

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Starve out and destroy the fall brood of the Hessian fly, and thus protect next season's wheat crop.

Rust on the mold-board and the harrow teeth at this season of the year is a bad omen for next year's crops.

Supply and demand formerly influenced the price of cheese, but exchange is now a third factor of no mean importance.

A poor hen will lose a farmer under present conditions as much as \$1.50. Cull the flock and get rid of the "star boarders."

Some farmers invest their surplus money in the town or city, and then complain about the exodus of youth from the country.

The corn crop is rather patchy, but there will be a large tonnage to care for this fall. A silo is the best shelter for a good corn crop.

After all, the great financial magnates depend on the products of Canadian farms to make exchange right and keep the country solvent.

Apples are one article of diet which have dropped in price. One can scarcely dispose of first-class Duchess and Wealthies at a remunerative price.

No one should be in such a hurry that he has not time to stop, look and listen when approaching a level crossing. Too much haste frequently ends in a tragedy.

The considerate auto driver switches on the dim lights when meeting a rig or other auto. But there are altogether too many who think that they are the only ones on the road.

By careful farming and reasonable improvements a man acquires assets that are more valuable than bonds or debentures. It is bad practice to rob the farm with city investments in view.

No exhibit at a fall fair should receive a prize unless it merits one. A fair does not function as an educational factor when it rewards an exhibitor for bringing out wormy apples or scrub live stock.

The West in time of stress deserted the hog, but eastern farmers have had so much experience in the game that they know, in Irish terms, "it pays to keep a few hogs even if it doesn't pay."

Good farms, good homes, good schools and good churches will make the country a place so desirable that young and old will be loath to leave. The recreational and social side of farm life is a deciding factor.

August is a trying month for dairymen, and it is then that carefulness and cleanliness are rewarded in the quality of the milk. Use plenty of ice or cold water, let sunlight do its part, and keep the utensils clean.

According to Lloyd-George, Poland's attack on Russia could not be justified. If the Poles had paid more attention to history they would, no doubt, have known better than to attack a country that has brought about the downfall of the most powerful armies in the world. Napoleon's defeat and utter rout in Russia is still a warning that wise statesmen are not prone to forget.

The Other End of the Beef Cow.

The nurse cow has become a very important part of the present-day show herd. After one has taken the trouble to stroll through some of the out-of-the-way barns that house these matrons at our larger exhibitions, this fact becomes apparent. As we think of this side of the show game, we cannot help wondering—why so many of these nurse cows?

We realize that there is no cheaper nor better way to fit a calf for the show than by putting it on a cow that will give plenty of milk. It provides for growth, mellowness of fleshing and bloom that is difficult to get in any other way. It gives that fine handling quality and mossy coat that has carried many a calf to the top of its class. The man who has a youngster that he thinks good enough to win would be foolish if he did not give it every chance for maximum development through the nurse cow.

There is another side to the nurse cow question, however, which should cause a little anxiety. This is the cow that has to be carried to foster the young calf whose mother cannot provide it with enough milk for ordinary growth. This cow is seen, not only in our show circuits, but in many pure-bred breeding herds, where the ultra beef type is being aimed at. In the blind rush for a perfect beef type, the milking end of the beef cow has been almost completely overlooked. In many of our breeding herds it is not uncommon to see the cows of outstanding type very sadly lacking in udder development, with calves at their sides that show by their coats that they are not receiving enough milk. After all, the ultimate market for the animals that the pure-bred breeder produces is the ordinary farmer whose cows must support their own calves. And if he continues to breed with a view to beef alone, the time will come when not only he but those to whom he has sold seed stock will suffer as a result. The early improvers of our beef breeds kept an eye to milk production, along with easy feeding and quick-fleshing qualities, and it is up to the breeder of to-day to work more along these lines. The valuable cow in the herd is the one that is right in body conformation and does not require a nurse cow to raise her calf.

Solid Settlements in the North.

The Premier of Ontario could not have spoken a plainer truth at Monteith Farm than when he said the need of New Ontario was "concentrated, solid settlements." The policy in the past might have been all right, but circumstances combined to make the actual settlement of New Ontario anything but judicious. Anyone travelling through the North Country during the past ten years could not help but deplore the conditions there existing. Land grants to veterans and the activities of the speculators have retarded development in the North twenty-five years, and unless Hon. Mr. Drury and his Government make very vigorous efforts to correct these wrongs the development of the North country will be retarded for another quarter century. During the last ten years representatives of "The Farmer's Advocate," who have travelled through New Ontario, have always noticed the scattering of settlements as the outstanding wrong in the North, and through this paper the Provincial Government has repeatedly been urged to adopt more drastic regulations in regard to land settlement. In 1915 it was pointed out that one of the greatest hindrances to the speedy breaking up and settling of Timiskaming soils was speculation. Property was held by parties not living on the land, neither were they developing it. When a young man wished to launch out for himself he was obliged to go some distance from his father's homestead before he could locate, and in between the two farms would lie hundreds of acres of undeveloped fields held by speculators. At the same time "The Farmer's

Advocate" said: "Any Government looking to the development of New Ontario should do all within its power to eliminate the element of speculation that tends to the scattering of homes. Smaller farms might have some disadvantages, but they would bring the people closer together, give them better roads, schools, and social organizations, and at the same time provide sufficient land for many years on which to work. However, if the lots endowed upon veterans could be taken up, and those held purely for speculative purposes could be 'jumped,' if the owner after a certain number of years did not settle on it or induce another to in his behalf, the country would benefit considerably."

Many sad tragedies are indelibly written on the pages of history covering the development of New Ontario, owing to this scattering and isolation of homes. It is fortunate indeed for this new country that the Premier has taken the matter to heart, and it is to be hoped that his Government will follow up his recent remarks with a policy adapted to the conditions there.

Farmers and Hired Help.

Greater changes, by far, have taken place in the last six or seven years than occurred in the twenty-five preceding, and in no particular are these changes more pronounced than in their relationship between employed and employer. The situation is absolutely reversed. Some employers have been able to adapt themselves to the altered circumstances; others have not, and in the latter class are to be found the majority of farmers.

The great bulk of producers on the land to-day have experienced brighter times in regard to farm help. In former years men went to the fields in the spirit of rivalry; the best man took the lead, and if another could surpass the alleged champion no effort was spared in order to do so. Neighborhood records were continually being discussed and continually broken. Those who have come up through the years of the cradle, the hand-scythe, the hoe and the axe can well grasp the meaning of these words. Where two or three men were involved in any task the work was carried out more as a contest than as an ordinary day's work, and if any member of the party could not or did not enter into the spirit of the game he was ignominiously distanced and eternally disgraced.

Farmers still inherit a little of that old-time enthusiasm for manly work and supremacy in the field, but the help we get nowadays are a new race with different aims and less ambition. The help of bygone days earned in some cases twice as much as they received; the situation is now reversed, and farmers are obliged to pay, too often, twice what a man is worth. Nevertheless, the farm help of to-day will average up well with the city laborer, and in the majority of cases we believe the former is superior. City employers have adapted themselves to the new conditions, and farmers will sooner or later have to do the same. We are inclined to expect too much—a day's work now was not a day's work fifteen or twenty-five years ago, and we may as well look on it in that light. We shall have to be satisfied with less efficiency and with less work done.

The crux of the whole matter, however, rests in the fact that the manufacturer or city employer completes his cost accounts and prices his commodity accordingly. Farmers cannot do the same, but they can improve their cultural methods, plan better, adopt efficient methods of marketing, which in the long run means co-operation, and otherwise offset to a considerable extent the disadvantages of the times. Without courageous and progressive plans in our farming operations we are simply getting along. More help must be utilized to make farming, as an industry, profitable and progressive, and to this end the governmental and economic machinery of the country should be timed and adjusted.