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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 4, 1917.

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EDITORIAL.

For fine weather September took the cake.

Push your business or your business will push you.

A safe place to invest your money at good interest is in Government war bonds.

As conspirators and intriguers the Germans are revealed from month to month as the top of the dirty heap.

The Food Controller has promised to either set the price of foodstuffs or tell the people the reason why he cannot do it.

The tractor is coming successfully through the period of evolution necessary to its highest efficiency on the Eastern Canada farm.

The Prussian must be disarmed before any others will seriously consider world disarmament. None will trust the baby killers.

We should have a long, protracted spell of Indian summer this year, because there hasn't been any too much of the regular kind.

At a big fair in the Maritime Provinces a certain space generally taken by a firm displaying all kinds of liquors was this year filled with wholesome and nutritious bread and pastry flour. No one will say the change is for the worse.

Scarcely a week passes but we read of some child's death from burns caused by playing with matches, and often indeed is considerable property loss experienced. A safe place for the matches should be the motto of all fathers and mothers. Carelessness or thoughtlessness is costly.

The large number of automobile accidents during the season now drawing to a close indicates too much careless and reckless driving. Human life is too precious to be so endangered and destroyed without reason. The speed fiend and careless or incompetent drivers are a menace to the public.

After visiting your annual fall fair are you quite sure that as at present organized it has any reason for existing? If you are it has been a good fair; if, on the other hand, you are not satisfied suggest improvements and help carry them out. Many country and township fairs seem to have settled into an old rut, and they need a little sensible "booster's tonic."

The people of Canada have a duty to perform not only in the maintenance of the military strength of the country at the front through a steady flow of men, munitions, food, comforts, money, etc., but also to the returned men who have done their bit and come back to our shores. They are deserving of the best Canada can offer and are worthy of every consideration and kindness.

It used to be "money makes the mare go," but this

The Tractor Outlook.

Last week's issue contained a report of the third Eastern Canada Tractor Demonstration recently held near Toronto. At the first Demonstration only a very few different types were shown. At the second, held last year, eight tractors showed their efficiency; but this year there were around thirty out, and another demonstration will be held at the time of the Provincial Plowing Match, late in October.

There are four main points which the Ontario farmer considers in estimating the value of a tractor to him, viz., cost, size, adaptability, durability. The Eastern Canada farmer has, as a rule, a small farm as acreages are understood in tractor districts. He requires a small engine at the lowest possible cost and yet with power enough to make it adaptable to his mixed farming conditions, and with stability enough to ensure its lasting for a number of years. Moderate-priced, handy, all-round, durable tractors will sell in Eastern Canada where power on the farm is necessary for grinding, cutting, farming, pumping and other operations as well as for cultivation purposes. The tractor's real value in this part of the Dominion is on the belt. The real reason for the rapidly-growing interest in it is to help the farmer do the work around his barns and then to help out of a pinch in field work. The best types of small tractors are designed to do both. The problem for the tractor manufacturer is to get the machine small enough to reach the maximum in convenience, strong enough to stand the wear and tear, and with sufficient power to plow, cultivate, run a chopper, a cutting box, a circular saw and so on, and all at a price not too high for the average farmer. The ideal has not been attained; improvements are noticeable; but great advancement is being made. Remember that power on the belt is a first essential.

The Price of Milk.

Elsewhere in this issue is published an article on the milk question, written by the President of a producers' association near Toronto and, some of his arguments as well as some of those of people who do not understand the situation the producer of milk in quantity is called upon to face, will bear elaboration. Figures given by our correspondent show that while the feeds necessary in winter milk production have advanced 90 per cent. in price during the last five years, milk at \$2 per eight-gallon can has only advanced 25 per cent., and he goes on to show that even the winter price of \$2.50 per eight-gallon can asked would not leave a fair margin of profit to the producer.

Milk is absolutely essential to the welfare of the race. It must be produced, and all should remember that unless a reasonable profit is forthcoming on its production dairy farmers will find other means of making a livelihood from their farms. Over in Britain, food control has so worked against the milk producer that difficulty is experienced in getting the necessary quantities of the lacteal fluid. The race cannot be reared without it so the supply should be safeguarded. A consideration of the situation by those who understand the cost and difficulties of present-day dairying will reveal the fact that the dairymen are not asking exorbitant prices in \$2.50 per eight-gallon can. What does it cost to feed a dairy cow per year at present feed prices? We are safely within the mark when we say anywhere from \$100 to \$150. In 1915 the O. A. C. herd of 34 head were fed at an average cost of around

around 400 gallons per year. At the \$2 price for an eight-gallon can she would yield exactly \$100. But it cost 20 cents per can to deliver the milk, or \$10, so that the producer if he figured his feed at market price and counted nothing for his labor, interest on investment, or depreciation, would be out of pocket \$10 on his average cow, to say nothing of labor involved. His only hope is to breed and feed cows which are much better than average producers, but this cannot be accomplished at once. Even at the \$2.50 price per eight-gallon can, the average cow would only return, gross, \$125 or \$115 after delivery charges were paid—little more than pay for her feed if it required only \$100 to feed her, which we doubt. The only chance the farmer has is to breed up to better record cows in order to get market price for the grain and feed produced on the farm. It costs money to buy them and they are not raised for nothing. One of the leading experiment stations in the United States figures that it costs \$100 to raise a heifer up to the age of milk production. The milk of the cow must pay off this debt. Keeping all this in mind it is easily seen that the dairy farmer must get a fair price else he will sell his cows and then where will the city milk supply come from? At the present time buyers from New York State are said to be paying \$3 per hundred for milk at the farms in Eastern Ontario, an equivalent of \$2.67 1/2 per eight-gallon can delivered. An agitation against producers of milk in the State of New York and carried on for some time had the effect of driving producers out of the business, hence the demand from that direction for Ontario milk. A continuance of such an agitation here without understanding may soon have the same effect upon the Ontario milk producer.

The producers give their reasons for the advance in price, and they are sound. (1) Increase in cost of feed, which has been shown to have advanced ninety per cent. in five years, whereas milk has advanced but twenty-five per cent. (2) Labor, which has advanced 100 per cent. (3) Milk cows, eighty per cent. (4) Cartage, which has gone up five to eight cents per eight-gallon can. (5) The utensils and machinery used in the business, as well as the high cost of living, which milk producers feel as acutely as any other class in the community. Farmers have responded as best they could to all appeals for increased production and extra effort to win the war, and of them all the dairy farmer works hardest and longest hours. He knows that the race must have milk and he is willing to do his best to produce it, but it is disheartening when he must continually bear with the snubs and ridiculous arguments of those who know nothing of the problem of milk production. Milk should be worth \$2.50 per eight-gallon can this winter with feed so high, or it isn't worth the producer's while to put in long days feeding and milking cows.

One point more; good, clean, pure milk is just about the cheapest and most wholesome food procurable even at the price stated, and should be used freely wherever procurable in the interests of economy and thrift.

Everything the public is called upon to buy is up in price, and it is strange how people blame the farmer and desire to penalize him for everything. Fashionable folks will pay \$12 or \$15 for a pair of shoes they formerly could have bought for less than half the price, and they will not grumble half so much as they will if a farmer asks them a fair price for a peck of potatoes. Everything has advanced and the producer living on the farm