

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 21, 1920.

1465

## EDITORIAL.

Spare the new seedlings/

Plant a few bulbs to provide spring bloom.

Do not rob the newly-seeded fields of their winter cloak by grazing closely.

Be a co-operator rather than an individualist. There is strength in union.

Try a top dressing of manure on the meadows, and see if the results are not gratifying.

Full stables and pens should be the rule this winter. With the exception of hay, rough feed is plentiful.

Keep fruit, after it is harvested, in a cool place; a warm cellar will considerably reduce its lasting qualities.

The National Dairy Show of 1920 has come and gone, and a report of the event is contained in this issue.

Some versatile theorist could write a splendid book on The Tariff after the Commission completes its hearings.

Preach and practice precautions against fire. The demon fire is always a menace to property, and the means of fighting it are inadequate in the country.

Don't use an inferior flock-header because wool is low in price. The best always is the cheapest, especially in live stock breeding where one is constantly building for the future.

If you are interested in fitting cattle for the show or sale-ring, do not neglect to read the advice of practical herdsmen in this issue. Real skill must be acquired, it cannot be obtained from books, but information from those of experience is helpful in the extreme.

Marketing has become the big end of agriculture, but the producer who spends half his time selling product must cut down farm operations. It is the function of farmers' organizations to watch markets and see that proper facilities are provided.

Dunure Footprint, the great breeding horse of Scotland, could probably be purchased for less money than Man o' War, which recently won the \$75,000 purse and \$5,000 gold cup at Windsor, Ont., but there is no question as to which horse has done and will do the most good.

Men of the plow met at Macdonald College last week to test their skill, and this week they meet at Hamilton. A man who plows a straight furrow in the field seldom goes far astray in other walks of life. We congratulate the winners at these big events, but the thousands upon thousands of farmers who attempt good work in the fields at home are likewise worthy of commendation.

Milk producers have been asked to contribute the insignificant sum of 50 cents each toward the financing of the National Dairy Council. A great number have responded, but many have not heeded the call. Perhaps the amount asked for is so small that it was not thought worth bothering with. The Council has saved dairy-men thousands of dollars already, and it is still young. If a levy of 50 cents is too little to bother about, give one dollar or ten; but give something to the organization that is fighting the battles of the dairymen.

## The Attitude of Labor.

In order to harmonize labor and agriculture for political ends, the former must adopt a different attitude in regard to certain fundamental principles that affect both interests. The real officers of the labor organizations are, in the majority of cases, sane and sensible, but in the ranks are men who have little regard for constitutional methods, and their aims and aspirations are not conducive to national harmony and national growth. On a recent occasion, where a number representing both labor and agriculture met to discuss political activities, a delegate from the labor ranks rose and said that it was necessary for labor to curtail their hours of work, on account of the great quantity and variety of machinery that was being introduced into the manufacturing field. The work must be made to go round, and only by shortening the day could they expect to keep labor constantly and profitably employed. This doctrine is diametrically opposed to the principles upon which agriculturists base their operations. The farmer works hard and long to produce, knowing full well that a large crop throughout the country will perhaps reduce his profits. Opposition to new inventions and to progress in the industrial world is simply retarding national growth and national prosperity. There will always be plenty of work in Canada to keep labor employed, that is, if labor is anxious to perform the tasks which agriculture, manufacture and commerce require done.

The situation is rather peculiar at the present time. Food is going to waste in the country for lack of help to harvest it, but there is a scarcity of coal to heat our homes. Wool is very cheap, but garments which are made from wool are very dear. Hides are plentiful and low in price, while shoes are still sold at unreasonable prices.

It would appear that agriculture has done its part well, but labor or the manufacturing industry have not been so zealous to produce plentifully and thus bring prices down. If labor will join with agriculture in producing abundantly and opposing profiteering, there will be a brighter future ahead for a union of the masses.

## Better Days Coming for the Horse.

Two factors have been looming up on the horizon, which make it appear that better times are coming for the horse breeders of this country. In the first place, there is a growing shortage of good horses from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, as well as in the West. Comment is heard both in country and city regarding the dearth of good draft horses and the almost impossibility of obtaining them. Of course, there are good horses still being bred and reared, but buyers have to go so far and travel so much to obtain them in quantities that marketing the surplus horse crop is seriously interfered with. In the second place, we are faced with the increasing cost of fuel and oil for tractors and engines, while at the same time the cost of horse keep is coming down. There are few who doubt for a moment but what the cost of rearing and maintaining horses will steadily decrease until it reaches a much lower level than at present. At the same time there are not many who expect fuel and oil for motors to decrease in price very much. The vast number of automobiles being used, the increasing number of tractors, trucks and gasoline engines in service, and the advent of the oil-burning ocean liner are sufficient to dissipate any hopes of cheaper motor fuel. More than this, the industry through which we are supplied with these commodities is pretty well organized for price control, and it will be more by miracle than by over-production that a lessening in cost can be effected.

The tractor and truck will never displace the horse in city or country, and the better horses we breed the stronger will be the demand for draft animals. With decreasing cost of horse keep, and increasing expense in

connection with the upkeep and running of motors, it would appear that the horse industry is on a better footing than it has been any time during the last ten years.

We have got rid of a great number of misfits and culls, and we should be in a position at the present time to go on breeding horses of the right type and quality. The aim should be to build up and improve the female horse stock of this country, using Canadian-bred stallions of the right type in the early stages, and depending upon importations to add the touch of perfection as we climb to higher levels. It would be better, perhaps, to import good stallions in large numbers, and thus place us ten years ahead of where we would be should we use a large number of Canadian-bred horses. However, good stallions are held at very high prices in foreign countries, while in Scotland some are made into geldings and sold for more than importers in this country care to pay for a stallion, so long as the service fees stand where they are at the present time.

One thing we can do and should do, and that is to purge the horse stocks of this country of the culls and misfits which have kept the market bearish. So long as good mares are bred to stallions of the right type and quality there will be a market for the offspring. There will be a serious scarcity soon right on the farms in this country, if more horse breeding is not carried on. The attitude of late has been to let the other fellow do it. Breeding has been neglected and the shortage is becoming serious.

## Wheat Control.

In asking for a continuance of wheat control, the farmers of the Prairies are simply requesting protection from the gamblers and speculators in wheat at Winnipeg and Chicago. The Prairie growers after years of hardship and privations, simply desire to obtain the actual market value of their wheat. It is not, we believe, in the mind of any man that the Government should make up to them a loss should wheat sell below a definite minimum price. It is not a guaranteed price the grain growers are asking for; it is simply pooling and selling the wheat collectively to purchasers in Europe, who are buying collectively. A threatened strike in Britain, climatic conditions in Timbuctoo, or a clerk's error in the wheat pit, may easily make the difference of several cents per bushel in what the grower obtains for his wheat. Farmers always have and always will be content to abide by the law of supply and demand, but speculation, gambling, and profiteering between producer and consumer is, and should be, objectionable to them. We have heard much comment, of late, regarding the unreasonable demand of the grain growers in asking for a continuance of Government control of wheat marketing, and the insinuations are made that the grain growers wish to have the Government make up any loss below a certain definite price which they hope to get. This is not the case. The grain growers desire some assurance that they will obtain for their wheat what it is worth on the open markets of the world.

## Planting for Spring.

A great deal can be done at this season of the year to make the dwelling a real home and a place of beauty. The machinery can be housed, or at least concealed in the background; rubbish can be cleared away, and an air of tidiness and cleanliness given to the surroundings. These operations should be preliminary only to the planting of bulbs, and the setting of perennials that are best planted in the fall. It is commendable, indeed, to have flowers about the home in the spring when in the rush gardening is often neglected. After the spring bloom is past the beds can be remodelled and the ordinary annuals planted or seeded. This provides a bloom from early in April until the frost cuts down vegetation