

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 6, 1916.

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## EDITORIAL.

Plan to attend conventions this winter. Agriculture must not lag.

More milk will require either more feed or more judicious use of the feed fed. Study rations.

An article in this issue describes some steer feeding operations. Give us your method and its results.

Live stock will not object to the color of the grain nor yet to sprouts, but they do not, as a rule, relish musty feed of any kind.

In no other way can the rent or interest on invested money be met by the farmers of this country, more surely and safely than by keeping good stock.

At present it does not look as though there would be any unemployment problem in the rural districts next summer, and there should be none in the cities.

Most New Year resolutions are broken, but those who resolved to be better farmers in 1916 than they were in 1915 surely will do their part to keep their good pledge.

We can scarcely believe that the Kaiser is anxious for spring. We would rather think that he is anxious about what will happen to him when spring comes.

Every farmer could get eggs in winter if he would compose his laying flock of early-hatched pullets, fed on a variety of feeds, and housed in a light, well-ventilated, dry house.

If the Farmers' Club in your district has made a success of buying or selling, give our readers the benefit of your experience. Handling goods together pays well if properly managed.

It must keep the Kaiser busy looking for a new front upon which to open an attack. Gradually the gaps close up and the pen about the wild man of Europe grows stronger and tighter.

Go to the Institute meeting and take part in the discussions. If you cannot agree with the speaker say so, with reasons, and so help the meeting to prove interesting and valuable to all.

It is not always the stock that is most closely housed that comes through the winter in the best condition. Very often young cattle, feeding ewes and breeding sows do better with the run of the farmyard, and a shed or open pen for shelter. Of course, they must be liberally fed.

The question of whether or not a man should enter the fight now being waged for freedom, should be decided by him on the basis of duty. If he can be of more service at the front as a soldier, and feels it his duty to go there, no one would for a moment attempt to influence him otherwise, but if he feels that the old farm is a factor in this fight and must be worked to the utmost, and that his duty lies in that direction, then no one can point the finger of scorn at him for doing his duty at home. Produce more! It requires men to produce even as much as Canada did this year.

### Save One Handling.

Last week we advised all those who could possibly arrange it to apply their farm-yard manure to the land, as made, in winter, spreading it on the snow. This is a great summer labor-saver, and as a general thing ensures a much smaller loss of plant food than where the manure is badly looked after in the yard, subjected to rains, and often water from the eaves pouring over it, into it, and through it carrying away its most valuable constituents. Analyses have shown that fresh stable manure contains about 12 lbs. of nitrogen, 2.7 lbs. of phosphorus, and 9.1 lbs. of potassium, per ton, while, after remaining three months in the yard, such manure contains only 7.4 lbs. of nitrogen, 2.3 of phosphorus, and 3.4 of potassium. There is a heavy loss of nitrogen and potassium. Experiments have proven that yields of grain and hay after fresh manure has been applied have been considerably larger than after an equal quantity of manure which had remained some months in the yard. The manure should go to the field as made.

This year, when labor promises to be very scarce, the practice of hauling out and spreading as made should appeal to all, and as a labor-saver in hauling many have their stables so equipped as to be able to drive through with team and sleigh, (or wagon) and load ready for the field, thus saving one handling. A representative of this paper recently visited several steer feeders, and found that most of them had adopted this method of getting the manure from the stable to the field by the most direct route. Those using litter carriers or having stables which could be better arranged through their use than by the wide passage for them, can very easily load their sleighs for the field by dumping the carrier into the sleigh and drawing away each day as the sleigh is loaded. This practice is important as a labor-saver, and as a conserver of plant food.

### Building Up the Farm.

During the next few years farm labor is likely to be comparatively scarce in Canada, and the farmer's ingenuity may be taxed to the utmost in devising means by which the production of his farm may be kept at the maximum with the minimum amount of hired help, and at the same time ensure that the fertility of his land be not depleted. In short, the good farmer must plan to build up his farm with as little labor as possible. It has been time and again demonstrated that the easiest way, and, at the same time, the surest and safest method of doing this is through keeping live stock of some kind, and seeding down the increased acreage necessary to pasture the stock and provide hay for winter feeding. Where the help is available, of course, the best farmer must have a fairly short rotation of crops, but even this makes him less rush work than where the greater part of the farm is in cereals, necessitating more plowing and more cultivation and a greater rush through the summer season. Live stock with plenty of pasture and hay land distributes the work better over the year, the hay is removed earlier in the season, thus obviating, to some extent, difficulties which arise where much grain is grown and ripens at once. And production is not finished with the summer season, for, throughout the winter, the farmer is busy utilizing his labor and his feed to the best advantage in finishing live stock for market or

in producing milk. We believe, then, the best method to follow, if the farm is to be built up and profitable returns derived from it while hired help is hard to get, that a good deal should be seeded down and the live stock increased, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It is possible to clean a farm and increase its fertility through judicious pasturing, and the growth of the necessary corn or root crops to properly balance the rations of live stock through the winter. We would favor corn, we might say here, because it requires less hoeing and can be cleaned with much less man-labor than either turnips or mangels, however, these latter crops have their place. But the pasturing, itself, if the field is properly seeded and looked after, will serve to clean the land. We know one field which was badly infested with wild oats and which is now free from this pest, and is, as well, free from most other weeds. This field has been seeded down for four years, with hay cut from it three, pastured after each hay crop, and the fourth year pastured throughout the season, a number of sheep being the main stock kept upon it. It has returned a good profit from hay and pasture, and has gained in fertility and is much more valuable now because it is clean. The three main points to be looked after in building up the farm should be hoed crops, grass and clover crops, and live stock, and where the necessity arises through shortage of help a farm can be well managed with more grass and pasture and less grain crops than usual.

### Prompt Action Necessary.

We were pleased last week to be able to announce that the Ontario Horse Breeders' Association has appointed a committee of well-known horsemen to confer with the Minister of Agriculture and other agricultural authorities at Ottawa with a view to, in some measure at least, remedying horse market conditions in this country; particularly in so far as these are the result of conditions incident upon the war, and the closing of outside horse markets to this country. The situation has not been satisfactory for months past. Farmers have not been able to find a market for their surplus horses, and naturally they began to ask why, when they saw load after load of horses from the United States passing through on the way to the battle-grounds of Europe. The writer was in a stable only a few days ago where a farmer had eight horses, and only had work for four. These were pure-bred animals and not suitable for military purposes. However, there are large numbers of suitable horses for army purposes being held on the farms of this country, and if they were cleaned out it would make a market for the better class of breeding mares which would raise foals as well as do the farm work, and all to the profit of the farmer. We have felt for some time that something should be done to insure our horsemen a market at a fair price for the horses which they have now held a year, unsaleable. We hope the committee appointed states the case plainly when they get to Ottawa, and that the Minister and all those interested in agriculture and the horse business may bring about something which will make a keener demand for Canadian horses. If the Allied Governments could be induced to, or were permitted to, buy in this country, we feel sure that a keener demand would soon result. If the present condition of affairs goes on very much longer it is surely going to