec. 7th to 11th.—Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Toronto.