

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
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EDITORIAL.

The hardest workers in Canada are on the land.

Canada has never been found wanting when duty called.

Early seeding is a favorable start toward a satisfactory crop.

No real man or class of real men will object to further sacrifices for democracy.

Grow as much food as possible this year. The cause is worth every possible sacrifice.

It is not too late yet to put in a garden. Every farm should have garden vegetables.

This year is bringing the crisis of the war. A distribution of man-power must be made.

Patience and steadfastness have stood the British nation in good stead in many a time of trial.

Plan, if possible, to grow the bulk of the feed necessary for the live stock this year on the home farm.

A little larger acreage of mangels and turnips might be a reasonable safeguard against a corn failure this year.

Agriculture is the big interest of Canada, but it has so lacked organization in the past as to be a more or less helpless giant.

Good reading, national in character, develops national thought and a oneness of public opinion over the entire country.

More rain than we have been getting early in the season will be necessary if the stock are to get more grass than usual this year.

We admire the man who loathes killing, but we loathe the man who would stand by and see the helpless slain by brutal war lords and would not lift a hand to protest.

It is about time this country was properly organized on a war basis. All men should be doing that which is in the best interests of the nation. National service may yet be a reality.

Canada, since the war began, has risen from ninth place among the wheat-producing countries of the world to third in the list. Producers are doing well but more must be accomplished.

The Kaiser's family is said to be the safest family in Germany. It will not always be so. Some day the mighty one and his six sons will fall hard, and the higher and "safer" they get the harder they'll fall.

If Germany is determined to force a decision this year the men and means must be found to make that decision an Allied victory. If the decision does not come in 1918, then the sinews of war must be ready for 1919.

The farmer's biggest problem is to overcome his labor difficulties, and he must be given credit for making an extra effort when we read that the area in field crops in this country last year was 5,095 acres per thousand of total population, as compared with 4,794 acres per thousand in 1910, and 3,713 acres per thousand in 1900. And 1918 will see a bigger acreage still.

The Public Desires a National Press.

Last year the United States Congress passed a War Revenue Bill, the provisions of which included the establishment of a zone system in regard to the transmission of periodicals through the mails which, when it becomes law July 1 next, will increase enormously the postage charges which publishers are called upon to bear. The zone system operates with a heavily advancing rate as the distance from the place of publication increases, and so works to the disadvantage of the publishers of papers of a national character. The Act in the United States makes a big increase in the rates for the first year with further almost, if not quite, prohibitive increases for the second and third years after it comes in force. The first zone is up to 300 miles, the second zone from 300 to 600 miles, the third from 600 to 1,000 miles, the fourth from 1,000 to 1,400 miles, the fifth from 1,400 to 1,800 miles, and the sixth over 1,800 miles, and the rates for the second zone are twice as much as for the first, for the third three times as much, and so on, the postage to the sixth zone being six times as much as to places in the first zone. It is claimed by publishers of national papers and magazines in the big Republic that the new rates mean an increase in postage charges of from 50 to 900 per cent., and already there is a noticeable and increasing number of suspensions and amalgamations of publications.

On the face of it there does seem to be a reason why a higher rate should be paid for carrying printed matter a long distance than for taking it a short distance, but when we look into the matter closely we find any such arrangement decidedly unjust and discriminatory. It is placing a tax on intelligence and education. It will have a tendency to break down rather than build up a national press and will certainly encourage a provincial, local, sectional and separate-thought press in its stead. No country desires sectional thinking; all should work for national and rational thinking. Such an Act is not only harmful to publishers but also to business and the people generally. Trade, religious and farm papers together with the biggest and best national magazines will be most affected by such an Act. Those organs most independent of parties and cliques—those whose influence for good is immense will be called upon to carry the heaviest burdens. It is very questionable whether a government in a producing country can afford to strangle good periodicals which undoubtedly are factors in the production from the farms, in the manufacturing power of the factories, in the raising of money for charitable and religious organization work, as well as in disseminating religious knowledge and the building up of higher life in the homes.

Moreover, no postal department is created as a money-making proposition. The Post Office Department in any country should plan to be self-sustaining, but raising war revenue by such an increase in rates on periodical literature can scarcely be upheld. Why should, for instance, John Smith be called upon to pay several times as much for a Toronto publication because he lives in Vancouver as he would have to pay if he lived in Hamilton? There is no reason. Why should those people on the edges of civilization in new districts be deprived of the best national reading because of a zone system making the price of the reading prohibitive. Farm women and children far off from the centres of publication should not be discriminated against. Neither should dwellers in any town or city be deprived of getting a national newspaper published at some distant place. Such a policy is narrow and unjust. Surely national intelligence and national education count for more than the few extra paltry dollars which a zone system of carrying periodicals by mail will ever collect. All papers are willing to pay their income and other war taxes, but such a direct tax as this working as it does directly against the formation of a national public opinion is, as President Wilson said, a "Mischievous blunder."

Suggestions of a similar law have been heard in Canada, but so far no such foolish and uncalled-for action has been taken. Canadian publishers have a fair rate, which applies not only to all Canada but to all parts of the British Empire. Outside of the twenty-mile free zone, which is a foolish arrangement, no matter where the reader resides in the Empire prices for Canadian publications in so far as postage is concerned remain the same. And so it should remain. We sometimes think, however, that it would be good policy to deny the use of the mails to periodicals which use fake methods of putting on subscribers' names, and which do not insist upon getting a stated subscription price, as revealed by their books.

The Relation of Live Stock to Crops.

During the last two or three seasons, which on the whole have not been favorable ones for agriculture in Ontario, one fact has been driven home. Wherever live stock has for years been fostered on the farm the soil has been less subject to adverse conditions and crops have done well. Recently we had occasion to comment on the thrifty appearance of a pure-bred herd, and the owner remarked: "We have plenty of feed. We have always fed a lot of cattle here and the soil is very fertile. Last year the crops did so well they went down." In a dry season or a wet one the soil with plenty of humus incorporated with it does not parch with the heat or become water-logged with the excessive moisture; it is more or less immune to adversity and so is the farmer who relies upon it for the yields. Humus and available plant food are the results rather than the cause of good farming, and behind it all are the herds and flocks which consume the products of the soil and return the residue in the proper condition to form a partnership with the acres that will, in turn, yield still more. Live stock and good farming go together, and this the past few seasons have abundantly proven.

Why Pure-breds Are Carried at Half Rate.

Breeders of pure-bred live stock are aware that the Canadian railroads carry pedigreed animals, in less than carload lots, at half the tariff rate. There is a limit to the distance, of course, but the policy is to develop the live-stock industry of the Dominion to such an extent that the revenue of transportation companies may be increased through a larger volume of commercial stocks to be moved, and a more prosperous agriculture in general. Good live stock means good farming, bigger crops, and more tonnage for the railroads. The late J. J. Hill was aware of the extent to which a railroad must depend on agriculture in the territory through which it runs, and the development of the agricultural resources, along live-stock lines, of the country invaded by his locomotives was a part of the wonderful scheme which brought him fame as a builder and operator of roads. Since September, 1912, the Union-Castle Company's liners have been carrying pedigreed animals free of charge from Britain to South Africa. Up to January 1, 1918, this Company transported 2,770 cattle, 333 horses, 513 sheep, and 212 hogs, the estimated value of which totalled £203,312. Britain now imports from that colony around 22,000 tons of beef and mutton, which goes largely to help feed the army. In 1916, the total was only 7,928 tons, and in 1915 no more than 2,324 tons. The exports of meat from South Africa are rapidly increasing, and the Union-Castle Company will not have occasion to regret their free freight policy.

There is a feeling amongst breeders and shippers that, in some cases, the minimum weight upon which the railway agents are instructed to base charges is too high. This should be adjusted equitably, for the history of railroading furnishes ample evidence that pure-bred