

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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1866

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LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 28, 1918.

1327

EDITORIAL.

General Disorder seems to be in supreme command in Russia.

The Russian Bear seems to be dancing to everybody's music.

Every farm should produce at least some good seed of some crop this year.

If more hogs are produced more feed must be arranged for from the home farm.

The Canadian Government is making it easier for the farmer to own his own tractor.

A February thaw does not necessarily mean an early spring. Make the feed hold out.

If Canada does not want a German-made peace Canada must produce more food than ever before.

If you decide to sow spring wheat this year be sure to put it on your strongest land.

Spring ought to be just around the corner. The spring and summer catalogues arrived some time since.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that threshing gangs would help solve the fall labor problem in Ontario.

Canada has no sheep to go to the dogs but many dogs that might well be spared to take their last long journey.

Most eminently successful stock breeders owe their success to an outstanding sire used in their studs, herds or flocks.

Remember it requires food to grow plants just as it does to grow live stock. Feed the farm and it will supply food for both man and beast.

Since the corn for the extra brood sow has not arrived from the South it might be safer to plan to grow the extra pig feed on the home farm.

Judging from the great number of auction sales of dairy cattle, milkers must be scarce or the price of milk and its products not high enough—either or both.

No farm should be without a good garden and in it there should be plenty of small fruits as well as vegetables. Now is the time to select plants and seeds.

The selective draft takes men to fight. What would be wrong with a fair system of selective draft to get men to produce food and other necessities for the fighters?

The President of a leading American University recently stated that the uncertainty of Food Control had not made for increased production. It never can.

Quoted prices of root seeds should bring home to the grower of field roots the necessity for producing these seeds right here in Canada. Try it on your own farm.

We all admire the girl, whose two brothers are at the front, for throwing the frying pan at her exempted suitor when he told her of the good times he had planned for this summer—that he didn't need to work and was buying a new automobile just to take her out driving. We hope she scored a direct hit with that old frying pan.

Preparation Week.

How would it do to make next week "preparation week"? Spring is drawing near. Labor for seeding will be scarce. Everything should be ready. Preparation week would ensure that the supply of seed was cleaned and all the implements, machinery, harness, and necessary appliances were ready for the field on the first day that the land will work. Increased production cannot be left to chance. Good seed early seeding and seed well put in will be big factors. To ensure all these, clean the seed in preparation week. Clean it and reclean it until nothing but the large plump seed remains. Some of it may be bagged ready to go to the fields if the granary is free of mice or it may be placed in specially cleaned bins ready to be bagged. Have the grain bags patched, clean, and ready for the seed. Purchase a supply of formalin with which to treat the seed for smut. Then go over all the implements and machinery. Get the harrow teeth sharpened. Tighten all loose nuts. Repair all worn or cracked parts. Oil the harness and have it put in repair. Get an extra whiffletree or two ironed in case of a break in seeding and always have an extra double-tree on hand. Begin to put the horses in condition. Preparation may take longer than one week and it will pay to start early and have everything ready for a maximum day's work each day after the land is ready for the seed.

The Farm Wood-lot.

The real value of a farm wood-lot is manifested in a season such as this country has just experienced. Wood may not be as cheap fuel as coal but a good wood-lot on the farm is security against any fuel shortage and sound, dry hardwood such as beech and maple is very satisfactory fuel for stove or furnace. The fuel problem in Canada is likely to grow even more acute as the years go by and farmers who have a little broken land on their places should plan and plant for the days to come. Where a wood-lot remains it would be wise to fence it away from the live stock so that the young growth may flourish unmolested and the older trees remain vigorous. Pasturing is death to trees. Grass bottoms cause dead tops. Cattle eat off all young growth. A wood-lot cannot flourish with live stock running through it. A thick growth should be encouraged to keep down grass hold the leaves and ultimately form that rich leaf mold common in dense forests over the entire surface. Wood-lots should be culled for wood. Cut the diseased trees—those showing dead tops or any that appear unthrifty. Undesirable varieties should be taken out to allow the choice to do their best. In a lot where the trees are thin, after fencing, nature might be aided in her efforts to re-timber the land by planting. Young trees may be secured from the Forestry Branch of the Provincial Government. A wood-lot for every farm would be a good motto for Old Ontario.

A National Winter Fair.

Movements are already on foot toward the establishment of a large, national or international, winter live stock exhibition in Canada. We have in this country a number of Winter Fairs good of their kind but looked upon as provincial or more or less local affairs. A number of the leading stockmen of the country believe that Canada should have a big and final round-up of live stock each year and that it might be well to encourage competition from across the border. Certain men connected with the Board of Trade in the City of Hamilton have been busy on such a proposition for some time, and last fall called together a number of stockmen to discuss the subject. The Management of the Canadian National Exhibition Toronto has already taken up the idea and is putting forward all the strong arguments in favor of Toronto as the place

to hold the proposed show. Possibly other cities may have something to offer. The Live Stock Associations recently assembled in annual meetings in Toronto, appointed delegates to confer on the matter and until they report it is perhaps wiser to say little regarding the proposition but it would be well for the stockbreeders who must be depended upon to put up the show if it ever becomes a reality to insist upon managing their own show. True, buildings must be had and these are only available in a large city. Moreover, a large city is the only place that can accommodate a crowd of people. But a winter live stock show controlled and operated by a number of controllers, aldermen and other city officials stands very little chance of being a lasting success. This should be remembered by both stockmen and city officials. A live stock show must be controlled by live stock breeders otherwise it cannot get their whole-hearted support. The city in which the exhibition is to be held must have representation on the Board, but not in such numbers and spirit as to entirely dominate it. This should be remembered and wherever the show is located stockmen should be sure their show will be practically in their own hands. This means success which will be of value to the industry to the city in which the show is held and to all Canada.

Fall Fairs Should "Start Something."

Practically all the delegates to the recent convention of the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions were obsessed with the idea that the School Fall Fair was injuring the Fall Fairs held by the agricultural societies. The convention appeared unanimous in the desire that the Department of Agriculture should amalgamate the two wherever possible, and thus eliminate that competition through which the ordinary and time-hallowed township fair was suffering. One delegate asked for this concession on the grounds that the School Fair in a certain township was able to draw 1,500 people, whereas the agricultural society could only muster less than 500 within its gates on Fair Day. To the unprejudiced ear this argument sounds very similar to what a manufacturer with antiquated and worn-out machinery might advance in asking protection against a modern and efficient plant. The School Fall Fairs are a unique institution, inception for a special purpose and operated in such a way as to interest the youth in things agricultural as well as train him in organization and executive work. If this is being accomplished it does not seem right to erect any obstacles or bury one type of fair in the other, to the detriment of both. Too frequently the Fall Fair is nothing but an event where a performance, cleverly christened "Tests of Speed," is camouflaged by a few tents and fewer farm-team wagons with some sheep and swine in them. Any association with such would imperil the School Fall Fair.

The annual Fall Fair should go on its way and appeal on its own merits. Perhaps a few of the smaller and less prosperous ones should amalgamate; there are instances in Ontario where this has been done successfully. The element of youth seems necessary now to insure the success of any organization and the Fair Boards should bear this in mind. Graduates from the School Fair will make progressive and efficient directors for the agricultural society in days to come and upon their shoulders will rest considerable responsibility. The Agricultural Society of Wilmot Township realizes the healthful influence of youth. They employ a progressive young Secretary and cater to the young men and school children of the township. From these two latter classes they know recruits must be enlisted to carry the burden of responsibility. That society feels that the School Fair is a benefit in spite of the fact that it competes with the annual township fair. The children exhibit at both events and get their parents interested. The Agricultural Society in question has special sections in the prize list for school exhibits and an extra effort