

Dr. Maria Montessori

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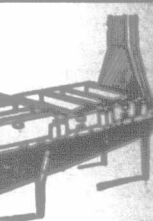
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VOL. XLIX.

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No. 1116

EDITORIAL

Buy seeds early, and get the best.

So far the winter has not been very "surly."

The agitation for a better recognition of agriculture has not been in vain.

Prepare to sow the kind of seed which will ensure a good crop in 1914.

The man who will need an extra horse in the spring would save money by buying early.

By repairing implements and machinery now you are preparing for the season which is approaching.

The season of new-milk cows is at hand. Start now to weigh the milk and place each cow on a fair basis.

We recently read an enquiry for grass seed which contained this statement, "No. 1 quality not necessary." It is always necessary.

The United States has removed the embargo on arms entering Mexico from that country. If the Mexicans must fight this should hasten the end.

Which is the most likely to grow into a profitable cow, that good heifer calf from your own high-producing cow, or a nondescript heifer purchased at a public sale?

Sir Edward Grey, in a speech recently delivered at Manchester, England, stated that competition in armaments would eventually lead to disaster, and ruin the prosperity of Europe. If he persisted in there can be no other end.

One may retail sausage over a counter, shovel coal or guide the destinies of a street car with a moderate stock of capacity, but when it comes to twentieth-century farming, the problems involved call for a full endowment.

The members of the various live-stock associations who did not attend the annual meetings held last week in Toronto should not complain if things were not done according to their views. Each should attend and support his own ideas.

A fake promoter has been rounded up in Toronto by the police selling thousands of dollars worth of stock to gullible town folks in an illumination project contrived to light whole farms and enable farmers to plow all night. This is probably another scheme to pull down the cost of living.

"The Last War in the World" is the title of a lurid article in the Century Magazine by H. G. Wells, who describes a fearsome aeroplane conflict over Germany, the cities of which perish in a cataclysm of falling bombs. People may raise their eyebrows over the notion, but its no phantasy with your military enthusiast. The audacity with which he conceives new schemes and burdens to fasten upon a long-suffering people passes belief. France has already under way a public national subscription for a million-dollar aeroplane war fleet of 210 craft, military air posts and pilots all ready to fight. It is to be hoped that the last war will soon be over

Aiding Agriculture and Promoting Peace.

When the great nations of the world are straining every nerve in a useless competition of armaments, and year after year the expense incurred in an endeavor to overcome the danger of war by preparation for war increases, it would seem that the great poet, Tennyson who seventy-two years ago predicted that following a period in which the great navies of the world would be navies of the air, the war drum would no longer throb, and the battle flags would be furled "In the Parliament of man the Federation of the world" had thrown out a prophesy which would never come true. But turning from the preparation for strife, which is continuously going on in the naval yards and the armor manufacturing plants of Europe, to the public opinion which is gradually gaining ground in the New World, we see the beginning of the fulfilment of this prophesy.

People are commencing to understand that there are many industries more deserving of advancement than those connected with the manufacture of munitions of war. This was evidenced in the estimates which were recently brought down in the House of Commons at Ottawa. Reductions were made in both militia and naval expenditures, and at the same time a very marked increase in the amount allotted for the encouragement of agriculture, the basic industry of this country, was made. This is a beginning for which the government deserves praise, and it is to be hoped that as time goes on the precedent now established will be maintained and strengthened, and that more and more will the things that really make a country be fostered and encouraged, and more and more those intended to destroy be restrained.

We must agree with the writer, who away back in the seventeenth century made bold to state in those troublous times that "peace is that harmony in the state, that health is in the body, and no kingdom can flourish or be at ease in which there is no peace; which only makes men dwell at home and enjoy the labor of their hands, and improve on the advantages which the air and the climate and the soil administers to them, and which yield no comfort where there is no peace."

A larger grant to agriculture tends towards the enlightenment of the people with regard to and connected with that noble calling. It cannot help but improve the advantages of the man on the land, and thus work for the good of the nation. What benefits the producer must ultimately help the consumer. Let us have more for agriculture and a stronger sentiment for peace.

Who Does Your Thinking?

The business of agriculture is too important to the man engaged therein to permit of his being the dupe of men engaged in other occupations, and who have more time to exercise their minds and less work for their hands to do than has the busy tiller of the soil. Every man, no matter what occupation he is engaged in, should do his own thinking. This is especially true of the manager of a business like farming. Too often the man on the land sees himself as nothing more than a laborer, never allowing his mental faculties to become developed to such an extent as to very materially lessen his manual labor. He seems to think that it is enough for him to work with his hands. True, a man who works

at hard, bodily labor, long hours each day, has not the same opportunity to do deep studying of important questions as has the man whose business is to do nothing else but turn such matters over in his mind. However, busy as the farmer may be, he has still time to think. In fact much of his work should inspire thought. Driving a team in the field gives him plenty of opportunity to turn various matters over in his mind. He is right on the spot, and who is in a better position to weigh carefully in his mind what the farm needs in the way of cultivation, general management, and various other items connected with its operation? Then, too, he should be able to ponder in his own mind the large public questions of the day. The average farmer of the twentieth century is, comparatively speaking, and certainly ought to be, a well-read man. Very often he knows much more about public affairs and the large questions which are puzzling the minds of parliamentary leaders than do many of his city cousins, but many people are readers who are not thinkers. Good papers, magazines and books may do much and do accomplish a great deal in molding public opinion, but the man who passively takes the thought of another, word for word, does not dissect and weigh it in his own mental balance and form his own unbiased judgment can never hope to be anything more than a mendicant in the realms of thought. It is the man with ideas that is making most out of life for himself and for the community at large. Good judgment does not proceed from mental inactivity, and great success is not accomplished by men who allow others to form their opinions for them. We would urge the readers to digest more of what they read; ponder it in their minds, in other words think for themselves. Getting other people's opinion is a valuable asset to a thinking man, but acting upon his own if good judgment is used is far more important and valuable. Use good reading to aid in thinking, and by all means think.

The Peril of Poor Seed.

It may seem rather early in the season, but in reality it is none too early to commence preparation for next spring's seeding operations. If it has not already been done, every implement required for the cultivation of the soil and in preparation for the seeding should be carefully gone over and if any repairs are needed they should be purchased at once, and machines and implements fitted for the field.

Even more important than this is the selection of seed to be sown. The earlier the seed is in the ground, after the time when the soil has reached the proper conditions for seeding, the better the chances for a good yield. Thus it is important that when the warm days come and the soil is dry and ready for the seed, that no time should be lost and so it is necessary that the seed be got ready at this season. Every day lost in seeding means bushels less on the final yield.

Plenty of time should be taken to properly clean the seed, after it has been purchased or selected from the bin in the granary. The loss from sowing an inferior quality of seed can scarcely be estimated. Experiments carried on at the Ontario Agricultural College have shown that from large seed of barley 3.4 bushels per acre more is produced than from small seed, each quality being plump, while the difference between the large, plump seed and the shrunken was 7.8