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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED 1866

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VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 15, 1915.

No. 1190

## EDITORIAL.

Kill the weeds while the sun shines.

Think twice before selling your young live stock.

Give the boy something to fit for the fair if it be only a chicken

Watch the potatoes for blight and make free use of Bordeaux mixture.

The secret of a good farm garden is doing things at the right time.

It is of no avail to lean on a rusty hoe and ask Providence to grow the crops.

Are you sharing in any work this season for the betterment of your neighborhood?

There is moisture beneath the corn. Cultivate so it can escape only through the crop.

Give the calves protection from the heat and flies and plenty of fresh, cool water to drink.

A summer silo or some supplementary crop will be a great advantage for some weeks to come

It is not too early to prepare for the production of vegetable seed next year. Get the information now.

One of the chief essentials in growing a plant is moisture and yet how many are carelessly permitting it to escape.

Does the dairy herd average 4,000 pounds or 8,000 pounds of milk per cow? There is a vast difference in the profits.

The mind of Canada has not dwelt on war. We cannot at present turn out many loaded shells but we can supply loaded sacks of grain.

The French have a new weapon of defence but particulars about it have not leaked out. The surprise is a special treat for their friends the enemy.

The dates for the Fall Fairs in Ontario are to be found in this issue. Surely each farmer is interested in one Fair. Let him help to make it a success.

Patriotic Acres are becoming numerous and popular in the West. Every acre of land in Canada should be a Patriotic Acre during this conflict

Many of the World's foremost nations seem destined to enter upon the realization of the blessings of a half century or more of poverty.

The oat fields have this season presented many costly object lessons of the need of greater care in the choice of seed grain and its treatment for smut.

Complaints are being made that the United States is unprepared for war and yet out of every dollar in taxes taken into the American public treasury, it is said that seventy-five cents goes for wars past and prospective.

### Traitorous Conduct.

When Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia met applicants for favors at the beginning of the war his greeting, conversation and adieux were included in one sentence of five words: "Him who steals I hang." Had such injunction been uttered in Canada at the beginning of the organization of troops some greedy transactions of an inconceivable character might not have been perpetrated. To say that the treasonable graft of funds intended for sylvan and bandages for wounded soldiers is a crime, is putting it mild indeed. The act is traitorous and considered beyond any Canadian of normal mind. The people of America have heard so much about campaign funds, rake-offs, commissions, etc., that we are some times inclined to condone such offences on the grounds that they are committed in all parties and all party organizations. Yet, when the Nation itself is threatened and the youth of Canada lie bleeding on the battlefield after as heroic conduct as ever reported in war, it is hard to believe that a fellow countryman will allow greed and personal aggrandizement to so grip his soul and pervert his mind that monies intended to comfort dying soldiers are diverted into other channels.

From the first it was considered that the war would be a test of resources, not of men or blood. Any fraudulent use of funds, any misuse of money, any graft or any theft is assistance to our enemies. Cases have arisen where poor judgment, at least, was exercised but where the claim of theft could not be laid. These circumstances sink into insignificance before the exposure of certain conduct where "war money" is being handled and where soldiers are deprived of necessities of war that a few dealers may profit.

### One Example Set by a Dairyman.

There are approximately 75,000 patrons of dairy factories, creameries and such in the Province of Ontario, but how many can show a record on a parity with that credited to the winner of the dairy herd competition of the Western Ontario Dairyman's Association during 1913 and 1914. Many can, no doubt, but there are a great many who cannot. The event should be analyzed, for what this farmer has done a host of others may do. When tests are made at public institutions or college farms the remark is often heard, "Yes, the people are paying for it!" In this case a patron of a cheese factory subjected to all the injustices which we, as farmers, claim to suffer and not enjoying the assistance of any Government grant decided eleven years ago that his herd of ordinary cows could be made more profitable. This decision to improve the herd is the initial move that many stockmen should make. It will alter their career and their profits. This done the patron procured a pure-bred sire and used it on his herd. The calves were reared and bred on the place and during the first lactation period of each heifer, which was made to extend over twelve months, accurate records of production were kept and upon them hung the fate of the heifer. By following this system of weighing and testing and persistently using a sire of the right kind for eleven years this farmer-patron of a cheese factory during 1914 delivered 87,158 pounds of milk from eleven grade cows kept on 100 acres, or an average of 7,923 pounds per cow for the factory season. In addition to this, calves received some whole milk and the household was supplied. The record sheets on the farm indicate a production

of 98,500 pounds or an average of 8,136 pounds per cow.

We have contended through these columns that in ten years a stockman can improve his herd to a profitable working standard. By buying, of course, the herd can be built up more quickly but there is nothing to prevent the breeder through weighing and testing and the use of a good sire improving the herd more economically. The fact of the matter is that many patrons of cheese factories do not average 3,500 pounds of milk per cow during the factory season. In such a herd there is room for a vast amount of improvement and the first generation of proper breeding should show a great improvement. More of this testing and culling enthusiasm is required in some dairy-men. They have ability, they have resources and they have the chances. A decision to make each summer's record better than the previous one would soon result in more profitable operations and a greater degree of prosperity.

### The Raid in the Oat Fields.

In last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" reference was made to the unusual prevalence of the loose smut of barley in some localities. Since then reports have come to hand of still more serious visitations of loose smut (ustilago avenae) upon the oat fields. At the first observation from a distance it was thought that the crops were being affected with a species of brown blight on the upper leaves like that of a couple of years ago. Closer scrutiny, however, disclosed the swelling and bursting of the sheath of leaves on the stem due to the spreading, sooty mass which in a few days was scattered by wind and rains. In several large fields more than one-third and possibly nearly one half of the whole crop of grain was destroyed and nothing left but a sickly stalk. If at all general the loss will be enormous. It has not been easy to make accurate estimates of what the country loses through the smut on oats, wheat, barley and corn in ordinary years but on a conservative five per cent. computation made by Messrs. J. E. Howitt and R. E. Stone of the Ontario Agricultural College, the annual financial loss to the farmers of the one province alone is put at \$2,720,000 of which \$1,800,000 was due to oat smut. Farmers everywhere should take note of their fields and those of their neighbors and plan to use as seed next year seed from unaffected fields if possible or grain rendered immune through proper treatment. The minute spores from which this parasitic fungous pest spreads are scattered by the wind at the time the oats are in flower and are supposed to lodge inside the hull of the kernel and remain dormant as spores on the sound grains over winter.

In the spring when the seed is sown warmth and moisture germinate the spores the threads of which penetrate the young seedling plants and run up the stem into the newly forming head. Entering the developing grains they consume the foods in the ovary and convert the grain and chaff into a mass of smut. The treatment recommended for loose smut in oats is dipping or sprinkling with a formalin (40 per cent. formaldehyde) solution. Half a pint of formalin is mixed in 21 gallons of water in a barrel. The grain to be treated is placed in a coarse sack about three-parts full and immersed in the barrel for twenty minutes and afterwards dried on a floor, to be sown as soon as possible. In the other plan the moisture is sprinkled with a watering can on