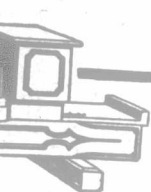


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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 17, 1919.

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## EDITORIAL.

Kill the smut germs before sowing the seed.

"Under protection, where will the revenue come from?"

Is that broken implement repaired and ready for the field? The season for action is here.

Railroads are being peddled at the present time, and a few of them might be picked up as Christmas presents for the boys.

Cast your influence on the side for better rural schools. This is a live issue now, and one that concerns you as a Canadian citizen.

It is that extra pound or two of butter per cow each week that gives the profit, provided it is the outcome of better care and more systematic feeding.

The officials connected with the co-operative grading and marketing of wool are optimistic in regard to prices. Don't back-slide in the care of the flock and its product.

In the Farm Department of this issue is an article which discusses crop rotation. The crop varieties and kinds of fertilizers may be adjusted to suit conditions, but the principles are sane and worthy of consideration.

The "oleo" manufacturers are taking advantage of the high price of butter to boost their product, and are making a house to house canvas, urging consumers to use oleomargarine. What is the Dairy Council doing?

A scheme has been launched by the Minister of Labor to democratize industry and give labor its proper position in the world of production. Perhaps, after all other grievances are settled agriculture may receive some attention.

Spring has been rather tantalizing so far. The weather has been mild enough to incubate the spring-fever germs, but the condition of the land has not been such that one could get on it with drill and harrows and thus find relief.

Don't waste time raising weak chickens with poor constitutions and lacking in vigor. Select eggs only from vigorous productive birds. The poultry industry is going to make rapid strides, and the strong flocks will be the best earners.

The control system is being perpetuated for what reason? The fuel control is still in existence, and just about as much use as ever. They are now worrying dealers for reports on last winter's transactions, when it is next winter that most people are thinking about.

The Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Reconstruction Association are conducting wonderfully thorough, yet inconsistent and contradictory campaigns against tariff reduction. One says: "Tariff for Revenue," and the other urges, "Buy Made in Canada Goods."

In many sections calves are being sacrificed on account of the high price of milk and butter-fat. This is short-sighted policy, for we shall be in the dairy business for a long time yet and milk cows will be required. Good calves can be raised on skim-milk calf feeds and other substitutes. Save the good calves with which to replenish the herd, and be strong in the business when the less provident are looking for milk cows which cannot be found.

### The Reason Why.

It has been pointed out time and again that the population in the cities is continually increasing, and out of all proportion to the population on the land. Year by year the population in our cities is increasing faster than it is in the country. Yet the world is being fed. If there was to be any great world-wide move from the cities to the farms, the production of foodstuffs would increase to such an extent that not only would there be large surpluses, but prices of foodstuffs would go down and farming would be still less profitable.

The reason that the increase in population in our cities is greater than in the country, is that the production of foodstuffs per man through the use of machinery is constantly increasing, coupled with the fact that under our present economic conditions farming is not as profitable as city trades and the occupations of middlemen and merchants. Until such time as there is a readjustment of our economic conditions that will give the producer on the land a larger share of the wealth he creates, and which will enable him to improve his social conditions, there will be no back-to-the-land movement that will be in any way offset the back to the city rush.

All this indicates that we of the land, who intend to stay on the land, have a right to use every power at our disposal to adjust conditions that will give to the farmer a higher income from his farm, an income that will give him the same comforts of life as are available to those living in our cities.

### The Farm Survey Work.

One of the most important lines of work being conducted by the Ontario Department of Agriculture is that known as "Farm Surveys". The initial step was taken in Caledon Township, Peel County, but certain sections of Oxford County have been canvassed to give some reliable information concerning agriculture in dairy districts, and now a block of Middlesex County, where mixed farming is practiced and grass land abounds, is being studied. This latter investigation will reveal the truth in regard to beef cattle farming, and show what practices should be endorsed and what methods should be condemned in that part of the Province. Dairymen learned something from the Oxford County survey. Farmers generally will profit by the results compiled in Middlesex, but perhaps more significant still is the fact that Ontario's agricultural ledger is being thrown wide open exposing the profit and losses to the public gaze. In these times of so much acrimonious discussion, when epithets are being hurled at the farmer and he is accused of profiteering, is there another industry that will open its ledger wide and permit the Government to publish its balance sheet? Is there another industry that will volunteer to have its methods investigated, and permit the dear public to know just how it stands in its relation to them? When all industries are prepared to lay their cards on the table and request a close investigation then people will know the truth, but until such is done this twaddle about farmers getting wealthy will not be listened to by sensible people, especially when Government reports are available to anyone who desires to get at the facts.

There is just a possibility, too, that these farm surveys will answer that question now uppermost in the minds of the manufacturers, viz., "Under free trade, where will the revenue come from?" We understand that already certain interests are beginning to feel that the publication of any further agricultural truths will be damaging to their cause, and are now bestirring themselves to have the soft pedal put on the farm survey operations.

Instead of curtailing this phase of the Department's work, it should be extended, now that farmers understand its usefulness and are willing to supply the

required information. A logical step in advance would be the creation of a new department at the Ontario Agricultural College where students would have the opportunity of studying Farm Management and co-ordinating the teachings of the various departments. Such a department would be a good thing for the College, it would be a good thing for the students, and the instruction given, based naturally on the results of farm surveys, would help all practical farmers to better understand the relation of one branch of the farming business to another so the proper course to pursue would be plainly marked out for all districts. Above all the facts ought to be compiled and published, and a greater effort should be made to have these agricultural truths presented to urban people. When the majority know the facts then there will be a better understanding between all classes.

### Consideration For Rural Schools.

The Government of Ontario has done well to admit, in the language of larger appropriations, that rural schools are deserving of increased attention. This recognition on the part of the Educational Department seems to synchronize with a spirit of dissatisfaction in the country, and a realization that rural schools as now constituted are inadequate and out of date. The \$250,000 appropriated to advance the rural school is, we understand, to be divided between dental and medical inspection, higher salaries to teachers and, no doubt, the experiment with consolidated schools. We consider this an official admission that all is not right with the country school, and that something should be done, which is a long step for the Department of Education to take at one time.

Dental and medical inspection in the schools has been tried in some rural sections with positive results. One could hardly say gratifying results, because of the large number of pupils found to be suffering from defective hearing, defective eyesight, adenoids, bad tonsils and other imperfections which retard them in their educational development. There are many instances on record where backward children have been punished and otherwise maltreated for their inability to progress at school, but when given a medical inspection the backwardness was found to be caused by some physical defect easily remedied. Slight operations, spectacles and other little attentions have converted so-called backward pupils into brilliant scholars. We are aware of a prejudice against medical inspection in some parts of the country, but it is not well-founded. School nurses are employed constantly in many of the towns and cities, and the parents do not resent having imperfections in their children (which are by no means uncommon) pointed out and remedied. All children are entitled to a fair chance, and the scheme of medical and dental inspection cannot be endorsed and applied any too soon.

For years "The Farmer's Advocate" has been recommending consolidated schools. We have pointed out what has been done in certain provinces and states in this direction, and to us there appears no other solution to the rural-school problem but consolidated or community schools of some kind. We are of the opinion that the Department of Education should lead in this matter, and show the people of this province what advantages there are if we will accept them. Consolidated schools should be given a thorough trial, and if found superior to the common, ungraded country school, then no stone should be left unturned until they become a part of our educational system.

We fear the Department will follow the line of least resistance, and be content to raise the salaries of teachers and consider they have done well. Insufficient salaries have been the cause of many leaving the profession, and we would not care to discourage any move that will lead to more remuneration for good teachers. How-