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EDITORIAL.

It is spring! The man at the wood pile has dug up last year's straw hat.

Both political parties curry their privileged pets the right way.

Patriotism at home and paper soles for the men in the trenches.

Dividends first is the watchword of a good many of our watered-stock patriots.

A reader asked us the other day whether Peter McArthur's fable was a real fable. Was it Peter?

The farmer is solemnly reminded by one of the big city newspapers that if he tills his farm better it will become more valuable. He had long suspected as much.

Clover seed is expensive—too expensive to risk getting a "catch" by sowing too little seed. Ten to twelve pounds per acre is a much safer seedling than five or six.

Naval warfare has made great strides since the days of Drake. Two British superdreadnoughts more than equal in weight the entire 129 ships of the Spanish Armada.

The biggest industry in this country, unorganized, gets little attention from parliament, while smaller industries, organized, ask what they like and both parties hasten to grant their desires.

Fall wheat, which has suffered from spring frosts, may be benefitted by a stroke with a light harrow, and clover slightly heaved may be squeezed down by rolling as soon as the land will carry the horses.

To receive a square deal in the educational, fiscal and transport affairs of the country, will be more tangible to the farmer than a pat on the back that he is a fine fellow, and an assurance that his industry is becoming prominent.

Commonly heard on city streets—"My, but this war must be a harvest for the farmer!" Ask some practical feeder who is trying to produce beef and pork under present conditions what he thinks about it.

A serpent in the garden is said to have originated most of the trouble in the world, but the old hen and her brood are keeping it going. Moral: If you would add years and happiness to the life of your wife and family surround the vegetable and flower plantation this spring with a high and close woven wire fence.

In October last potatoes by the car load imported from the State of Dakota were sold in Saskatchewan where there was an alarming shortage for \$1.10 per bushel. Perhaps if this country were to build a few more transcontinental railways and present them to the Big Interests, some of the thousands of bushels of potatoes going to waste in Eastern Canada might be carried to the West where the people are hungry for them.

This is No Time to Throw Mud.

Both political parties at Ottawa seem to be sparring for position. They expect something is going to happen, and if we are to believe the party press that something is an election. Some time ago we heard a great deal about the "party truce" which was established at the special war session last fall, but there never was a "truce" in the party press. Nasty little paragraphs have appeared in papers politically biased to one side or the other ever since that war session. They have gradually carried more and more of the sting of partyism, and now each side in the House is accusing the other of caviling to bring on an election. At this time nothing could better suit the purposes of Canada as a nation within an Empire at war than a suspension of hostilities on the part of two political parties. We have followed Britain's lead in other things, why not follow it again in connection with parliamentary procedure? Great Britain stands out pre-eminently as the fountain-head of good government and over there government and opposition are working together, are talking together, are thinking together for the good of the nation. In Canada it is different. Under cover of the white flag of truce the political mire has been and is being stirred up, and the sharpshooters and snipers on each side are busy throwing mud at the other fellow on the floor of the House as well as through the ever-ready press. Canada is engaged in a more serious business than should permit of political mud-raking. It requires the best ability of our statesmen to look after our real national welfare rather than to ferret out party inefficiencies, which are all too numerous no matter which party is in power. Let our representatives in parliament guard well our country at this time, and let them join hands to pilot our great ship of state until it reaches the harbor of peace to which we all look forward. Mud-slinging, loyalty and disloyalty cries, and carping criticisms of past party records are not in order now. There is a bigger and more important task before our country, and our politicians on both sides should be men of larger calibre than to break a "truce" in which the thinking public concurs over anything, but important business vital to the present interests of Canada.

Test Plots and Seed Plots.

It will not require a wide field of observation to convince that there is a great deal of gross carelessness and neglect practiced in the handling of seed grain from the growing crop to the seed in the drill. "Seed selection" is an unknown term on all too many farms, and because of careless or shiftless indifference many farmers continue year after year to sow anything that retines seed and leave the rest to Providence. Semblance seed and leave the rest to Providence. It does not generally prove profitable to leave too much to Providence. The grower must do his part. We are hearing the need of greater production this year. There is no doubt but that the individual farmer would like an increased production every year, and would profit in the end by increasing the output of his farm. He knows that good seed is a first consideration, and so should always plan to sow the best. Why not a few test plots and some special seed plots in 1915 to form the nucleus of the farm's pure seed supply for future years? Get some good, clean, plump seed, pure as to variety and free from weed seeds, and sow it by itself on a

specially-prepared plot. Guard it carefully; keep it separate at threshing time; clean it well; if necessary hand pick, and see how soon you will have a good business in seed grain, bigger yields and larger returns from the farm. Get the best varieties for your district. It may be necessary to run through a test experiment on small plots with two or three leading varieties to determine which suits your purpose best. Establish the variety on the place, and stick to it until it fails to produce good crops and good seed. It is not necessary to "change seed," provided good seed, specially selected, is always sown. In fact yields may be substantially increased by this practice. Try it and be convinced. Start a little plot work with seeds this year, and make your own farm the source of the best seed.

What is Your Cropping System?

"What crop rotation do you follow on your farm?" "Oh! We find it difficult to stick closely to any set rotation, and so our crops do not follow each other in any regular order." The foregoing question brings forth the answer given in a large percentage of cases, and when it is answered thus, as it is by many fairly successful as well as by scores of struggling farmers, the questioner wonders how it is that recognized beneficial features in farming are not brought into effect on every farm in the country. But there is no need to wonder. The fault is generally with the man, and not with the system or with the farm. It is the same in all other business. One man, eminently successful, has system for everything; another, struggling to keep his head above water, is the victim of an inefficient system usually due directly to his own carelessness or indifference. True, there sometimes seems to be a larger proportion of poor-system farmers than poor-system men in any other business. But are there? We do not have the same opportunities to see the shortcomings of the other fellow's business. We venture to say that much of it is not done under the best possible system, but town and city business seems to demand more system than the farm to prevent a crash. The soil is a patient worker for its tiller, and it does its best with the conditions under which it is operated, system or no system. However, an improved system invariably increases returns. Different crops feed at different depths, and require different amounts of the various plant foods. Even the careless farmer knows that oats after oats after oats is not good practice; neither is wheat after wheat. In fact in these days of progressive agriculture cereal after cereal is not considered conducive to largest crop yields. "What are you going to sow on the back ten acres?" "Oh! I guess oats again." Oats in 1913, oats again in 1914, and oats once again in 1915 without manure; small wonder that the yield is around twenty bushels per acre when it should be sixty bushels. The same is true to a degree of other crops. Why not a rotation? The excuse most frequently brought forward for lack of cropping system is failure of clover to catch, which naturally upsets plans. This is sometimes a valid reason, but too often the failure is due to lack of system, fields run down by continuous cropping, and the sowing of too little seed. Manure and cultivate a field as hoed crop or summer-fallow one year in three or four; grow on it one cereal crop, and one or two clover hay or pasture crops in that time, and sow from ten to twelve pounds of clover seed per