

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

It will save time if the wheat can be threshed out of the field.

If you have more fall wheat than you require for seed, help the neighbors.

Many times a cool drink of water is quite as refreshing to the team as a rest.

Start the plow as soon as the fields are cleared, and follow closely with the roller and harrows.

"Bugs" and blight will soon ruin a good field of potatoes. There is a remedy for both pests.

When the Germans or Austrians get near a river they get "cold feet." The Marne and Piave have been turning points.

"It's a bad wind that blows nobody good." The warm weather which makes the flies more pestiferous pushes the corn along.

Farm life is such that an automobile can be used to advantage, and it is no reflection on the industry that so many farmers own them.

It is wonderful how "a contemptible little army" will grow up. John Bull's sons soon rose to man's estate, and Uncle Sam's boys are now the surprise of the world.

While Woodrow Wilson's memorable statement: "We must make the world safe for democracy" is being repeated in many languages, an American of lesser fame says: "We must make democracy safe for the world." These are two good lines to follow up.

The German Foreign Secretary says that Russia started the war, but that is not so important now as who will finish it. If the United States troops continue to pour into Europe at the rate of 100,000 weekly, there can be little doubt that Uncle Sam will cross the line running strong.

A peculiar situation has arisen in Ontario which calls for adjustment. The Government says "Hold No Wheat Back," while on the other hand anxiety is expressed over the availability of seed for the fall wheat planting, which will be under way in two months' time. This matter should be straightened out.

Every farmer should have a specialty, but that does not prevent good work being done in other lines on the same farm. W. F. W. Fisher, of Burlington, widely known as one of the leading fruit growers in Ontario, topped the market at Toronto Stock Yards on Tuesday, June 11, with a bunch of steers which he fed off at a weight averaging around 1,200 lbs. These sold at \$17.15 per cwt., a record for the Toronto Stock Yards up to that time. What will expert cattle feeders think of that?

The harvest of 1918 must be saved and there is plenty of experienced help, but it is not on the farm. Why depend on the inexperienced kind for so important a job? There are thousands of men who grew up on the farm and left it for more lucrative employment. They can still do a day's work after a little hardening. Some attempt at national efficiency is now in order, but we can never get anywhere till someone who knows farming conditions is put in charge of this branch of the work.

Facts and Truth.

After ages of secret diplomacy, propaganda, influence and intrigue the common, thinking people of the world are hungering for the Truth. They do not ask for the uncensored publication of information valuable to the enemy in time of war, but they do desire the facts concerning matters of domestic and international nature, the knowledge of which might make future wars impossible. Even censorship in war time can be carried too far and become a menace to the proper war spirit that should exist. When news that has only a local political significance is withheld, the "loyal subjects" and "sovereign voters" become suspicious and lose faith in the governing bodies. Secrecy and intrigue snuff out the little flame of faith and banish confidence from the breasts of the governed masses. Our wishes and desires gain expression in the men elected to sit in Parliament and conduct the affairs of the people. The electors in turn are entitled to a straight and undoctored report as to the way this business is being transacted. Frank Crane, D.D., expressed a sentiment which is becoming more and more universal when he wrote: "There is only one thing in this universe of men and near-men that is always good, full of health, soundness and peace, whose apples are of the sustenance of the soul, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations: and that thing is—the Truth. God help the poor fools who live in a little world of their own, full of ardent credulities, firm loyalties, strong enthusiasms—but without Facts. I'd rather know the Truth in a barnyard than love a lie in a temple."

Prepare for the Fall Wheat Seeding.

In some sections there is considerable anxiety on the part of farmers regarding a supply of wheat for fall seeding, and some are dilatory about commencing to prepare their land, owing to the fact that seed is not available in their community. In an average season upwards of 900,000 acres are seeded to fall wheat in Ontario, but, owing to an unfavorable fall and spring for wheat, the acreage to be harvested this year is believed to be only about half the above figure, and much of what is left will not give over half a crop. This is unfortunate for the country and the individual in more ways than one. Preparing and seeding a field to wheat at the price of seed last fall ran into a high figure per acre, and to have this labor and seed rendered null is very discouraging. The small crop of wheat, especially in times like these, certainly affects the country as a whole.

The present condition of the crop cannot be remedied now, but it is high time to make preparation for seeding an increased acreage of wheat this fall. To seed the normal acreage at the rate of seven pecks to the acre will require around 1,600,000 bushels of seed. This is a large amount, and there are doubts in the minds of some as to whether or not it will be available in time for seasonable seeding.

In order to provide for 1919 it may be necessary to husband some of the wheat that it is claimed remains on the farms. All who have fall wheat that is satisfactory for seed should make the fact known so their neighbors may have an opportunity of securing seed. If more than enough for local requirements is found in any one locality, plans should be formulated for shipping it to less favored districts. While the old fall wheat on hand may be needed for flour, a seed supply for a future crop must be guarded. Those who have a crop of wheat this year should thresh in time for the distribution of their grain for seeding, which takes place in Ontario the first two weeks in September. It is high time that action be taken to guarantee a supply if the 1918 seeding of fall wheat is to be up to normal. We understand the Provincial Government are awake to the magnitude of the problem, and they should arrive at some solution without delay. Farmers should

be advised where they can secure seed, and then buy early so as to have it on hand for sowing at the proper time. Considering the present food situation, it is expedient that a large acreage of wheat be sown, and there is every reason to believe that there will be if a supply of seed is available. The proper distribution of the old wheat on hand and of the new crop soon to be harvested will go a long way in supplying the needs in every district.

How Agriculture Differs.

The Chairman of the Canada Food Board, H. B. Thomson, has issued a stirring appeal to agriculture to give the city man a chance and cease complaining about inexperienced help. This has come like many others of its kind in a modest circular and familiar style, but every sentence and every phrase bears the earmarks of the Chairman in that they express an absolute disregard for obstacles and a determination to see the thing through to the finish. This is the proper spirit, and we agree that no one should sit down on the job "at a time like this when the whole world is just shaking in the balance." While we agree that agriculturists should do their very best to garner the splendid crops that are now promised and endeavor to make the harvest of 1919 as large as human effort and endurance can make it, we assert that the same patriotic motive should actuate the workers in all branches of industry and encourage the Canadian people as a whole to make sacrifices, suffer losses and submit to inconveniences. In support of his appeal, published elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Thomson cites the munition industry as an example of what has been done with inexperienced help. This, to our mind, is the weakest argument that could be advanced, and the less said about it the better. So attractive a proposition, in spite of the tons of rejected shells, could not help but influence our whole industrial life and draw labor from the farms where it is most sorely needed. This inexperienced help was educated, of course, but how? Each man, woman and child was given his or her work to do, and days, weeks and months at the same task developed skill and proficiency. This would be analogous to thinning turnips for six months on the farm, but during the half year the inexperienced man would have to learn how to thin, hoe, pull, top and store the crop, besides mastering a hundred and one other jobs. Furthermore, one extra hand on the farm means much, but in the factory the individual is of far less importance. Conditions were such that the inexperienced help remained, became efficient and drew such fabulous prices in return for labor that the farmer and his hired man considered themselves wards of the state and working for their clothes and tobacco.

We have no desire to thwart the efforts of the Food Board in the cause of production, but the comparison referred to was particularly ill-chosen. Let us do the very best to produce with the labor available and maintain the reputation which Canada has already acquired as a producing country. The cause and need are the strongest appeal, and it cannot be strengthened by holding up any industry or branch of industry as a model.

Many good buildings in Ontario stand as a monument to the "barn-raising spirit" which existed and still continues to exist in this Province. However, in big structures nowadays the heavy timbers and metal pieces are elevated and placed in position by mechanical power. There is no shouting and little noise. It is done by machinery at the signal of the engineer. Farmers' organizations in Ontario should perfect their machinery and put someone in command capable of handling a big job along modern lines and in accordance with development in public affairs.

Start now to fit for the fall fairs.