



The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Sow good seed for a good crop.

Co-operation is but the beginning of a long and difficult road for the farmer—but it is a good beginning.

Subject for debate. Resolved that coal is of greater economic importance than titles. Decision: affirmative wins hands down.

The excellent corn crop this year should be well taken care of. See that it is put in the silo in good condition and tramped well.

Clover seed promises to be plentiful and especially so in certain parts of the country; fields left for seed are to be seen on every hand.

Get after the young pullets and select rigorously for the winter flock. There will be no room for the slacker in the dining car this winter.

The use of substitutes has reached such a fine point now that we must substitute something else for hired help. Use labor-saving machinery.

How about a real program for the local farmers' club or other organization this winter. Keep thinking about it until the first meeting of the season.

We think that the cost of living is high in Canada. So it is, about 50 per cent. higher all round than in 1914, but if we had to pay the prices paid in Belgium, for instance, we might have something to talk about.

There should not be much difficulty in finding a market for apples this fall, but at the same time growers should watch well for possible markets at good prices. The crop is not a big one, but neither is the market unlimited.

What is to be done with the farm machinery this fall and winter? The farmyard or the branches of a big tree are not the best of shelter, and now is the time to think about winter storage. Give machinery good care and it will give you good service.

The time for plowing matches and tractor demonstrations is again at hand. It would be better if the tractor operators were called upon to engage in competition as are the plowmen. The tractor promises to be too valuable an aid to the farmer to waste time in culling out the misfits and less serviceable kinds.

The passing of the late Fruit Commissioner has left vacant a position that should be filled without undue delay, but not until careful consideration has been given to the matter. The Inspection and Sales Act is administered by the Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture, which duty calls for a Chief of exceptional executive and administrative ability in addition to practical experience in fruit growing. The requirements of this office make it a difficult one to fill, for the Commissioner's record as a fruit grower must be considered, as well as his ability to handle many delicate situations in regard to the enforcement of the Act. The position should not be vacant at this season of the year when the inspection machinery is in operation. We believe the appointment of Dr. A. J. Grant, Thedford, Ont., would meet with the approval of the growers at large, for, in addition to his experience as a grower, he has taken an active part in organization work, both provincial and Dominion. He is an ex-President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and has become widely known for his energy, optimism and administrative ability.

Fat and Eggs.

In the Exhibition Number of "The Farmer's Advocate" there appeared an article on "Judging Utility Barred Rocks" by Professor W. R. Graham. In this article Professor Graham managed to cram a surprising lot of valuable information considering the space that was allotted to him. The real evidence, however, that what he said is true was to be found in the exhibit prepared under his direction and shown in the poultry building at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Just recently poultrymen have discovered that the fact that laying hens use up their surplus fat when laying steadily, can be put to good account when estimating in detail the productive power of any one bird. This promises to be of great value to the art of profitable poultry raising, and ample demonstration of its usefulness to the practical poultryman was to be found in the birds on exhibit. Individual birds of varying egg producing ability were present together with their egg records day by day for practically a year. Reference to both the egg records and the appearance of the bird confirmed the new findings with regard to the skin color of a laying bird, the hard workers in each case showing white beaks and shanks, and the slackers a varying amount of yellow. An actual examination of the birds would be necessary to show the true worth of the exhibit as an educative feature, no less than the fact that the investigations leading to these later findings have been but recently completed, barely allowing the Poultry Department to take advantage of the first big opportunity to put across the information they have acquired, to other members of the craft. Many other points than the one mentioned must, of course, be considered and were well demonstrated, especially those referring to other changes in color, as well as changes in body and sex characters, molting, temperament and activity. Poultrymen should "get next" to this recent information. It means more eggs per hen per year.

Put up a Good Fruit Pack.

Fruit growers should take heed that the quality of fruit offered for sale this season is good. For years now, there has been much talk of improvement in the fruit pack of Eastern Canada, and it would be idle to say that no improvement has been made. Even under normal conditions, however, the quality of our pack has not been sufficient to stand up against all comers and, considering the fact that Ontario apples, well grown, possess the very finest flavor, this is not as it should be. During the last four years the fruit industry has had no chance to expand, it is true, but there is, nevertheless, little excuse to be found for a poor pack. Prices have risen so rapidly for the consumer that he is beginning to demand a good product, and it will be to the advantage of the producer to see that it is furnished to the best of his ability.

The apple industry of Ontario, and all Eastern Canada for that matter, stands in a very precarious position at present. Thousands of orchards have been neglected from various causes, with the result that unless those who have good apple orchards put their product on the market in commendable shape, a serious slump in the apple industry, which already threatens, will, in all probability, develop rapidly after the war.

It has been amply proven on past occasions that the men who stay by the game through thick and thin, are the ones who eventually win out. This will hold true of apple growing as well as of other things. But the crop must be put up honestly and attractively, so that the reputation of our fruit will be protected and its quality turned to account as an advertisement as well as a direct money-maker.

The recent amendments to the grading of fruit are already in effect, and the changes in the various grades should be noted carefully. The grades are a little

stiffer than heretofore, but this should work for, rather than against the industry. In any case it should be the aim of every grower to put up a better pack than the law demands. Fruit associations should be particularly careful at this time to maintain and improve upon the quality of their packs. Direct dealing with farmers in the great fruitless regions of the West opens up a large market for fruit of good quality, and in spite of the scarcity of trained assistance and the serious increase in costs all around, every effort should be directed toward the building up of a good market brand. Quality pays in the long run.

Use Feed Wisely.

Now that considerable threshing has been done and quantities of new grain are available for feeding, it is timely to sound a note of warning against prodigality in the use of the present supply. It is true that yields of mixed grain for feeding purposes have been generally good, as have yields of oats and barley. At the same time there is some danger that the new supply will be tapped rather freely for present necessities, with the result that a shortage will be felt next spring. Every good stockman knows that excessive feeding early in the season will not overcome a deficiency in the ration later on. Common sense alone should teach that much, and it is better to feed only enough to keep the stock in a thrifty and growing condition. Gains will be made with greater economy, and the feed will be used to better advantage if this is done than if the feeding is irregular in quantity, as it must be if a shortage develops. Just now stockmen can afford to take no chances.

The purchase of concentrates this fall is also advisable. In all probability the price of all kinds of feed will be higher in the spring than it is now, and in any case many will want to purchase coarse grains for feeding so that the supply later on will not be as plentiful as the new harvest would seem to indicate. Concentrates purchased now and used judiciously along with the available supply of coarse grains will go far to make the season's feeding operations an economical and profitable proposition. A husbanding of all the resources of the farm is in order right now, and it is the wise man who will take time by the forelock and lay in what concentrates he believes he will need.

The Grading of Cream.

The creamery butter awards at the Canadian Exhibition afford food for thought for the creamerymen and cream producers in Eastern Canada, Ontario in particular. Not a single prize nearer the top than eighth place was reached by an Ontario exhibit. This in itself is not so serious if it were not for the fact that there seem to be good reasons for the failure of the butter-makers of Ontario to secure a more favored position. As pointed out in our report of the butter awards, the lack of cream grading was chiefly responsible, since the winning exhibits were made from a better grade of cream and, in many cases, from cream secured from whole milk delivered at the creamery.

It has been pointed out that creamerymen are practically forced to take cream that is good, bad and indifferent. This cannot help but lower the general quality of the product of the factory. The grading of cream is certainly a desirable practice from the standpoint of quality, since it would remove the probability of the mixing of sour, sweet or stale cream. In many creamery sections competition is keen, and factory owners hesitate to adopt a grading system for fear of losing patronage. Canada should be in a position to work up an excellent export trade in butter after the war, and the grading of cream would be a step toward better quality. Payment upon a quality basis should be a good thing for producer as well as maker.