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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 16, 1919.

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EDITORIAL.

Don't forget to write 1919.

Procure Ontario-grown seed corn rather than seed from the south.

Watch the list of "coming events," and plan to attend some convention during this or next month.

Farmers cannot afford to dilly-dally in regard to seed for next spring. The early bird will catch the worm in this case.

Prof. G. E. Day says the "corn-crib cross" is almost as important as the "blood cross." Don't depend entirely on breeding to produce good cattle—use plenty of feed.

Give what your means will permit to assist the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A. and other organizations to alleviate suffering and reinstate soldiers in useful occupations.

A returned soldier with a desire to farm but no money should not be obliged to sacrifice the remainder of his life in order to make some new country habitable for the next generation.

Perhaps, when Parliament meets, someone will be good enough to urge the Government to action along lines making for a larger and more stable export trade in live-stock products.

Spanish Influenza has invaded the country districts with renewed virulence during the last few weeks, and in many sections it has kept those who escaped it busy doing the chores in the community.

The destinies of nations are being decided at the Peace Conference in Europe, but the most momentous question is that of future wars. The victors want to prevent future conflict, but they have yet to decide on the plan.

The boot-blacks of Winnipeg have paid as much as \$5.00 per head to support their union. Agriculturists can afford to pay more than they do to make their organizations a success. One cannot expect anything for nothing.

Bolshevism may prove a more difficult foe to conquer than was Germany, but plenty of food would go a long way in reconciling the Russian mobs. Many join the Bolshevik movement in Russia simply to keep away from starvation.

Howard Struchbury, head of the Alberta Returned Soldier's Committee, is reported as having said that, "fifty-five hundred returned soldiers, all practical farmers, are now in the province and unable to get land." If the provincial legislatures and the Federal Government do their duty by these men they will combine to expropriate sufficient land that has been squandered and is now held by speculators to give the veterans a chance to farm if they wish without going back beyond the boundaries of civilization. Throughout the West, whole blocks of land, well located, are held by corporations and private speculators, hoping to reap where they have not sown. This forces the would-be settler far back from the railroad and reduces to a minimum his chances for success. The speculator is also retarding development in New Ontario. It is time Parliament did something to amend these mistakes of its predecessors and make the land accessible to those willing to work it.

Still One More Step in Agricultural Organization.

The forceful letter from Professor H. Barton, which appears in the Live Stock Department of this issue, directs attention to a subject of paramount importance, and one to which all those having the welfare of agriculture at heart should give full consideration. We have many organizations, perhaps too many, but there still remains the need for a supreme council to speak for the agricultural industry in Canada. The first organization to declare its intentions along this line was the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Made up, as it is, largely of the United Farmers of the Prairie Provinces, who are primarily interested in grain production it cannot be considered as representative of Canadian agriculture and, therefore, without undergoing some transformation, it cannot be held up as the farmers' duly elected Parliament of this Dominion. We have no fault to find with the Canadian Council of Agriculture. It is, no doubt, fulfilling the mission its inaugurators had in mind, but it should not be understood at large that it is representative of the fruit growers, dairymen, live-stock men, and general farmers of the Dominion simply because it has been called the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Its annual meetings are held in camera, and we can find no record in the information handed out from the meeting last November that live stock was discussed at all. We learn, however, through other sources that Manning W. Doherty, of Malton, an Ontario representative, had H. W. Wood, Calgary, Alta., and W. A. Dryden, Brooklin, Ont., recommended to the Government as suitable men to proceed overseas representing Canada in Europe in behalf of grain and live stock, respectively. The recommendation concerning a grain representative was accepted at once by the Government, but the matter of sending a live-stock delegate was shelved. So much for the Canadian Council of Agriculture. What we have said is not by way of criticism of an exceedingly powerful and useful organization, but only incident to the argument we wish to advance.

Professor Barton's remarks concerning the Canadian National Live Stock Council are, in part, true but this organization is not as yet actually constituted and up to the present they have not been using duly authorized funds to carry on their work. At the annual meetings in February, it is expected that the breed associations will ratify an appropriation of not less than five per cent. of their yearly revenues to be expended by the Live Stock Council in behalf of the live-stock industry. Until this is done the Council is not in a position to employ a secretary and advertise itself as will be necessary hereafter. In spite of the handicaps the Live Stock Council has some achievements to its credit, and no doubt it will prove of more service in the future. We are not attempting to defend the Canadian National Live Stock Council for that, too, is not within the province of this discussion. However, we believe it to be a useful and necessary organization through which all classes of live-stock producers can express themselves if they will take the initiative, organize locally, become members of the Eastern or Western Canada Live Stock Union, and in this way make their wishes known to the Canadian National Live Stock Council, which cannot help but realize that the production of beef, bacon, butter, cheese, etc., and all commercial products is the backbone of the industry. By way of strengthening itself, it should find a seat for a representative from the Maritime Provinces and thus extend its influence farther east.

After all is said and done, we agree with Professor Barton that "Live stock is the most important branch of agriculture, but it is a branch nevertheless." The dairymen realized this and organized a National Dairy Council last December, to embrace all branches of that enormous industry. The creameries and cheese factories

alone turn out products annually to the value of around \$100,000,000 at present prices. With the problems of dairying, the Canadian Council of Agriculture, or the Canadian National Live Stock Council are not qualified to deal, so we have a third Dominion-wide organization.

Fruit growers still hold aloof with provincial associations, but no central institution cementing the interests of the widely disseminated fruit-growing areas in Canada into one unit. If such is ever accomplished a Supreme Council of Canadian Agriculture will become a possibility and, perhaps, a probability.

At present the forces of agriculture are not united. There is in some cases a duplication of efforts, and in other instances a conflict of ideas which are used by the opposition to the disadvantage of the industry. As a remedy we see two alternatives. In the first place, a Supreme Council of Agriculture can be effected by drawing representation from the Dominion organizations now extant, to which number a National Fruit Grower's Council should be added. Secondly, the Canadian Council of Agriculture might be reorganized so as to co-operate with the fruit growers, live-stock breeders, and dairymen in presenting a united front and being representative of Canadian agriculture.

There is such a thing as having too many organizations. What we require now is unity and oneness of purpose. There is a possibility of jealousy exerting an evil influence, and organization bigotry defeating the efforts of the disunited forces of Canadian agriculture. The need of a guiding hand and a guiding mind was exemplified on the Western Front, and the time has come, as we pointed out in the issue of October 24, 1918, for welding together the various organizations in this country into one that can speak and speak with authority for Canadian agriculture.

Live Stock East and West.

There is a general impression existing that Ontario and Quebec produce the great bulk of live stock in Canada. This is far from the truth, and any survey of the industry should not fail to give consideration to that vast country west of the Great Lakes, where cattle, sheep and swine are only just beginning to find a place on the farms, and where the fringe of the possibilities has, as yet, only been touched. The Markets Intelligence Division of the Dominion Live Stock Branch reports that during 1918 a total of 452,255 cattle passed through the stock yards at Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. In a like period 428,801 cattle were recorded at Toronto and Montreal. The two Eastern yards passed 167,409 calves in the year and the Western yards, 23,845. The total number of hogs recorded at these Western points was 494,589, while at Toronto and Montreal 491,006 were numbered. In sheep the West fell down and sent only 93,117 through the yards, while the two Eastern centres reported 295,507. In both cattle and hogs the three leading Western centres show a superiority in numbers over the two leading Eastern yards, and while Toronto and Montreal do not constitute the only receiving centres in Eastern Canada, the comparison reveals the growing importance of the live-stock industry in Western Canada. The figures in neither case represent the actual number received for slaughter, as shipments direct to the packing houses would not be included.

It is said that the packers must have volume in order to operate efficiently and profitably. All they need do is to inspire confidence and purchase the best stuff on a quality basis and not allow it to go over the line to United States abattoirs; then they will build up an industry in this country, both East and West, that will give them volume aplenty. Much of our best live stock goes across the line to be slaughtered, which seems to indicate no great shortage so far as our Packers are concerned.