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LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 10, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

The fewer the fences the scarcer the weeds.

Provide shade for the pigs in the paddock.

A change of pasture now and then helps to push the lambs along.

The calves must have water as well as milk. Their troughs should be well supplied.

Sometimes we wonder who is the more "independent" the farmer or the hired man.

Pastures are dry; the heat is intense; the stock require plenty of salt and an abundance of water.

There is an old saying, "a wet seeding a dry harvest." For Ontario, at least, 1916 holds the record.

Those who have been longing for an "old-fashioned" summer should have been real pleased with July.

In a dry spell is a good time to kill weeds, but they will not die without an effort on the part of the cultivator of the land.

Drained land stood the spring downpours best, and the mid-summer drouth has not so injured the crops on the tiled fields.

Turnips and late roots got a poor start. It will require extra cultivation to bring them on properly. Do all possible with the horses.

It always pays to let the grain get dry in the field before drawing, but when it gets fit to go into the barn a safe policy is to draw it at once.

These are the days when the fruit and vegetables from the farm garden make it easier for the housewife to get the meals and add to the appetizing and healthful nature of the spread.

The man who kept some old grain in his bins may have reason to feel like patting himself on the back this year, not because of an enhanced price but because he will have more good feed for next winter.

Haying is over and we haven't heard anyone in Ontario complaining of it being a "light" crop. With ideal weather for harvesting it the barns and lofts of this old province probably never before held so much really choice hay.

Do not stop cultivating the corn; keep at it as long as the horses can make their way through it without injury to the crop. When two horses can be no longer used go through once or twice with the one-horse cultivator or scuffer.

The Hamilton munitions manufacturer who returned profits made on munitions to the government, for use in patriotic work, set an example which many Canadians might emulate. War profits, if devoted to the winning of the war, no matter what their source, would be a great step toward peace.

The Farmer Misrepresented.

Agriculture, admittedly the most important industry of the country, on the products of which all others so largely depend for sustenance, is insufficiently represented in the halls of the parliament of Canada. Too few representatives are drawn from the sturdy ranks of those occupied directly in farming. It may be claimed that most of the best men in other industries and the professions came originally from rural homes, but a long-established and prevailing system of public education and personal interests have identified them with the concerns of cities and towns. A similar mischievous condition of affairs prevails in the United States. A recent research by a correspondent of the New York Independent disclosed the fact that nearly three-fifths of the members of Congress are lawyers. In other words, about sixty per cent. of the members of Congress are chosen from a group comprising less than one-half of one per cent. of the gainfully employed males of the country. On the other hand only three per cent. of the membership of Congress were ever previously farmers, although thirty per cent. of the gainfully employed males of the country are engaged in that occupation. The chance of a lawyer going to Congress is apparently twelve hundred times as great as that of a farmer. Classified under the heading of "Business" appear about one-sixth as many Congressmen as under the head of "Law." Journalism has still less, and there is a scattering number of "others." In short, concludes the writer, Congress is misrepresentative with too many lawyers and not enough farmers and other folks. In the meantime the man of the soil is occasionally patted on the back and told he is a fine fellow, but does not know what is good for him and had better let other men look after his affairs in Congress or Parliament and the spending of his money. With the elimination of mischievous partizanship and more capable men drawn from the ranks of the farm in parliaments it is tolerably certain that public business would be conducted with greater regard to honesty and economy, and we should see fewer interloping grafters helping themselves to a million dollars of the people's money, and that too during times of the nation's greatest trial and most pressing needs.

Fire—Friend and Foe.

The terrible toll of human life and property taken in the recent disastrous fire which swept through Ontario's clay belt serves once again to impress upon the people of this country the importance of adequate fire protection in the great wooded areas so valuable, and which it is so necessary to conserve, to say nothing of the great and most terrible loss of human life. Further means of fire protection should be taken. The Government should speedily look into the matter of more fire rangers, and an all round more dependable system of prevention. But governments cannot do it all. The settler, of course, is anxious to clear his land. Fire is alike his best friend and worst enemy. It is his good servant but hard master. He "burns off" to hasten clearing, and in a dry time his little clearing fire may become the destroyer of his home and family, together with the homes and families of scores and hundreds of other settlers and thousands of dollars property loss. The recent disaster should teach all those who have occasion to use fire for clearing up that care is of paramount importance. Most of us have had some experience with a small fire which grew larger and nearly, if not quite, got beyond control for a time, but few have any adequate conception of the awfulness of a stretch of flame nearly 200 miles long swept ahead at times

at the rate of 60 miles an hour by the rushing of air caused by the heat, and licking up everything in its path. Slashing and dead wood, brush and dry grass all aided it on its way of destruction, and the valuable forest, the farm home, the crops, the little towns and the people perished. We know, it is a difficult matter to prevent forest fires in a country like the Hinterland of Ontario. The light woods of the clay belt are great food for flames quickly and readily devoured. Without burning the whole area over, which would be a tremendous waste of valuable pulpwoods and timber, fires must occasionally occur. It is necessary that prospector and settler co-operate with an increased number of fire rangers to keep the number of fires down, and to limit the extent and damage to very small areas. Each settler should also take some precautions to preserve life on his own place in case fire should break out. In the meantime something should be done to reinstate those who have survived the disaster in new homes on their holdings. The settlement of the Northland must go on, and those who are willing to return to their burnt homes should be aided and encouraged to do so, for they know the country best and are deserving of every consideration.

Give the Farm a Name.

A farm name is not essential to good farming, but it does add dignity to the place and should inspire the owner to do his best. Some farms have a name but it is never made known to the public. They might be called anything judging from appearance, but many of the well-kept places have the names painted in large letters on the end of the barn facing the highway, or in a conspicuous place near the road gate. The mere fact of the name being there may have nothing to do with the condition of things about the place, but in many instances the public draws the conclusion that the farmer and his family are endeavoring to keep the farm worthy of the name. A suitable name should be chosen. It may be an historic or poetic name, but one that is indicative of some special feature of the farm is preferable. Willow Grove, Maple Lodge, The Pines, etc., convey the idea of trees growing in clumps or in long rows about the place, and the traveller has a mental picture of the farm and would recognize it if driving past a second time, even if the name was not visible.

The name is a means of advertising the products of the farm. Every pound of butter, carton of eggs and box of apples should be stamped with the farm name. Consumers know a good article when they get it, and ask for a certain brand continually. This is also an incentive to the producer to grade his products and never market anything that is not as represented. The name could be included in the pedigrees of registered stock bred on the farm, and so serve as a connecting link between farm and stock.

There is always a desire to keep the farm in good order when the owner is aware that the travelling public can readily see who lives there. Every man has a certain amount of pride and an endeavor is usually made to have the farm worthy of its name. The buildings are kept in repair with the grounds around neat and tidy. The name visible, is often responsible for greater care being taken in keeping weeds under control, fences in repair, the furrows plowed straight, the implements under cover, when not in use, etc. In short it tends toward better farming. Every farm should have an appropriate name painted in large letters and placed in a conspicuous place. The travelling public like to know who lives on certain farms. The name on the mail box helps out a little, but on those the lettering soon becomes blurred.