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EDITORIAL

Have you mailed the butter and eggs?

A good place to invest at least some of the money which the farm makes yearly, is in the farm and its equipment. This is business.

What variety of oats are you going to sow, or do you rely on just "oats"? There is a good deal in variety, not only of oats but of all farm crops.

The estimated shortage of meat animals in the United States is 18,259,000, and still the flood is marketward. If this keeps on what will be the shortage in another decade?

We wonder if eggs will be gathered more regularly now that parcels post is in operation. Hens should lay early in the morning so that the eggs may be posted the same day.

There is as good a road to an understanding of Shakespeare, observes the American Journal of Education, through a book on gardening as through one filled with silly rules for conjugating verbs, and "far more real education in teaching a child of twelve how shoes came to be on his feet, than in bewildering him by tricky problems in fractions."

An American railway poster tells the public that if business is not prosperous it is because the railways stopped making money, and the remedy for that is to take more out of the people by raising the rate. High officials might aid by taking a little less. If general business is good the railroad business is also likely to be going well. Transportation is a big factor in the cost of living.

What were once the most fertile regions in Spain are now said to be poverty stricken. A defective social organization is said to be the cause, coupled with taxes which hinder the cultivation of the soil, by exempting arable land which is uncultivated and taxing highly cultivated land. The man who pays the taxes depletes his soil to do it, and he who pays none allows his holdings to become barren wastes. The most fertile soil uncultivated becomes waste, and the same soil cultivated and not fertilized in time will not grow a profitable crop.

A prominent Russian deplors the emigration of Russian subjects to America thus: "The lack of enough farm hands has always been the cause of our backwardness. The rapid decrease of labor power must ruinously affect the growth of the national wealth." Canada suffers by the farm's loss of its population, which does not drift so much to other countries as to cities. Agriculturally our country has not been backward, but rural districts are in need of more men, and if backwardness does come it will be from lack of workers. Those who stay in the country will surely be well paid for it.

Agricultural Prosperity Mirrored in the Exhibitions.

With reference to fairs and exhibitions as well as live-stock meetings of every kind, the phrase "best ever" has become a platitude in editorial columns of farm and daily papers. This is a trite saying, but the circumstances which bring it about are indeed commendable. The fairs and exhibitions which have been held in Eastern Canada throughout the past season have been, universally, the most largely attended that have ever been known. There was only one exception, and that was due to an unfortunate and uncommon accident. Weather and elements could not have combined to discourage this particular exhibition, which, in its initial steps, gave promise of being the "best ever." The same thing has occurred with the live-stock meetings held recently in Toronto. In many cases the attendance was the largest they have known in their history. Memberships have grown, their financial standings have become stronger, and in every particular they gave evidence of a prosperous and flourishing condition. This must of necessity have a reaction upon the country and breeds which are represented by those meetings, and it will in time reflect itself so upon them that they will prosper and continue to prosper as have the associations which have their welfare at heart. This is due partly to the increased interest among farmers, but there is a kindred feeling among those who are not themselves actually engaged in farm operations, yet the lure of the land and the attraction which animal life has for people engaged in other lines of work, has so encouraged and promoted agricultural life that at last it has come into some recognition by the people at large.

This healthy condition of affairs, and especially that of the live-stock meetings which were recently conducted, promises another year of even greater agricultural prosperity, and we look for the coming season to provide some of the most prosperous and successful exhibitions that have ever been held in Canada's history.

Boost Your Own Produce.

The arguments on over-production of fruit usually pivot on the point that the West will at last overcome the East, or the East will at last overcome the obstacles which the West is presenting. This form of controversy will eventually be obliterated, as there is really no line of demarcation between the East and the West. There is one industry in the whole of Canada known as the fruit industry, and it is from that viewpoint that it should be discussed and considered. It is only upon this ground that the Dominion Government can subsidize or substantially assist. The Provincial Governments may, in the interest of their Province legislate and provide for their own offsprings, but the sooner the fruit growers of Canada combine to further the interests of production and marketing, the sooner will the industry be placed on a firmer basis.

There is one common ground upon which they can all meet, and that is the advertising of their product and making known its uses to the consumers of the world. As an example of this it might be cited that the banana industry of the United States has grown from an insignificant enterprise to one representing \$15,000,000 a year. The grape fruit industry has made a like growth, while the annual consumption of oranges has grown to the enormous tonnage of 100,000

cars. This is due largely to the advertising which those particular products have received, and the way in which they have been kept before the eyes of the consuming public. In this regard fruit growers of Canada have assumed some of the Nero complacency. They have "fiddled while Rome burned." They have neglected to shout for the apple, the pear and the peach, while the banana, grape fruit and the orange have been kept constantly before the people. The enterprise representing the latter fruits has been perfectly legitimate, yet there is no reason why the growers of apples and small fruits should not in the same way pronounce on the excellency of their product, enhance its value in the eyes of the people, and increase its consumption on the town and city tables. This will go a long way in forestalling the over-production which is being too much discussed.

The Best Investment.

It is more than likely that if you are well acquainted with the bank manager in your district, and you drop in to have a little chat with him upon current topics and things in general and the conversation runs as it often does to "business," you will be surprised to learn that the men on the farms in the locality in which the bank is situated, if it is a good farming section, have many thousands on deposit. The most successful of our farmers may not be making very large incomes, but many of them are saving more than are some men engaged in other business which is bringing in far larger returns. Be that as it may, the fact remains that whether or not these thrifty farmers are making all they should, they are saving a fair sum in many cases from their yearly earnings. Once started to accumulate money increases more rapidly.

There is no question but that it is advisable to save, but there is a question as to what should be done with money made as this is. How many farms in this country are so equipped as to make the highest possible economical returns? Where is the gain in depositing money at three per cent. interest if that same money could be made yield from six to ten per cent. in developing the business of the farm? Urban enterprise is not built up on such a basis. There, business gets all the surplus money it makes to enlarge it and increase its net returns. If a small business poorly equipped is sound enough to yield good returns, why should not a larger business nourished with these accrued monies yield larger returns? It does in the city, and the same should hold true of the farm. It is not necessary that more land be added in many cases, but equipment to better operate the small holding is urgently needed on thousands of acres where money is invested elsewhere at small interest. Machinery to lighten labor, implements to shorten the time necessary for tillage, and at the same time to prepare a better seed bed and loosen the soil to liberate more plant food, more stock to maintain and if possible increase soil fertility, handy appliances to make the housework easier and change drudgery to pleasure. All these things pay high dividends if money is carefully expended upon them. Frankly, then, do you not think that at least a small portion of all that money so quickly and carefully banked could be better spent on the old place? Perhaps the worn-out cultivator only scratches the back of old mother earth. If so trade it with some surplus funds for a new one which will dig into