

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

The feeling in some sections that no school is too good for the children is a commendable one indeed.

The opinion has been expressed in military circles that July 15 was the turning point in the great War.

The summer is passing quickly yet many have failed to notice that "The Circus" has not come to town.

Clean milk and cream cans, both inside and outside, are a good advertisement, indicating thoroughness and attention to business.

There will be no slack time this year. When the corn cultivation is done it will be time to start the plow and begin the after-harvest cultivation.

It is likely that good grade heifers will enjoy a keen demand immediately after the war. Use the right kind of a sire now and produce the stuff that is sure to sell.

"Booze" is likely to get another setback in the United States as a result of the action of the National Coal Association, which has asked for nation-wide prohibition. John Barleycorn is on the run.

Whatever the harvest may be farmers have done their part nobly this year. In no other industry would an appeal to produce for patriotic reasons only meet with such a universal and generous response.

It is encouraging to note that coal miners in the United States are now placed in the deferred classification in regard to the Draft. This will be reassuring to those who depend on the black diamonds for heat.

Potato diseases can be detected in the plants more easily than in the tuber. If your own stock is not satisfactory it would pay to keep an eye on some neighbor's field which appears clean, and obtain seed from him for 1919.

Some time ago General Foch issued a statement to the effect that victory comes only through an offensive. Apparently he meant when the offensive was conducted by himself, for the enemy have found that such are not always profitable.

The proper community spirit will be found more easy to develop when the home spirit is right. There is no place quite so attractive in this world as a good home, and any community movement builded upon such is sure to grow.

It certainly adds to appearance of the harvest and the conservation of grain to cradle a good, wide swath around the grain field before going in with the binder. Unfortunately, the cradle is used too little, both in the home and on the farm.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board displayed a certain degree of wisdom in granting permission to the tile makers in Western Ontario to continue the use of gas until November. A further extension will reveal a desire on the part of the Board to assist in food production.

The call of Canada for the return of the Prime Minister and his colleagues reminds one of a poem that at one time appeared in the school readers, and which put into verse the appeal of a father to his erring daughter. One stanza began thus:

"Come back! come back! he cried in grief,
Across the stormy water."

The Harvest.

The season of 1918 opened rather auspiciously. The determination of those on the land, in whom was vested the duty and the privilege to feed the nation in her distress and the soldiers fighting in her behalf, to do their best was never stronger. Increased acreages were planted with good seed and with an earnest hope that the harvest would be sufficiently abundant to strike a telling blow at the ruthless enemy to the peace and comfort of mankind. Men and women worked as they never worked before; not for monetary gains and the pecuniary advantages that might accrue but in the service of the Empire that their sons and kin overseas might not want for food, and that the awful conflict might be more speedily terminated, bringing peace on earth and a cessation of the carnage which means bereavement to their homes and the homes of others. There was, without doubt, a war spirit which prompted this exceptional effort and which found expression not in words but in acres of seeded ground.

What the harvest will be it is difficult to say, but the wheat crop is rather disappointing from a yield-per-acre point of view. The increased acreage will offset this failure somewhat, but we cannot expect the enormous production which the Western country has enjoyed in years past. A stern providence acting through the medium of drouth and other unfavorable conditions has nullified to a certain degree the labors of the Canadian farmer, but the spirit and determination which encouraged him in his 1918 endeavors is not blasted. The silly chatter and childish prattle of some city folk has been much resented and in some cases it has worked mischief, but rural people are more or less accustomed to it anyway and are not perturbed. If the harvest does not come up to expectations the war spirit prevails, and will prompt such preparations for 1919 that Canada may still be proud of her achievements in the great War.

Community Spirit.

Rural sociology is a term used with much greater glibness by persons who philosophize upon the various aspects of farming than by those who farm, and the rural problem, as such, bothers those who live and work in rural districts less by far than those who devote a part of their time to a study of social science and live in the city. Farmers work and live with each other year after year without bothering very much about just how they do it. To farm, one must live in the country and once one has determined, either by choice or by force of circumstances, to accept farming as a lifelong occupation, the social conditions which accompany farming as an occupation are rarely given much further thought. In this issue an account is given of how one rural community has developed a real "community spirit", and the fact that in this community the people have learned to boost wholeheartedly those things desired by the majority, should lead those in other districts whose ideals for community development are continually bespattered with the unpleasantness of discord, to keep manfully on. What has been accomplished in one locality may be duplicated in others.

Perhaps the proper forces have not been called into requisition, or perhaps some of these forces are working at cross purposes. Undoubtedly the two greatest forces which can be used with best effect in any rural community for the improvement of social relations are the church and the school. The responsibilities to be shouldered by the rural minister and the rural school teacher are great, but willing shoulders to bear them are few. Far from being a place of discord, which, unfortunately, often happens, the rural church should be the rallying point for all the progressive forces in the community. Instead, we often witness with greater vividness in the

rural church than any other place the truth of Defoe's lines,

"Wherever God erects a house of prayer
The devil always builds a chapel there,"

and the rural minister must frequently bear his share of responsibility for the fact that the chapel is well filled. When discord enters the city church the malcontents may transfer their support to another in the next block, but in the country there is no such opportunity for restoring calm to the troubled waters; the responsibility rests heavily upon the preacher. The country minister should be a minister in deed and in word and above all else should understand the business of his people and sympathize with them in their work.

To saddle a like responsibility upon the shoulders of many of the teachers who are at present entrusted with the primary education of our rural school children is perhaps logical, but unfair. By no pathway can the home be more quickly or more surely reached than through the school, but it is unfortunate that our teachers so often lack that sympathy with the home life of their pupils which they need, and it were well if they could be given opportunity to consider wisely their responsibilities before undertaking the big work which lies before them in rural school sections.

Another Step in Stallion Enrolment.

The Ontario Stallion Act, which for four years has been subjected to ridicule and abuse by certain horse-men and has been as fervently eulogized by others, will on August 1 appear in mature form and become vested with the full power which it was intended that it should in time acquire. That is to say: "On and after the first day of August, 1918, no 'grade stallion' as defined in the said regulations shall be allowed to stand, travel, or be offered for service in the Province, and, on and after such day, no fees shall be collectible for the services thereof."

This is the sentence on the grade stallion appearing in the Ontario Stallion Act, and it now becomes the duty of the Provincial Government to see that the decree is actually carried into effect. This is, to our mind, one of the most important conditions of the Act, for we long since arrived at that stage of development in the horse industry where we should have dispensed with grades and scrub pure-breds. Horse colts eligible for registration have been castrated simply because practically any horse could travel the roads and so demoralize the stallion business that a remunerative patronage was not assured for worthy horses after being brought to a serviceable age. Last year there were 640 grade stallions doing service in Ontario, and there is a disposition on the part of some owners to ask for an extension of time. Such a concession would be altogether unjustifiable for the warning was given in 1914 that grades would, four years hence, be disqualified under the Act and relegated to the plow or some occupation whereat they would have no influence on the future horse stocks of the Province. In spite of that warning there were three-year-old stallions enrolled in 1917 showing that they were left entire, notwithstanding the knowledge that very soon they would be banned if the law were enforced in its entirety. We would be the last to concur with any unreasonable Governmental interference with private business, but when the services of a grade stallion are offered to the public it concerns the state, and should not be tolerated. August 1 should mark the passing of the grade stallion.

If Hindenburg was not ill or dead before the last Allied offensive, he will surely feel sick now.