

process. If one were to judge by the spread in price the shrinkage would need to be several hundred per cent. The hide which leaves the farm-raised animal is an article of commerce which is indispensable to ultimate farm use. Leather is necessary for harness, collars, boots and shoes, etc., or has been considered so up to the present time. That being so, the road which that hide travels from the farm to the tannery and back to the farm ought to be under the observation and control of the farmer or his agents all the time. As it is, at the present time he appears to be paying for some one's abnormal profits.

We have to pay for the privilege of buying a set of harness, or any part of a set. The local dealer or maker is careful to charge a good margin of profit, especially on small parts. Without in any way relieving him of his responsibility in high prices for leather goods, we are bound to admit that the original and greater fault lies somewhere in the road the leather travels before it reaches his hands.

Go into the local store and buy a pair of heavy work boots and you will likely pay from six to eight dollars. I recently bought a pair of what promised to be good boots. The price was six dollars. To-day, out of curiosity, I weighed those boots and find they tip the scales at four pounds, counting the cotton shoelaces. Estimating the weight of the laces, eyelets, hooks, sole pegs, filler, etc., at one pound, and I suppose I have three pounds of leather, although of that I am not certain. Here is another chance for a mathematical wizard or a truth prevaricator to justify the spread in price between my recently sold beef hide and my new pair of boots. Allow every man in the process of manufacture and sale a fair profit, and tell us what we ought to do with the balance. Should it go to the man who sold the hide or the one who bought the boots?

This just reminds me that there is a good stiff duty

of thirty per cent., plus seven and a half per cent. war tax on boots, shoes and harness coming from the United States, so that we are prevented from enjoying lower prices on these, in so far as Government regulation has gone.

Ever since the war began there has been a steadily increasing clamor for increased production. I do not doubt the necessity for a minute. In fact, I believe it is highly necessary. But it is just about time for the clamorers to recognize the fact that many hindrances

to greater production are economic hindrances. Certainly the farmer can always be learning better ways of farming, but I believe he has really less to learn along that line right at the present time, than have some of his critics and advisers a need to learn the disastrous effect of economic hindrances. Keep the spread on all articles used in production down to a fair margin, and one of the greatest bars to successful and greater production will have been removed.

Sask.

"FARMER".



Oxen Used to Increase Acreage in Britain.

Canada's Young Farmers and Future Leaders.

The Boy and His Father.

The wise father will discuss the problem with his sons, and will not be adverse to considering suggestions made by his boys. Of course it is not advisable for a boy to be too dictatorial to his elders, but many young men have ideas, and excellent ones too, which if put into practice on the home farm would improve conditions materially. Because of a father's neglect to take his boys into his confidence many a young man has left the old home and sought his life work elsewhere. It was not the nature of the work so much as the feeling that he was not being given an opportunity to exercise his ability to the fullest extent that led him to make the decision. Many men who have jobs in towns and cities prefer the farm life and are planning to return to the land some day, when they have sufficient capital. Fathers should remember that the boys must be given responsibility and a chance to make good if they would retain them on the farm. We are reminded of a father who would allow his twenty-year-old son to take a load of grain to the mill to be ground, but if a load was to be sold, or if hogs or cattle were to be marketed, father always went along and took the money, while the son drove the team but did not have a chance of holding the cash from the sale even for the shortest space of time. While there are fathers of this disposition, we believe their number to be small. There are more who remember that they were boys once and try to give their sons every opportunity. However, a boy must show that he is capable of shouldering a responsibility before it is proffered him. It is the boy

and not the father who is oftentimes to blame for the boy being kept at the small jobs and chores; they may be all he is capable of handling. If a boy or young man can prove that his methods are better than those being practiced or that he can do certain work as well as or better than his father or others are doing it, his opportunity for displaying his ability will not be long in coming. "Show me" is what many fathers are wanting of their sons and so soon as that is done they are only too willing to divide the responsibility of running the farm or business. Are you proving that you are capable or are you grumbling because father does not give you more privileges?

We recently heard of a young man who wanted a horse and rig of his own. After some hesitancy the wish was granted and the recipient was happy. For a time all went well and the work was up to normal. However, as months passed, chores were neglected, or hurriedly done, in order that more time might be spent on the road or in the nearby town. Then late hours began to make the boy less efficient and regular work was slighted. Was it any wonder the father lost confidence in his son's ability to take responsibility? The boy had been given a chance but failed to make good, and we regret that there are many in his class. Boys, think the matter over and see if you are not somewhat to blame for existing conditions at home.

There are different ways of getting your wishes granted. A boy in his early teens took great interest in the work on the place. He would return from school

and faithfully perform the work of doing chores, etc. His principal aim appeared to be to do things right, no matter if his recreation hour was encroached upon. He had certain ideas regarding the feeding of cows and pigs which did not altogether comply with those of his father. He did not get cross but continued doing his work well, and as time went on he gradually proved to his father that some at least of the things he was advocating were to be preferred to the old methods.

The father never could see any advantage in keeping individual cow records. It was a waste of time in his estimation. However, the boy procured a pair of scales and commenced weighing and marking down the weights of the milk from the cows he was milking. The father watched this record sheet closely and, while he was inclined to ridicule the idea at first, it was not long before he was slyly slipping a pail on the scales. Now, records are kept of the entire herd and there is considerable competition between father and son, as to which gets the most from the cows they milk. The boy got what he wanted and won his father to his way of thinking, but it was necessary to prove he was right first. There are many ways in which a boy might introduce new and approved methods on the old farm. Take an interest in the work and do it as well as you can your reward will come sooner or later. It is a good plan for father and son to be pals; to talk over the work on hand, or to take a trip occasionally. If father and son would work together and plan together there would be fewer boys leaving the farms of Old Ontario.

Automobiles, Farm Machinery and Farm Motors.

War Time Importance of the Tractor.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The tractor industry has the largest graveyard of monumental failures behind it of any industry that has been established in modern times, but out of it has come success.

The tractor is distinctly a better-formed machine. It is so evidenced by the fact that it is used by a large number of farmers who are not machinery cranks but who are wide-awake to the advantages of adopting methods that will enable them to produce better crops and more of them.

I am not here to promote any particular tractor. Tractors in general is to be the centre of thought, and what tractors will do to win the war.

I have heard a lot and read some in the way of speculation on what the ultimate tractor is to be. Let us pay no attention to that. We have no time, neither has the farmer. What the world needs is bread and they need it now. Let the ultimate tractor take care of things at the ultimate time.

The man that farms during the year 1918 must pick for his use from the tractors that are now available and there are a lot of them and they will do good work if properly handled and all the farmer has to do is to make his selection wisely, purchase through the local dealer that is in a position to supply him with a machine made by an established and reliable company and who can and will give him necessary service and instructions. And here I want to press the idea that it is the farmer who stays at home and farms that must run the tractor and not the young fellow who has gone to war.

For he is the fellow who is really required by govern-

ment request to meet the world's food requirements, to double or more than double his output, and in doing so he has got to contend with the shortage of farm labor. His inability to drive and handle more than a limited number of horses makes it necessary for him to turn to mechanical means in performing his work. The tractor is the most important machine, because one man can handle a greater amount of power and accomplish more than double the amount of work in the same length of time, do it with less expense and do it on a character of fuel that will leave the feed necessary to maintain horses available for feeding meat-producing animals and thereby increase the quantity of human food. Neither man nor beast can exist on the fuel the tractor uses and there are not enough horses in the country to meet the power requirements.

A man with a medium size tractor and a double row motor cultivator can raise and cultivate more than twice as much corn as the same man could do with horses, and the same equipment will enable the same man to raise three to four times as much small grain.

I claim the patriotic farmer is the one who sees the advantage of adopting the tractor and utilizing it to meet the country's needs through its crisis and at the same time gets the profits and advantages of early adoption. The farmer who waits until the time arrives when he is forced to buy a tractor is not only losing sight of his own best interests and greatest opportunities, but is not heeding his country's call for greater food production.

Doing work at the right time is of greatest importance to the successful farmer.

With the tractor he can not only plow deeper and cheaper but he can wait until the conditions are most favorable and then rush the work through faster be-

cause he has greater capacity. The average farmer without a tractor is like a factory without sufficient power to run it—it is under powered.

Power is the great requirement to the accomplishment of larger things. The farmer with a good powerful tractor can keep ahead of the seasons in the matter of seeding; he can do all his heavy work with a tractor, reducing the horses required to a minimum.

I do not wish to be misunderstood as advocating the horseless farm, but there are many kinds of farm work for which the tractor is proving to be practical and economical; plowing, disking, harrowing, seeding, pulling harvesting and haying machinery; then comes the belt power, running a thresher, a silo filler, a corn sheller, corn shredder, pulling hedge and trees, moving buildings, grading roads and making roadways, pulling ditching machinery, filling ditches, raising buildings, sawing wood, feed grinding and general hauling. There are many other kinds of work, of course, but the advantages of the tractor are largely due to the fact the tractor does not get tired, works better in hot weather. The operator is enthusiastic and eager to get his work performed, therefore he puts in greater hours in the field with the tractor than he would with horses, because he does not have to do the same amount of work in caring for the tractor as he does caring for horses and then if he wants to, he can double the capacity of the tractor by putting on headlights and another man and running it at night during the rush season. This is equal to practically quadrupling the amount of power on the farm, because the horses could not work continuously night and day.

With the price of wheat fixed at \$2.21 a bushel and other farm products soaring at an equally high price, the farmer's ability to buy has been very materially increased. At the present steadily advancing rate of

labor cost, the in fact, they be were it not of each other.

Kerosene fuel. The farm to burn keros only that, but cause gasoline be restricted in that are guar economically.

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