

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1865

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1876

LII

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 8, 1917.

1272

EDITORIAL.

Have you seed for spring?

Buy the best to sow, it will prove most economical in the end.

Plenty of exercise and proper ventilation are essential for young and breeding stock.

Keep up the reading while the evenings are long. A few good books will brighten any home.

Promptness in all business transactions will help build up and sustain a good reputation.

Experiments have shown that the best time to apply barnyard manure is as soon as possible after it is made.

Someone will accuse the farmer of feeding his hens badly this winter so they would not lay and eggs would be high in price.

For a big country engaged in a big war and with a big and bright future ahead Canada has too many little politicians.

The cow, the feed and the care have an effect on the milk flow. How much? An article in this week's Dairy Department explains.

If you disposed of the brood sows last fall, save one or two of the best young sows out of that litter about ready to turn off.

Kaiser Wilhelm had a birthday recently, and it would doubtless be a good thing for the world if fate would decree it his last.

The man who keeps an abundance of stock rarely has a crop failure. Live stock makes the crop and the crop makes good live stock.

The best season to market horses is approaching. Are those you wish to sell in good fit? The feeder always gets well paid for feed necessary to fatten horses for sale.

Unless those who clamor for intensive farming can evolve a scheme to get a sufficient number of men on the land to work it intensively, they had better save their wind until after the war.

Canadian politics do not resemble a truce, but rather a desperate fight with one "charge" after another. Somehow most of the charges are broken by barrage fire before they reach the enemy's dugouts.

The early-hatched pullet is the one which will lay next winter. You will desire some chickens out in April. It is now time to get the incubator and incubator room in order. There may be some helpful hints for you in this issue.

Farmers complain that we do not have enough farmer representatives in parliament, and at the same time they proceed to elect lawyers, doctors, auctioneers and shopkeepers in their own constituencies because "the party" brings them out. Stop complaining! Do something different!

Many farmers are handicapped by being forced to house their live stock in unsatisfactory stables and out-buildings. Others have put too much money in elaborate buildings which make it that much more difficult to make the farm pay. There is a happy medium. We illustrate a few barn plans in this issue.

Barns and Stables.

The farmer in Eastern Canada in many cases has a large amount of money tied up in buildings. We discussed the farm house last week, and this week we publish a few barn plans. It costs more money to build now than it did a few years ago and besides most of those who put up new barns build more elaborately. There are a few essentials necessary, but on the whole we do not favor fancy stables for the average farmer. The overhead expenses are too high. They make it all the more difficult to make interest on investment. Of course, the man with plenty of money has a perfect right to keep his cows in a decorated cow-parlor if he chooses, but the average man, paying for land, must look to essentials and cut out frills. What are essentials? Sufficient size to accommodate the numbers of stock kept without crowding. Size above to hold the crops grown. Convenience in the matter of harvesting the crop, feeding the stock, and removing the litter. Plenty of light. Free circulation of air—good ventilation. Stalls and fittings handy for the purpose, comfortable for the stock, and not such as to obstruct the light. Good floors. The entire structure should be solid and permanent. Build well but not too expensively. The day of the dark, air-tight stable is past. So is that of the plank floor, (plank over cement is better than uncovered cement for horses). The modern stable should be compact. Every inch of space should be utilized. This makes it easy to work in. With it, however, there must be light and fresh air. A barn too wide is hard to fill. Look over the plans in this issue.

War Workers for the Fields.

The sound of the word "conscription", no matter how it is applied, seems to fall with a thud upon the ears of many. Doubtless most of those who object to conscription for the army are among those who would be directly or indirectly affected by such a move. On the other hand, however, there are many who would be enrolled who would be very pleased to see it. Those who object to conscription of wealth generally have some wealth, and those who would have no conscription of labor, either desire to do nothing or to do what they please. Some say that conscription cannot be applied to one or two without covering all three. The laboring man says the man with money must "pony up" if he must work for the government. And there the whole subject rests. But think a minute. Certain politicians believe that men enough for the front can be raised without enforced service. Money enough to fight the war may be raised by taxation and free-will offerings. But it seems utterly impossible to very much increase or even to maintain production on the farms without more organization. A census of Brant county, Ontario, is said to show that there is only one man to every 85 acres of land. We have heard the remark conservatively made time and again that taking the farming land of this province the man power would average little over one man per hundred acres of tillable land. Most farmers would produce more were it possible to get more help; but they cannot do much more than they are doing until help comes. Seeding is not a great way off. What will the acreage be? The West was behind with the fall work when the freeze-up came. The East was none too well advanced because of shortage of labor. Seed grain will be scarce and high-priced both East and West. Unless there is some concerted action there is a likelihood of a comparatively small acreage of cereal and hoed crops this season. Efforts are being made to get men in the United States, but at the most they cannot materially change the situation over any considerable area. At the same time that agents are trying to induce men from the country to the south to come over to Canada to work on farms,

it is said that a number of nervous and spineless young men are going from this country to the United States to evade their duty. Now what of it all? The national service cards have been turned in. One of the questions on them was: "Would you be willing to change your present work for other necessary work at the same pay during the war?" If it is important that foodstuffs be produced in larger quantity surely it would be good policy to send some of those who answered "yes" to the farms of this country. And what of the loafers?—Men who are still doing little work of any kind. Perhaps they would not be willing to work at the same pay. They might want more. Send them somewhere to do something toward the winning of the fight. For those who don't like the word "conscription" let us substitute "regulation", and let there be such regulations as will bring Canada's efforts up to the maximum in food production, in munitions making, in fighting forces. The men have shown a marvellously strong patriotic spirit in voluntary enlistment for the overseas forces. They have made a bigger sacrifice than those at home. We have the farms. The men on them for the most part have the proper spirit, but they need more help. There are men in Canada yet—thousands of them but they are not available as farm help. A little conscription to make them available might stimulate efforts in recruiting, in munitions making and in production.

Fresh vs. Rotted Manure.

One subject which comes up year after year and one which has caused a great deal of discussion, is the best method of handling barnyard manure. We are not going into it fully in this short note, but in the beginning wish to state again that for the average farmer operating on a mixed farming basis on land not too rolling or cold and wet in the spring, we have advocated getting the manure out as soon as possible after it is made. We have favored spreading it out on the snow in winter where the run-off is not a serious factor. Some have taken exception to this method, stating that it will not work out satisfactorily on their land. To such there can be only one answer: follow the system which does work out to best advantage. But the average man believes that well-rotted manure is richer in plant food than is fresh manure and so it is. In a paper read recently by Dr. Frank T. Shutt, Dominion chemist, before the convention of the Commission of Conservation, and reviewed in this issue, it was stated that for the ordinary farm crops fresh and rotted manure, applied at the same rate, have given practically equal yields. This statement referred to experiments carried on at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The manure was applied weight for weight. Readers should remember that a load of well-rotted manure would be heavier than a load of the same size of fresh, strawy manure, and as manure is generally applied by loads and not by weight this would have to be considered.

It is a fact that the same weights of the two classes of manure do not contain the same amounts of plant food. Weight for weight the well-rotted is richer in the constituents required by plants than is the fresh, but the fact remains that the fresh manure equalled the other in results. Dr. Shutt states that it is probable that the fresh manure inoculates the soil with desirable micro-organisms to a greater extent than does the rotted. These convert plant food held in the soil into an available form. Also greater warmth may be set up by the fermentation of the fresh manure which would benefit the crop in its early stages. In the ordinary farm rotation it does not pay to rot manure. With labor scarce winter seems the best time to haul out and spread manure on the average farm. "The quicker the farmer can get the manure into the land or on to the land the better, for it is never worth more than when first produced."