

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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be developed into working shape by the minds of practical men.

Expressions of well-weighed judgment like the foregoing from public men deserve every publicity and support if civilization is to be rescued from the conditions of incessant warfare and a species of world vendetta. Once humanity is delivered from the human beasts of prey who precipitated this great conflict and who must be held individually guilty, then civilization must secure its gains by crystallizing them into universal law under which small nations like Belgium, Poland or Serbia will be safeguarded from attack by the more powerful through adequate international executive which while it may not make possible the entire elimination of armament will provide for its reduction. Duelling in England and the petty wars of barony were stopped by the collective resistance of the general community which decreed against them. The greatest problem growing out of the war is, therefore, not the creation of munition industries privately or publicly conducted sufficient to blow all-comers into Kingdom Come, but the preparation of Canada and the great Empire of which it forms a part to take an effective share in the inauguration of a new world order wherein the door of the future will not be forever opened by the "blood-rusted key" of the past.

The deadly work of the submarine against neutral shipping and the innocent travelling public seems to be at an end, but not through the efforts of neutral powers so much as by the efficiency of British methods of capture.

Supply, Demand and Price.

Do supply and demand regulate price or does price regulate the supply and consequently the demand? Last fall wheat soared to a high level and the farmer sowed fall wheat in greater acreage than had been the case for years. He also prepared a big acreage for spring cropping. When the spring came wheat and coarse grains were still very high, and in went more wheat. Thus it would appear that price had something to do with supply. Had wheat been low, and likely to continue at only a fair price, the acreage would not have been so large no matter what kind of campaign had been inaugurated to increase the output. High prices undoubtedly induce farmers to push the particular branch of farming offering returns from them just as low prices cause a falling off in production of any line. Lower prices have come in the wheat market, and there was a noticeable reaction in regard to acreage sown to fall wheat this fall. True, the weather was against the farmer getting in much wheat but there was not the effort to get it in. The wheat market had shown a bearish tendency. There was not the call for wheat. The price had declined.

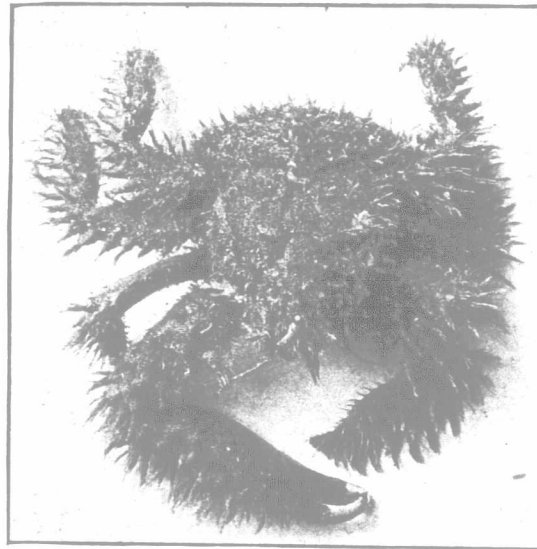


Fig. 1—Hairy Crab, One-half Natural Size.

The price curtailed the supply for the time being. This works out with all branches of farm operations only not so quickly with some. Last fall pork prices in the West dropped below profitable production. At the price of grain the Western farmer could not afford to feed hogs at \$6.00 per cwt. This year they are \$9.50 and grain is lower, so the Western farmer again turns toward hog production but hogs cannot be got back in a short time. Before the South African war horses were a drug on the market and breeding operations slackened. After the war, the price went up and more horses were produced than were actually needed in Canada, as evidenced by pres-

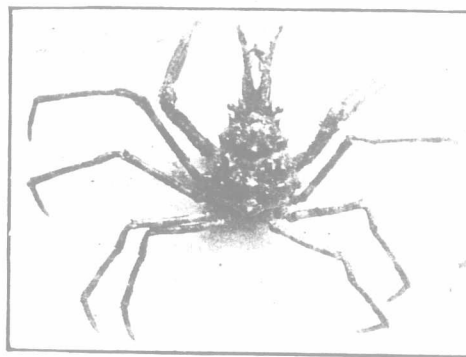


Fig. 2—Spider Crab, Natural Size.

ent market conditions. A few years ago the farmer could scarcely give beef steers away. He eased up on the production of beef steers, and the price to-day turns his attention again to beef. Canada, this year, produced more cheese than usual. Why? Because there was a higher price for it, call it "demand" if you will. We care not which way you take it, whether you hold that supply and demand set the price or whether the price regulates the supply and through it the demand, the fact remains that all production hinges on these three—supply, demand and price, and so long as producers jump from one thing to another according to the ups and downs of a whimsical market just so long will most of them "miss it." The man who clears out his hogs when hogs are cheap gets a poor price for his pork, and by the time he has made the change to

something else thousands of others have made the same change and he finds his new product cheap and yielding even a smaller profit than did the hogs. The same is true of other jumps and particularly is it inadvisable to put to naught the work of years in building up a stud, a herd or a flock by selling out only because of a few months market depression. If not live stock for the general farmer, what? Grain growing cannot suffice. The moral of it all is: "GET A GOOD THING AND STICK TO IT."

The Price and the Product.

It is good business to get all one legitimately can for anything offered for sale. A good article and a good price for it should satisfy buyer and seller alike. It is not good business when the producer is forced to sell at a price below the mark of profitable production, but sometimes such is the case. We have heard some complaints about the drop in the price of wheat this fall, and, naturally, the producer looking for—\$1.50 or \$1.60 is sure to cringe a little when offered 90 cents to 95 cents per bushel for his crop. We saw recently a letter from a Western farmer who netted 77½ cents (95 cents Ft. William) per bushel for his crop which averaged 35 bushels per acre, stubble and summer-fallow all told. Ontario wheat, if it is good, will at time of writing sell for around 90 cents per bushel. True, these prices are lower than the \$1.25 and \$1.60 wheat of last year but stop a minute and consider. Ontario winter wheat has not yielded in years like it did this year. Threshings of forty bushels per acre were common, some running to sixty and several to fifty. The Western wheat yield was the greatest in history, not only in acreage but per acre. Will not the increased yield offset somewhat the drop in price? We must not be like the man who grumbled because his heavy crop was "powerful hard on the land," always ready to look for trouble. The average price for Ontario wheat on Toronto market in October, 1911, 1912 and 1913 was 88 cents per bushel. For Manitoba wheat the average in October for the same three years on the same market was 97 cents for No. 1 Northern. When we look at these figures it does not seem that the price is much below normal this year, and when blue over prices we are inclined to forget that yields this year are easily from 10 to 15 bushels per acre above the normal. Wheat, in Ontario, yields 25 bushels per acre more often than it does 40 or 50 bushels. Wheat in the West yields from 15 to 20 bushels per acre more years than it does 35 to 40 bushels. The returns from wheat this year should be larger per acre of crop than for a long time even if the price falls considerably below normal which it has not done up to time of writing. The main thing now is transportation to market. This must be attended to. The farmer must get a market for his crop. If he gets it sold at a normal price he will have a good year notwithstanding the fact that the harvest weather was the worst in years. And for him who has damaged wheat let him feed it if at all possible. It is well also that the wheat speculator be eliminated in war time. The people of the Allied nations must be fed. On the other hand the farmer should not be called upon to feed them at low prices for his products if more protected and favored business is to reap the benefit of abnormal prices. There is no "graft" for the hard-worked farmer. His chance of abnormally high returns are always slim. He seldom gets a big crop of anything and a big price for it the same year. Nevertheless if he can sell his crop this year at prices which now prevail and can get the money for it business is sure to be better in Canada.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

We are rather prone to associate large and bizarre forms of life with tropical climates, but in order to see many of these forms it is not necessary for the student of nature to go outside the borders of Canada. On the Pacific Coast there are many forms of marine life which would attract much attention in a museum. This region is particularly rich in crabs, and some of the types are extremely interesting. Fig. 1 shows the Hairy Crab, a species which is found among the rocks at low tide. In Fig. 2 we see one of the Spider Crabs, remarkable for their long, thin legs, and which are found in deep water. The Spider Crabs belong to a group often referred to as "decorators" from their habit of planting bits of seaweed and Hydroids on various parts of their bodies. These forms continue to grow on the crab and aid in concealing it both from its enemies and its prey. Some of them are almost completely covered with a thick growth of these low forms of animal and plant