

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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1866

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LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 6, 1917.

1302

EDITORIAL.

The time for fall sowing is at hand. Sow selected seed.

After you get the coal bin ready, sharpen up the axe and the saw.

The average farmer has a much better knowledge of production than he has of marketing.

The 1918 crop depends upon the amount of plowing done this fall. An early start means a good finish.

The Canadian farmer is asked to produce a greater acreage of grain and larger number of live stock next year with a diminishing supply of labor.

About the only portions of Ontario which have not produced a big crop this year are the undrained spots. Drainage is essential to crop production.

Some of Canada's politicians seem to be more concerned over the outcome of political squabbles at Ottawa than they are about the fight for liberty in Europe.

If the tractor is as valuable in increasing production as the Ontario Department of Agriculture reports indicate, let us have cheap tractors. Removing duty would help.

Which would you rather do, Young Man, stay on the farm and eventually become a prosperous and successful farmer, or move away to the city and labor year after year under a boss?

The car shortage is acute. All users of freight cars should load to full capacity promptly and unload without delay. Aiding the transportation companies this fall and winter will help avert a crisis.

The county or township fair which means no more to the people who attend than "a day off", has only half the reason for existence that the one which is an educative as well as social event has.

Unless more coal comes through to the smaller towns and villages and to rural districts many people will have to keep themselves warm for no small part of the coming winter at that healthful occupation—sawing and splitting wood.

It pays best to fit the young animal for the block because it is in early life that feeds are most easily converted into meat. This is one reason why the three and four-year-old steer has given place on the market to the youngster of fifteen months to two years.

The surest way of increasing food production is to make it pay to produce. Food Controllers should bear this in mind. Farmers have not sufficient capital to warrant investing on a large scale in any branch of their business without reasonable assurance that a fair return will be made from the venture.

The months immediately following harvest are the months of lowest prices. They form the grain speculator's opportunity. He buys heavily, fills his elevators, increases the visible supply and forces prices down. The farmer sells either because he needs money or because prices cause uncertainty as to the future. To overcome this a larger proportion of the grain should be held on the farm and a gradual supply go forward to market, thus giving no chance of shortage and creating a uniform supply which would mean better prices to the farmer and less easy money for the speculator, while the consumer would benefit.

Meat Supplies and Price Fixing.

According to advices received from Washington, since the war began the world's meat-producing animals have decreased by 115,000,000. This decrease consists of over 28,000,000 cattle, 54,000,000 sheep, and 32,000,000 hogs, and for the most part is to be found in European countries, as cattle and hogs have actually increased in America. While European countries have reduced meat consumption to those not engaged in war, the saving has been overcome by the increased demands of the armies, with the result that live stock decreases have occurred in all the countries. Even Britain, the home of the best live stock in the world, has cut down supplies and just recently prices have been fixed for cattle so low for the finished product that a great deal of complaint is being heard from the British cattle feeders. The price for September is fixed at 74s. per cwt. live weight, whereas for December the price falls to 60s. per cwt. Complaint is heard that this will not encourage the feeding of cattle to the finished stage, and that in a short time Britain will find herself very much depleted in stall-fed beefs.

There seems to be good times ahead for the Canadian stockman. Even after the war it will take a number of years to make up the deficiency which is growing as the conflict proceeds, but in the meantime those who have the matter of food control in charge should be careful, if price setting on meat is to come, to be fair to all concerned. We require an increased production of food material and as it has been well said by a member of the House of Lords, "the golden way of increasing the production of food is first to make it pay to do so, and second to get the loyal support and full confidence of the farmer." The present outlook is for good prices for well-finished stock, but it must be remembered that it costs money to properly finish any class of stock when feeding stuffs are as high as they are at present. And if the production of beef, pork and mutton is to go on on this continent as it should, any price interference which may come must take feeding stuffs and many other commodities into consideration and must place a price sufficiently high to pay the producer for the extra effort which he is called upon to make. Canada and the United States are increasing their live stock and it is to be hoped that no interference may come to slow up the march of progress. All meat regulations should be made with a view to the future as well as remembering the needs of the present. Live stock breeding must be encouraged as the basis of a sound agriculture in Canada.

Farm Work For Munitions Men.

Orders to gradually decrease the manufacture of munitions in Canada have brought forth considerable speculation as to the cause. No doubt the real reason was well explained by the British Premier in the statement in which he intimated that the British Isles were now able to maintain a supply of munitions large enough to meet the need and so it is wise to eliminate so far as possible the need of transportation which is a big item in the case of munitions manufactured in Canada. The slowing-down of the munitions work in this country is to be gradual, which should not interfere greatly with business and trade conditions, and it is better than abruptly later on. Altogether there were some 300,000 men and women working on munitions in this country and these will ultimately have to find new employment, or at least should look for it immediately. There is plenty of work now to be had and those not needed in plants which will take up the work they were doing before the war could be used to good advantage on the farms, where they would be producing materials just as necessary to the winning of the war as are the explosives themselves. One thing is important, those who have had good wages working in the factories which

have enjoyed large munition orders will find themselves better off in the not very distant future if they immediately secure new jobs while there are plenty open. Almost all lines are short of good workmen at the present time. Canada has no place for idlers. Of the number who are from time to time thrown out of work through the cutting down of munitions manufacture we should like to see a goodly percentage of the best, a number of whom know how to do farm work, arrange for permanent positions on the farm, and continue to do a great work for the country as well as for themselves.

It Will Pay to Preserve Machinery.

At the present time with all classes of farm implements and machinery much increased in price it is even more important that greater care be taken to prolong their period of usefulness. It is estimated that the average farm implement and machine lasts just half as long as it would with the best of care. Fence corners, apple trees and open fields do not form the best protection for either the woodwork or the metal which comprise binders, mowers, cultivators, drills, plows, etc. Care will double the life of the average farm machine and with the amount of machinery and implements necessary to efficiently work the average 100-acre farm at the present time, an implement shed and a few pots of paint would surely be a good investment, and when the shed is built see that it covers the implements and that they are not left out to rust and rot. In the matter of paint the average farmer is careless. Paint is almost as essential to the long life of the wooden parts of the machinery and implements as is oil to the bearings. During the winter months machines should be cleaned up and painted.

The Transportation Problem.

A member of a prominent grain exporting house in Chicago recently made the statement that the United States, Canada, Argentina, Australia and India will have available for export during the next eight months 575,000,000 bushels of wheat, 25,000,000 bushels of rye, 450,000,000 bushels of oats, 400,000,000 bushels of corn, 50,000,000 bushels of barley, or a grand total of 1,500,000,000 bushels. In his opinion the grain requirements of the Allies will not be so large as in pre-war times on account of the extra economy practiced due to the high prices. The big problem now is to work the greatest saving possible in domestic distribution, and to arrange for proper ocean transportation. Production is about over for this year, but in order that the greatest good may be extended to the greatest number, ocean commerce must be properly distributed.

Grading Essential in Live Stock.

A Bill was recently introduced into the House of Commons entitled, "An Act Respecting Live Stock". This Bill calls for the formation of a Live Stock Exchange at all stock yards and the by-laws of such Exchange to be approved by the Minister of Agriculture. It will be necessary for commission merchants to become members of the Exchange and these must furnish sufficient and satisfactory security. It is also included in the Bill that all stock yards shall be constructed and equipped in accordance with the regulations, and no stock yard shall be operated until it has been inspected and approved by the Minister or an Inspector, and all stock yards must at all times be open to inspection. The by-laws of every stock yard must be submitted with the regular schedule of fees to the Minister for his approval, and any not conforming with the regulations may be closed. Stock yards already in existence will come under the Act only after notification from the Minister.

One of the most important features in connection with the whole live-stock business is the matter of grading. This is left to the Governor-in-Council