

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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I.V.

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EDITORIAL.

Let the hum of the fanning mill be heard throughout the land!

Save the very best from the bin for seed, and feed the inferior grain!

Inspect the cattle occasionally for vermin, and if such is discovered, apply the remedy.

Some of the ice which is so plentiful now will come in handy next summer. Don't neglect the ice harvest even if some is stored only for use in the house.

A man must love his work to be really successful at it. Those working solely for the pay cheque are prone to do their duties in a mechanical manner.

The man who seeks an office is not likely to render as valuable service as the man sought after by the office. The success of any organization depends a good deal on the men at the head.

Do not leave the purchasing of seed grain, clovers, grasses, corn, etc., until a week or two before they are needed. Most farmers know now the quantity they want to sow, and it is well to have these things on hand.

Farmers suffer through the extravagance of others and are obliged to pay more than commodities are worth simply because urban dwellers, who are spending too freely, do not examine the price ticket or the quality of the article they are buying. Styles and prices are now regulated by the unwise and profligate spender.

Fat stock shows are to demonstrate what can be done in the way of breeding and feeding prime bullocks, sheep and swine for the block. Some men have shown very ordinary feeders in fat classes just because there was a chance to secure a little prize money. It is a good thing that this type of live-stock men are in the minority.

If the special Government prizes are to fulfil their purpose and be educational, first prize money should not be awarded to animals that do not measure up in quality and fit to the requirements of the class. A red ribbon indicates a certain degree of excellence in the animal to which it is awarded, and a wrong impression might be created by giving a first prize to a mean individual simply because it happens to be the best in the class.

The Allied Powers might well forget the Kaiser, who already stands condemned at the bar of public opinion. He is now an outcast, and a more severe form of punishment than is being meted out to him at present would only elicit sympathy for a feeble, senile derelict. The Kaiser is not the greatest problem the world has to face to-day, and the statesmen of Europe could better employ their time than trying to wrest the fallen Emperor from the Dutch who seem to love him so.

Our agricultural colleges and extension services might teach the finishing and marketing of live stock more than has been the custom in the past. The pure-bred and breeding end of the business has been emphasized, and rightly so, but producers generally do not know the market grades of live stock and their relative values. The stock yards furnish a great deal of information which ought to be taken to farmers, or young farmers assembled for short courses might well be taken to the stock yards, where convenient, so as to get an idea of what happens at these great marketing centres.

The Civil Service Squabble.

It is a question which illegitimate child of the present Government, the Board of Commerce or the Civil Service Commission, will go down in history as the greatest disrupter of the agricultural industry in this Dominion. The Civil Service Commission has through its iniquitous and stupid reclassification demoralized the Agricultural Department at Ottawa, destroyed morale, stifled enthusiasm and practically chloroformed the whole agricultural staff. In the eyes of the "expert classifier" an agriculturist is branded, and no matter what department of the Government may number him as a servant he is given scant consideration. Valuable experts are leaving the Department, and others have resignations all ready to present as soon as they find other positions. The result is simply this: All the promising young men trained by the Government of Canada at the expense of the people are getting into commercial work as quickly as they can, or into other lines where they will be laboring in the interests of the few instead of in the interests of the many, and the Government will continue to carry on a technical training school for the benefit of the manufacturers and commercial interests of this country. There may be too many civil servants, but there are already too few experts whose labors in a year would mean thousands of dollars saved to the farmers of Canada. Unfortunately, the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. S. F. Tolmie, has been ill at his home in Victoria and unable to use his influence to the utmost in behalf of the particular branch of Government over which he presides. Happily, however, Dr. Tolmie is recovering and is expected East about the first of February. When he does arrive he will find a very critical situation and one that will require the efforts of a thoroughly well man to deal with. In addition to the chaos resulting from the Civil Service reclassification it is generally understood that agriculture is dealt with very harshly in the estimates to be placed before Parliament during the next session. Such action as this would be very inopportune and unwise at the present juncture, and Dr. Tolmie cannot afford to sacrifice his good reputation by condoning, for the sake of the Government, the present reclassification or shouldering the responsibility for reduced appropriations for agriculture at this time. A Minister of Agriculture has one powerful weapon, and only one with which to fight his battles in a Cabinet Council at Ottawa, and that is his Resignation. Should the Minister fail to obtain for the farming industry of the Dominion the recognition it deserves, he can still make use of the weapon to which we refer, and should he wield it, the generous approbation of the farming population generally will be a greater reward and promise more for the future than would a continued alliance with the Government of which he is a member.

Swine Raisers are Anxious.

The Canadian Swine Breeders' Association and the Ontario organization might well devote a little attention at their coming meetings to the status of the industry in this country in so far as the raiser of commercial stock is concerned. Farmers admit that they can feed their home-grown grain to hogs and get market prices for it, but all they receive for their labor is the manure. In these days of 25 to 200 per cent. profits in other lines, a small manure pile is not looked upon as a satisfactory dividend. More than that, the hog business has been so manipulated by the Board of Commerce that farmers became suspicious of the future, and nothing official has been said since early last fall about the export trade. The West cleaned out its brood sows, and Eastern Canada made no great effort to conserve them. We are short of breeding stock simply because of the uncertainty, or, to put it in barn-yard language, because farmers "don't know where they're at."

The liquidation of breeding stock last autumn was

much to be regretted as were the circumstances which brought it about. We are confident, however, that the best policy is to carry on to the extent of one's possibilities, for in the end the swine industry will be one of the best branches of agriculture, and we should take the long rather than the short view of the situation. We can understand, nevertheless, why those with large swine herds reduced the numbers, but the average farmer with one sow or two ought to, in his own interests if for no other reason, endeavor to keep his production up to normal and be ready when the business begins to improve. The breeders of pure-bred swine, when assembled at Toronto, might well make it their business to investigate the conditions and circumstances surrounding the marketing of hogs, and endeavor to give some information to the producing public that will clear the air and restore confidence.

Every Farmer an Experimenter.

Farmers individually have no time for extensive or exhaustive experiments, but the time has come in Eastern Canada when it is almost necessary for each farmer to be an experimenter on his own farm, and find out what each field lacks in the way of soil ingredients, and what crops are best adapted to his particular location. Soil surveys have been made, but if work were carried on in the Province of Ontario for twenty-five years investigators and chemists would not be able to tell individual farmers what their soils needed most, unless they happened to take samples on those particular farms and carry out experiments in connection with them. This would be impossible. Any advice chemists or investigators would be able to give will be of a general character, and after all the farmer will have to go about it blindly or else experiment for himself. There has been a good deal of tradition and broad statements mixed up in the advice handed out to farmers. For instance, dent corn has been generally recommended as the best kind for silage production, because it gives the largest tonnage per acre and a fair maturity in most sections. It is a question in the minds of many whether dents will really out-yield flints in northern and eastern districts, and even if they do, probably the superior maturity in the flint varieties will more than counter-balance the extra tonnage produced by dents. Farmers could easily answer this question for themselves by small experiments on their own farms, which would not entail any great additional labor. We have been dealing largely in generalities when discussing varieties of crops, and it is time that farmers decided for themselves just what is best adapted to their particular farms and fields.

A Thrift Campaign Needed.

Canada's greatest need to-day is a nation-wide campaign urging a pleasure-mad, luxury-chasing people to turn from the path of wanton extravagance to the highway of thrift and sensible living. Since munition wages set the minds of men and women in a whirl, there has been a headlong rush for expensive non-essentials; human labor and industrial machinery of the nation have been switched from the production of staple articles to the manufacture of gaudy and unnecessary luxuries, and the sad part of the story is that those who need most to save up a little for a rainy day are the most profligate in their spending. The commodities placed on the market and the price-list attached are determined not by the purchasing habits of the sober-minded, thrifty classes, but by the majority of buyers who are found in towns and cities where the so-called working classes are spending and buying as people never spent or bought before. Good, sensible staples are now dear because they are scarce, and everything else is expensive because people will pay the price. In this way the wise are forced to suffer with

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