

supplied an amount exceeding by £3,623,987 that provided by Denmark. Canada also increased her exports from £863,139 in 1913 to £3,324,511 in 1915, but during the beginning months of this year was only exporting about one-quarter as much as was being provided by the United States. More significant still, Canadian bacon is generally reputed to excel that furnished by the hog raisers of the Union, and the fact that it was selling at an advance of from 10 to 12 shillings per hundredweight over the competing product is substantial proof of its superiority. The Wiltshire side of bacon can be taken from the Canadian types of swine, while the fat hog of the United States boasts no such qualities. The point to bear in mind at this time is, that Canada has an opportunity to develop in Britain a lucrative market for the product of our swine herds, and by supplying the proper quality we may have access to an almost unlimited demand.

It will be seen from what has already been written that we enjoy one advantage over our heavy competitor, namely, that of quality. We can also produce the bacon hog as cheaply, if not more cheaply, than it can be bred and reared in the United States. In these regards we are on firm ground, and we should keep our feet firmly planted there until circumstances justify a change either to the right or to the left. Should we adopt or lean towards the fat hog we at once cast ourselves into competition on the same market with a country that can produce pork of this quality far more cheaply than we. Farmers of the Corn-belt States have a decided advantage over the Canadian hog raiser. There, swine follow the steers, fed an abundance of corn, and with what they pick from the droppings of the cattle and from the herbage of the fields, they surpass in cheapness of gains anything we can hope to accomplish generally in this country. The folly of our leaning towards the fat or lard hog is manifest, it would be, to say the least, suicidal policy. So long as we champion the long, smooth-shouldered, deep-sided pig we shall maintain our advantageous position and enjoy the increased selling price which has been ours on the market that rules the world.

THE FARM.

Patriotism, Thrift, Production,—and the "Game."

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The great cataclysm has jolted a large section of humanity into a sense of reality. We were largely becoming mere money-makers.

Now, making money is a first rate game. No one denies that. So, also, is baseball, or ping-pong. All are equally respectable, and, equally, of no particular account. Of course, we were in no danger of getting the illusion that playing ping-pong, and "ball," was the foundation of national life, and therein lay the comparative harmlessness of these games. Had we gotten the notion that, to become a great country, we must play lots of ball, we would have reached mental and moral chaos, as absurdly as we have now.

A man may buy, or steal lots, in Bing's Hollow, and by waiting several generations, until Bing's Hollow becomes a big metropolis, he may make a bunch of

money. But sitting there, watching Bing's Hollow grow up into a metropolis, is of no account to anyone. It's perfectly respectable. But the magnate, sitting there, all those generations, is of no more consequence to the world, than if he had been sitting on a cake of ice, watching the North Pole.

A man may make money, and, incidentally, do a lot of useful things. James J. Hill made money, and a great many people respect him for that, alone. Hill did more than make money. He built railroads. He may have built the railroads, to make money, and then again, he may only have wanted the money, in order to build the railroads. I am not dealing with the motives of the magnates. I am dealing with the usefulness and importance of certain forms of human activity, and I find his financial activity important, only in so far as it supported his railroad building activities.

A livery-stable is of far more importance than a bank. More important, also, than a football field, or a poolroom, or a ping-pong dive, or a bowling-green, or a skating rink, or a movie theatre. This obvious fact is becoming more obvious since the war began. The farmer has come to the front. He has "found himself," and recognizes his vast importance in the Empire. Farmers, to-day, are not wishing that they were lawyers, and could get mighty fees from corporations, for advice. They are glad to be farmers, grow grass, and be of some account, which after all, is the desirable goal. Farmer's sons are beginning to "put it on" just a little, and are acting patronizingly, towards the bank-clerks.

And a change has taken place in our ideas of thrift. Thrift used to be "saving up the scads." Now, saving scads isn't of the slightest consequence;—of less consequence, in fact, than making scads, for making scads often involves the exercise of constructive ability. The scads will be saved all right. No fear of that. I saw a man, in a burst of splendid generosity, sow scads, broadcast, upon a bar-room floor, and not one scad was lost. They were all garnered. The scads were the payment for his month's cheese, and the fortunate thing about it was that the cheese, which was important, was safe in the store-room at the factory. Had the factory went afire, that would have been a different order of things.

The war has linked together the words "Thrift," and "Production." In the dark ages preceding August the fourth, 1914, any old, idle drone might be considered thrifty. To-day the words are almost synonymous. To produce, we labor, and, by carefully preserving the product for a rainy day, we prosper,—thrive. To grow hay, harvest it, bale it,—this is production. It is also thrift. To take care of the hay, to eliminate all waste in its consumption, to feed it to the cows and the horses this is thrift. It is also production,—the production of cheese, butter, horse-power, etc. Thrift, again, cares for this last product, uses it, marshals, mobilizes, distributes it, in unwholesome ways, and produces defence.

And what else matters? Making money is a mere incident to these things; just a way, we have, of amusing ourselves, and each other,—a perfectly inconsequential game, were it not for the intensity of our interest in it, and our deep-rooted faith in its consequence; also, a perfectly good game, training and developing the mind, but a game, withal and a thing aside from the vital matters of production and thrift.

Given the production and thrift, a nation might, in a pinch, carry on war, without money,—the faith

and confidence of the nation, centering on organization,—for, after all, it is faith in money, and value, that makes possible the game. Indeed, it might be carried on much better, for thousands are engaged in making money out of it, and these would be free to join the army of production.

And civilization may be forced to abandon the game,—at least for a time. Games of all kinds are out of harmony with the serious problems of the time. In periods of intense earnestness, we put them away. One would not want to play even ping-pong, at a funeral. The roar of "bank-clearings", stock markets, buying, selling, and making money generally, loses its interest in the roar of siege-guns attacking the foundations of our present order. A complete mobilization of all the resources, may be the ultimate outcome of the war. All previous wars have been carried on between governments, using such resources as they could muster at the time. The present one may demand the mobilization of the last unit of strength. It is a struggle of resources,—an unprecedented war. The games may have to go.

Rumblings of food-riots in Germany, reach us at times, giving rise to hopes that the end is in sight. But food shortage is not the sole reason for food-riots. Price may be the greater factor. Germany is compared, sometimes, to a beleaguered garrison. The comparison is well applied, only, if Germany is really short of food. The making-money game is not played in a beleaguered garrison. Beleaguered garrisons do not tolerate a class of quartermasters, holding rations for high prices. Famine appears, in the most piping times, if the purchasing-power does not balance the productive. Beleaguered garrisons put away such things as "purchasing-power," and Germany may round out the simile by doing just that.

Can Germany supply her population, and carry on war? Are the present food-supplies of Germany sufficient for the present needs? If not, then Germany must go hungry, and the end of the war is in sight. If so, reasonably sufficient, Germany will strive to solve the problem of distribution, just as a beleaguered garrison would do. If successful, the allies would, probably, be forced to adopt the same methods.

My friend, Elihu, who knows a lot more than he can hold, tells me that this is Socialism. I am not concerned about what it is called. It has been in operation before. It was quite fashionable, among beleaguered garrisons, long before the time of Karl Marks, and Brother Bellamy,—even before the days of Bernard Shaw. It doesn't make a bit of difference if you call it "Jim Johnson," or Macaroni. Whatever it is, it is not the issue of the present war, but a weapon,—a method of organization that might be adopted by either an autocracy, or a democracy. The issue is between these two. Socialism inheres in both. Triumphant Germany might be a social-autocracy,—the most concentrated and absolute of despotisms. Triumphant England might be a social-democracy,—which, certainly could be no worse than the other "social-thing."

And the present order may be sustained,—and the "game" that has amused us so long. It rests with the money-Barons, and the nations of money-Barons. Do they see it, clearly? Will they rise to the occasion? Or are they fascinated,—hopelessly fascinated with the game? Will they continue the play, till the chess-board vanishes?

There are rumblings from Sinai. The day may not be distant when the heavens will thunder the commandment,—"Clean out your idlers, or die."

Elgin Co., Ont.

ANGUS MCKEY.

Cutting, Curing and Storing Different Kinds of Hay.

It is doubtful if there is any feed grown on the farm that is either made or spoiled in curing and harvesting to such an extent as is hay. If it is allowed to become over-ripe before cutting, the palatability, digestibility and nutritive value are more or less injured. If cut too green it lacks substance. Too much hot sun makes it brittle and causes loss of leaves. If put in the mow a little fresh it heats and becomes musty. Rain or dew takes from the legumes their natural aroma, which is essential to good hay and renders them less palatable, makes them dark colored and lessens the weight. The kind of weather during hay harvest largely determines the quality of the product and the labor involved in gathering it. At the best, handling hay is heavy work, although labor-saving machinery has done much during recent years to render it less arduous, both in the field and barn.

From present indications this year's crop promises to be a bumper one, but, on many farms labor will be none too plentiful to handle it properly. However, with good hay weather and modern hay machinery it does not take long to harvest a good many tons of this important feed. True, one man can do very little at hauling in alone, but he can cut and prepare for hauling, then co-operate with his neighbor in getting the hay into the barn. Two neighbors might work together to the advantage of both.

Stage to Cut.

The date on which to commence haying depends on the stage of growth of the plant as well as on weather conditions. There is a right and a wrong time to cut all the grasses and legumes in order to secure the highest feeding value from the cured hay. If the various hay crops are being grown, haying may commence by the middle of June and continue, off and on, until September. If sweet clover is grown, for hay it is usually the first crop to require attention. When conditions are unfavorable for harvesting this legume at the proper time,

the value of the hay may be greatly decreased. As it reaches maturity it becomes woody and unpalatable. According to analysis the proper time to cut sweet clover is from the time of bud formation until the plant is one-third in bloom. As the blossoms develop, the percentage of ash, protein and fat gradually decreases and soluble carbohydrates and fibre increase. Having to cut so early makes it difficult to properly cure it for hay unless the weather is ideal. The stems are full of sap, and if hay is made in the swath the leaves become brittle and fall off before the stems are dry enough to store in a mow. Leaves of legume plants have a high feeding value, consequently the value of the feed is decreased in proportion to the loss of leaves. While it takes longer to make hay in the coil this method is generally practiced with sweet clover and alfalfa.

The alfalfa plant is similar in many ways to sweet clover, except that it does not grow so rank. However, care must be taken to cut it at the proper stage in order to ensure the highest feeding value and at the same time not injure the growth for the next crop. Some cut when the blossoms are from one-tenth to one-half out, but there are seasons when the plants do not bloom as profusely as they do others, and relying solely on the blossoms may lead one astray. If new growth from the crowns attains sufficient height to be injured when cutting the first crop, the second crop will be materially decreased. Successful growers of alfalfa watch for the appearance of this new growth, and as soon as there are signs of it starting, cutting is commenced. The time may vary with the season, so that the grower must rely on his own judgment in determining the time to cut rather than depend on a set date. Analysis of alfalfa hay cut before the plant blooms shows it to be higher in percentage of ash, crude protein, carbohydrates and fat than when cut at any other time of its growth. The digestibility of the fodder is also highest when cut at this stage.

Red clover is a crop more generally grown for hay

than the two legume crops previously mentioned. It usually gives a good yield of nutritious fodder, is easily cured and there is less risk of a failure than with alfalfa. While the hay from the plants cut before they come in bloom may contain a higher feeding value than hay from plants cut at any other stage of their growth, the yield would probably be lighter and the hay much harder to make. As a rule, if the weather is favorable clover cutting should commence when the plants are about half in bloom in order that the entire crop may be harvested before too many of the blossoms die. The nearer the plant is to maturity the quicker it will cure, but there will be a decrease in its value as a fodder.

It is customary to cut timothy after the second bloom, and there is seldom much difficulty in making good quality hay. Care should be taken not to cut when the bloom is on if clean hay is to be obtained. Dusty timothy hay is frequently caused by cutting at the wrong time.

Orchard grass is frequently grown for pasture and occasionally there is a small acreage for hay. It is one of the earliest grasses and soon becomes very coarse and woody. It should be cut before it commences to bloom. When any of the cereal grains are intended for hay they should be cut when the grain is in the milk or soft-dough stage. It is best to cut millet for hay as soon as it is fully headed and before any bloom forms. The hay is less woody and more palatable than is hay made from more mature plants. Owing to local circumstances or bad weather it may not be possible to harvest the hay crop at the time when it is known the greatest feed value will be obtained from it. The aim should be to cut and cure the legumes with as little loss of leaves as possible, as they are the richest part of the plant. With sweet clover and alfalfa the second crop is ready to cut about six weeks after the first. With these crops care should be taken not to run the cutting bar too close to the ground else