



EDITORIAL.

One consolation of the hot weather is reading in the papers how hot it has been.

Command the world's respect for your occupation by respecting it yourself.

Compare the clover aftermath on early-cut with that on later-mown meadows. A remarkable contrast is nearly always in evidence.

If tariff is a benefit between United States and Canada, why not between Ontario and Quebec, between Oxford and Middlesex, between the contiguous townships of Dereham and Dorchester, between every two concessions, and between all neighboring farms? If injurious on a small scale, it is likewise a hindrance on national lines, whether the effect can be traced or not.

The Japanese are now having a taste of the cost of militarism and the after-effects of war. Their public debt has increased fivefold in ten years, and is now \$1,326,000,000, or \$25.75 per capita. The last budget shows that justice, education, agriculture, trade and communications are allotted only one-fifth of the total expenditure, so that the fighting arm of the nation is being developed at the expense of productive and cultural activities.

An annoying and untrue report has been somewhat industriously circulated to the effect that the resignation of Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General and Live-stock Commissioner from the Dominion service was due to ill-health. It was nothing of the kind. His action was brought about by causes of an entirely different nature. "The Farmer's Advocate" is informed on no less reliable authority than the Doctor himself that his health was never better than it is at the present time.

Look on the bright side. It saves energy, and the crops will grow just as well. That hot, dry spell in June, extending into July, was hard on the meadows and spring grain, but great for curing hay. It held the roots back somewhat, but well-cultivated corn thrived in spite of the drouth. The plowing got pretty hard, it is true, but, after a good rain, following a drouth, the land often works up particularly well. The blistering winds were rather bad for the clover seeding, but great for destroying weeds on a well-cultivated field. Silver lines all these leaden clouds, and we may as well relax wrinkled faces by contemplating it.

Above all things, the British public loves a "show," and they got it in the naval pageant at Portsmouth during the coronation of King George V. It was the sea spectacle of modern times, 167 fighting ships being in line, with a total displacement of 1,022,000 tons, costing some \$500,000,000, and carrying 160,000 officers and men. No doubt enough powder and electricity were let loose to pay the old-age pensions and unemployment dues for months. We do not take all this to mean that the promoters are pinning for war, but they like their jobs, and the public is still willing to be bamboozled into paying the bills.

Why Not Rural Parcel Delivery.

People living in rural districts are now, thanks to the rural telephone and free rural-mail delivery, enabled to enjoy and reap the benefit from these two sources of communication which city folks have long enjoyed. Residents of country districts who have been fortunate enough to get either one of these, or both, established in their localities, are loud in their praise of the good they do, and would not be without them. While the country people are lauding these enterprises, some few of the business men in the villages and smaller towns are of the opinion that these two conveniences are robbing them of a small portion of the trade that they once enjoyed, and are a means of taking this trade to the larger towns and cities, thus serving to promote centralization, which by some is considered a detriment to the best interests of any country. Some even go so far as to say that the small towns and villages will lose most, if not all, of their business places because of this, and consequently will become practically dead as far as enterprise is concerned. Whether or not this will follow remains to be seen, though it is a fact that the larger centers are going ahead much faster than the smaller towns, but was not this the case before rural-mail routes were established and rural-telephone lines built?

The country storekeeper or groceryman complains that the farmer does not come to town nearly as often as he did before he got these conveniences, and, as a result, he loses some trade, which is taken to the larger centers from time to time. If this is true, is it always the fault of these conveniences? In many cases the needed goods can be purchased cheaper in the larger cities, where a wider assortment is kept; and, while this is the case, no one can be blamed for buying where he thinks he can do so to best advantage. Very often the business man of the town or village could get more trade where telephones are used than he did before they were established. By establishing a system of parcel delivery to rural districts, his trade would be increased, in place of showing a falling-off. The goods could be ordered by telephone, and, if they were delivered, the business man of the small town would increase his business to an extent even greater than that which he enjoyed before rural telephones and mail delivery came into general use. This is just as valuable to people of rural districts as it is to the people of the city, and anything that will enable them to save even a few minutes each day will be readily appreciated by these busy people, and few better means of saving time for them can be put into practice than for the business men of the smaller towns to establish a system of rural parcel delivery. Butchers and bakers do it, and why should not the dry-goods man and the groceryman and others give it a trial? This is a progressive age, and country people are advancing with it. They have the telephone and mail delivery, and they will use them. If the business men wish to hold and increase their trade, and save their small towns from business loss, they must get in the swim and do something to hold the trade. As soon as they show some such mark of appreciation of the trade, so soon will they have little difficulty in retaining it.

Suburban stores do a good business in competition with the larger city establishments, but they keep fresh and up-to-date stock. With the lower expenses and rents in the country district, the village store-keeper should be able to sell at

nearly, if not quite as low a price as the city store man. In some districts rural delivery of goods has been tried, and found to work well in conjunction with the telephone. The store-keepers make weekly or semi-weekly trips, and take to their country customers the goods which have been ordered by telephone, and at the same time gather up the country produce. While this may not be the best method of handling the butter and eggs, particularly the latter, it is at least handy, and the delivery of the dry goods and groceries serves to keep the trade in the country, and is a good thing for local business men.

Expecting Too Much.

Men instal a cream separator, build a silo, invest in a spraying outfit, or seed a field to alfalfa, and if at the first season's end there is not the immediate return anticipated, their faith loses its grip. They had heard, last winter, at a convention or Farmers' Institute, what one or other of these things had done for somebody else, but actual experience does not seem to tally with the enthusiasm of the man with the chart. When he was talking, it looked such an easy way to cut the work bill in two and double one's returns. And if John Jones could do thus and so, what was to hinder Mr. Smith? However, there was a hitch somewhere in the programme. The stock did not respond as expected to the new foods; some of the cows went off their feed, and the apple barrels and milk cans did not overflow. Finding himself working about as hard as ever, Smith comes to the conclusion that these things are not what they are cracked up to be. In fact, he is not sure but what some of them only involved him in outlay and trouble. Doing no better than before, he is disposed to make a scapegoat of them. True, one could hardly expect a good catch of the legume on a lumpy, ill-drained seed-bed; cows do not thrive on sauerkraut alone; a tub silo full of holes will not exclude the air, and a rough, porous cement wall, open to every storm that comes will work no miracles with watery, earless corn; even green goggles put on a steer would not make him like woody, overripe alfalfa hay, and it is no secret that the cream separator will not keep itself clean nor take butter-fat out of water. The trouble is we are too prone to clutch at the adoption of some new plan or appliance as a cheap and easy way to "make rich," without the care and diligence that one would expect ordinarily to apply to get the best results. Short-cuts are not to be depended upon as the best road home. No serious disease was ever yet cured by swallowing a dose of patent medicine, and the best of medical preparations are but an aid to Nature, which does the "curing." The leprous Syrian general expected the Prophet of Israel to effect his cure by incantations or a flourish of trumpets, and it made him angry when Elisha simply told him to go and wash himself. The silo and the separator and the sprayer do not work miracles with corn or milk or fruit, but, used with the care and good judgment which the Canadian farmer is expected to apply to any of his operations, have too long proved their worth on thousands of successful farms to be relegated to the scrap heap of discarded innovations. Used aright, they have abundantly demonstrated their efficiency and economy, but we must not expect too much from a single trial like that of the apple-grower who was discrediting spraying at the corner grocery, but whose experience consisted in drenching his trees with a mixture of Paris green and water.