

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED 1856

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 11, 1915.

No. 1168

EDITORIAL.

Farmers require "more than usual" farm help.

Belgium still bleeds, starves and shivers; help allay suffering.

Barn plans in this issue should prove interesting and helpful.

The entrenched stockman should not be routed by the battle cry of more wheat.

Do you keep cows, or do your cows keep you? Testing tends to change from the former to the latter.

When oats are \$1.85 per cwt. there is a great temptation to feed the horses on turnips and straw.

Canada's stockmen are not discouraged. They know that to grow more grain means that more stock must be kept.

Where is the winter's farmyard manure? That spread on the field will mean a saving of labor in the spring which is nearing.

Farmers are waiting for the Government's plan to bring labor to the country districts and help them increase production.

Canada's stock breeders have a great opportunity now to show what Canadian stock is capable of. Importations from Europe will be few for some time.

It is up to our manufacturers to see that Canadian-made goods are worthy of Canadian patronage and then it is the business of Canadians to buy these goods exclusively where possible.

The task facing the people at the present time is a big one. What are they going to allow after this war, preparation for a recurrence or preparation for a lasting peace? It is time now to be concerned in this matter.

The most sagacious and capable of men are liable to spasms of foolishness and a good many Americans are thinking that President Wilson reached that stage when he sent the Kaiser an offensive birthday telegram.

If the stains of blood and tears were not upon their hands, the Kaiser and his war lords would not have displayed such feverish anxiety to absolve themselves from the condemnation and contempt of the world.

It is said that the greater number of guns on a British Warship are placed forward, while the strongest batteries on a German Warship are placed aft. The reason seems clear, the one to pound fleeing vessels, the other for protection in flight.

One of our correspondents says that farmers should work harder and another says he would not like to see them work any harder. There must be a great difference in the men of the farming communities with which these writers are acquainted.

A very large proportion of the really efficient male population of the cities and towns has been drawn for years from the farms, but the latter get no credit for them in the military service.

Do not fault the farmer for asking a practical question about increasing the effective working force on his land and in his stables. Give him a helpful answer.

According to reports at the Experimental Union the Act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in Ontario is not very well enforced. Weed inspectors must be men with backbone and municipalities should pay more attention to the enforcement of this Act.

The chorus of Canadian platform speakers is singing to the farmers the old song, "Produce; Produce; Produce;" while farmers from one end of Canada to the other, not very appreciative of the music, cry—"Help! Help! Help!"

A Toronto newspaper proposes that the capable unemployed of the cities and towns who do not go into military service should be drafted to augment the ranks of the farm food producers. This form of conscription might not be popular with the gentry who prefer marching on Parliaments or City Councils for aid while their wives go out scrubbing.

Quick cooling of milk and cream may not seem so important when the thermometer is hovering between freezing and zero, but when the mercury soars next July the man who has ice to quickly cool his dairy products and keep them cool will supply the best grade of these products, and he should demand and get consideration for his effort.

Agricultural papers in Britain are warning farmers against sowing to wheat land which is not wheat land but suited much better to the growing of oats, pointing out that while wheat is food for man, oats are food for both man and beast and some of the best men the world ever knew had oatmeal as a ration. Potatoes and milk are also held in high favor by these writers. Wheat is not the only good food for the farmer to produce.

After enumerating a long and impossible list of rules for successful farming, a city correspondent says: "Undoubtedly every honest person will willingly try to follow these rules and principles as near as possible, and by so doing they will generally find some very satisfactory." It is marvellous the interest in the farmer's welfare which some of these brilliants show. It would be very interesting to see some of them try the old test for a successful farmer: to teach a lusty, sucking calf to drink milk out of a pail.

At any trade a beginner must serve an apprenticeship at a low wage; in most business the new beginner gets a small wage until he learns it. When slack times come the less efficient are laid off first and then the farmer is expected to take what few of these men that will go to the country as first-class farmers and pay them at the start, wages equal to those of the man who has worked on a farm for years. If he does not do it he is said to be tight and mean and not interested in increasing his output.

The Rural Problem in 1915.

Recent issues of "The Farmer's Advocate" have contained articles expressing the ideas of several of our readers regarding "The Rural Problem," its cause and remedies. The greater number of those discussing the subject laid a good deal of emphasis upon the financial situation and we were led to believe that "The Rural Problem is one of Finance." Quite true, in average conditions; but the situation at the beginning of 1915 is vastly different from that which obtained up to the middle of last July or even in October or November. Last July peace reigned over the earth and everything was more or less normal. In October, November and even December although war of almost world-wide proportions was devastating Western Europe and the best of the men from six of the great nations and four of the smaller countries were being called to the colors and slain on the fields of Flanders, France and Poland or sent to the bottom of some near or far ocean, Canadians generally, living in their usual luxury, did not realize what this most gigantic of all struggles means to Canada and the world at large. Last year's crop was sufficient to feed Canada and send the usual amount abroad, particularly to Great Britain, and although farmers complained of a shortage of labor, which was very real, no great event up till the war had brought about the crisis, long pending. Farms all over Canada were undermanned but their owners or tenants were making a living and in most cases a little besides, were doing what they could and letting the rest go, and were content to discuss the shortage of labor at auction sales, Farmers' Club meetings or in an article to the Agricultural Press, but the real seriousness of the situation had not been impressed upon their minds. They had no fear for the future. Farmers' Institute lecturers, other Government representatives and the Press told them to hire married men by the year and to provide cottages for these men. This was good advice and, where acted upon, has been working out to the satisfaction of all concerned. But the talk was still continued and farm labor grew scarcer and scarcer until many hundred-acre farms had to be worked by the owner alone and even some good farms of larger size—125, 150 and up to 250 acres were operated by the owner or tenant with a man by the day when available during the rush days of summer.

There was no more labor in sight for the farms until several months after the outbreak of the war. Men established in cities do not rush back to the country with the same eagerness that rural workers crowd to large centres and the situation gradually grew worse and worse until the farm labor question began to agitate some people, neither farmers nor farm laborers, but men who fully realized that some time a change must come. The war brought the change. Six months have sufficed to drive home to those at the head of affairs, to a certain extent, but yet only partially, the gravity of the situation.

Each new year turns the thoughts of farmers towards crops, and production generally, in that year. Grain prices are high, and with wheat over the dollar and a-quarter mark, oats selling at sixty cents or more per bushel and other grains in proportion it can be depended upon that the farmer is laying plans to produce all he can in 1915. On the top of his own plans and efforts comes the great "Patriotism and Production" Governmental campaign telling him why he should

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