

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Surely a satisfactory spring will follow such a winter.

Good pigs will be of more value to the country this year than scrub calves.

The Russian situation will only increase the Allies' determination to win for the people.

Writers are enquiring about the use of old turnip and other seeds this spring. Test first and then sow if the seed proves vital.

If you have any left-over seed corn from other years, test it, and if reasonably strong in germination plant it, mixed with the available corn this year.

The live-stock breeders are going the right way about the proposed International Winter Fair. They plan to organize it and control it themselves.

Keeping the home fires burning has been some job this winter, but Canadians should be thankful. This country doesn't know what hardship is.

The horse is coming back. Men who have watched the ups and downs of the horse-breeding business are looking for the greatest demand for heavy draft horses that America has ever known.

Those who understand the situation say that it is impossible to conscript alien labor for the farm. International law will allow internment of enemy aliens, but interned men cannot be forced to work.

Canadian farms are again dependent upon the voluntary system to supply labor. We hope it does not fall down, but would suggest that the campaign to get the help be pushed immediately before it gets too late.

An excellent tribute to the spirit and valor of Toronto University men who have donned the King's uniform is the fine Varsity Magazine Supplement recently issued. University men have been true to their colors from the very beginning of the war.

It is not likely that the tractor supply will be large for the spring work in Eastern Canada, but delivery should be speeded up as much as possible, and those not on the land for seeding should be placed for summer-fallow and after-haying plowing.

We understand that Canadian farmers availed themselves of the opportunity to get loans for the purchase of seed last year to the extent of \$142,000. The same privileges are to be extended this year, and anyone in need of help to purchase seed grain should avail himself of the opportunity.

Silage growers in Eastern Canada will have to be content with southern-grown corn for seed purposes, and the varieties allowed to come across the border are only a few late-maturing, coarse-growing sorts, such as Mammoth Southern Sweet and Red Cob. Only 500,000 bushels are available and orders should be placed early.

This week we publish articles explaining the prices set for bran and shorts. There seems to be some misunderstanding in the minds of many and some complaint of overcharging. Moreover, as far as we know, the buyers of millfeeds are not compelled to take flour with them, although hints are made in some quarters that millers expect them to.

Voluntary Farm Labor.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has favored some scheme of selective draft to ensure farm labor to make possible the increased production so vitally necessary at the present time. It does seem, however, as if nothing of this nature is to be accomplished this year. Owing to difficulties in the way, the Government seems likely to follow the voluntary system again, and perhaps to push it a little more strenuously than was the case the last two or three years. The Federal authorities seem to be leaving the matter of farm labor largely in the hands of the Provincial organizations, and it is to be hoped that a start will be made immediately. Dr. Riddell, of the Trades and Labor Branch, has set as the objective for the campaign in Ontario, 15,000 boys between the ages of 15 and 19 years, inclusive. We believe the number of boys set as the Dominion objective is 25,000. Of long-term men, that is men who will go out from the cities and towns for the entire summer, Dr. Riddell hopes to get 7,500 in Ontario, and of short-term men—those who will go out for a short period in haying and harvesting—he hopes to get 12,500 men. Arrangements are now under way to secure these boys and men. If they can be had, are farmers ready to take them on as helpers? We suggest that the Department, in their advertising notices destined to reach the farmer and draw him out regarding his labor needs, state the number of boys and men they actually have available at different times, give a description of the class the labor is, and state the wages expected. Different farmers will require different grades of labor and will be ready to pay wages accordingly. Then, farmers requiring help should send in their requirements promptly. Let us bury prejudice and get down to business. Farmers are good people. So are city folks. A little more of the get-together spirit would work wonders. Neither side should expect it all. But for the sake of production and the Allied cause, let all dilly-dallying stop. Make all arrangements early. Aliens cannot be conscripted for the farm. International law permits only of internment, and internment means that the interned does not have to work. Organized labor objects to conscription of labor for the benefit of private individuals. Perhaps they are right, but at any rate it would be folly to object to anything in reason which would strengthen the armies of democracy. Food is essential. Since the voluntary system of recruiting for the farm is to be the practice again, the best possible use should be made of every existing agency that will help in any way whatever.

The Fruit Growers' Dilemma.

Fruit growers are asking what is to be done this coming season in case a large crop of apples results in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia, with the embargo still preventing exportation overseas. The situation is viewed from a different angle by the growers in the Atlantic and Pacific Provinces. British Columbia suffers from competition coming from across the line even in the face of a 90-cents-a-barrel duty. The growers in British Columbia would like to see an embargo prohibiting the importation of apples into Canada. The Nova Scotia apple growers, on the other hand, find a good market in the cities of the Eastern States for a part of their product, and prefer to have any obstacles removed that would tend to obstruct trade. Thus it is that the two wings of the country cannot act in perfect unison when it is vitally necessary so to do.

There has probably been no Canadian industry harder hit by the war than fruit growing, and legitimate investments should be protected to the fullest possible extent. However, there are two factors which seem at once to discountenance anything in the nature of an embargo against United States apples, and these are: First, the friendly and reciprocal relationship existing be-

tween the two countries, making it possible for us to obtain commodities which are absolutely necessary; and second, the fact that Canada wishes to export apples to the United States. It is doubtful if any manipulating of tariffs or embargoes would help British Columbia, for that would simply mean a greater influx of the Eastern crop into the Prairie markets and competition against a product that might otherwise go to the Eastern States. There are other points also along the boundary line of four thousand miles that enjoy the opportunity of exchanging fruits in different seasons. The whole situation is fraught with difficulties that only an all-Canadian conference of fruit men, such as was held at Grimsby in 1914, can solve.

A great effort should be made to utilize all low-grade apples and keep them off the market in the raw state. Evaporators, canning and jam factories and other such institutions should be worked to capacity in an endeavor to make the low-grade product non-perishable, and at the same time marketable, without weakening the trade. Herein lies one of the most promising opportunities which might be developed in the interests of apple growers. This is no time for pessimism; orchards have been neglected during the last three or four years, and those in touch with conditions do not expect to see a large crop of good quality. Those who remain steadfast will, no doubt, come through all right, and after the war is over they will be in a position to enjoy a period of prosperity.

Loans and Seed.

Last year the Government in the Province of Ontario made arrangements with the Bankers' Association through the Organization of Resources Committee whereby farmers needing money for the purchase of seed were enabled to get a loan up to \$200 at their nearest branch bank provided they could satisfy the banker as to their reliability and that they were going to use the entire amount borrowed for the purchase of seed. The scheme was not announced until early in May, too late for the offer to be taken the advantage of that might have been the case had the arrangements been made earlier in the season. However the same arrangements are already in existence for this year and any needing better seed and requiring a little extra cash to be used in the purchase of the same should make use of this opportunity. There is no excuse to sow inferior seed of most crops this year. Good corn will be scarce but every farmer should at least get the best seed procurable of all crops sown or planted. In this connection we might also draw attention to the supply of Marquis seed wheat which the Government is making available to Ontario farmers at \$2.74 per bushel. This is a good wheat and where land has been prepared for winter wheat and not sown, owing to difficulty last fall in getting the fall wheat seeding done, or on land that is in a high state of fertility and tilth and suitable for wheat growing it will doubtless make a very satisfactory crop for this spring. It should be remembered that the Allies require all the wheat Canada can produce. We are not advising anyone to go strongly into spring wheat growing in Ontario. A great big yield cannot be expected, but on choice, well-prepared, fairly heavy rich soil a reasonably good and paying crop could be expected in a favorable season. Suppose it yielded not more than 18 to 20 bushels per acre, it would not be a bad crop to grow with wheat at war-time prices. Think it over. Do not sow wheat on poor land. Oats would do better. But if you have a field that could be reasonably expected to produce a fair yield of wheat, why not try it? Up to 30 bushels or more per acre is possible but the average is likely in a good year to run around 18 bushels.

Proof that the best cattle are not overplentiful was evident at the recent Dryden-Miller Shorthorn auction.