

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Rear the calves well. They make cheaper gains as calves than at any other time.

Do a little work with the hens and get them working for you. The pullets should be laying.

There are many interesting and educational features about a winter fair. Plan on attending at least one.

An old proverb says: "Reading maketh a full man." However, there should be a little filling along with the daily paper. Plan on reading some good books this winter.

The Canadian farmer must be a producer of live stock or he will not be a good farmer. Markets will fluctuate but the policy of maintaining ample live stock for the farm must be consistently adhered to.

The rather untimely cold spell and snowfall in Ontario caught most farmers with a good deal of work still to be done. Several weeks of open weather are still hoped for by all having roots in the ground and plowing to be done.

Taking it all around, it has been a lean year for fruit growers in spite of the bountiful crop. A scarcity of containers, inadequate transportation facilities and a demoralized export trade have combined to seriously discount the value of the harvest.

Investigate the dairy herd at the beginning of winter and get rid of the boarders. The scales and Babcock test will reveal the non-profit-making cows, which should be disposed of. Economy in production is the big factor now in successful dairying.

Almost every day one reads of manufacturing firms either reducing the number of working hours in the week, closing down for part of the week, or reducing their staff of workmen. Some of the men who have gone to the towns in recent years may soon be willing to sign a contract for a year's employment on the farm.

The municipal elections are again drawing near, and as usual many are aspiring to office. Electors might advisedly take more interest in their township or county affairs and make an effort to bring out and elect the best all-round men possible. The man of sound judgment who has made a success of his own business is more likely to do good work for the municipality than the wind-jammer.

If farmers would get together and each donate one-half day to the municipality they could make the roads throughout rural districts fifty per cent. better during the late fall and spring. In this democracy of which we boast we hold the state responsible and endeavor to clear ourselves of all responsibility possible. The individual is not lawfully responsible for the condition of the highway, even in front of his own home; that is a matter for the township and the path-master to look after. However, the best work is always done where some community effort is put into the scheme and donations of time and money are freely given. With a good deal of fall plowing yet to do, and the cleaning up work on the farm still behind, farmers will not feel like leaving their own places and taking their teams to work on the road. However, they will benefit most by it, and in the end will not regret a little time spent in the public good. Get together on the side-roads and concessions and arrange to give a few hours or half a day each in the interest of better roads.

A Good Barometer.

Before coming to any conclusion regarding future prospects in the pure-bred live stock business, breeders should study carefully the reports of what has been going on in Britain. A full account appeared in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" of the live stock sales in Britain. During Shorthorn Week 842 head of pedigreed Shorthorns, male and female, young and old, were placed on the market and made an average of £332. These were all bred and sold in Scotland, the great breeding ground of good cattle. William Duthie made an average of £791 for 25 bull calves, and his nephew, Duthie Webster, had an average of £865 for 5 bull calves. Collynie Masterpiece, from the Duthie herd, sold for 2,600 guineas, and Royal Mandate brought Duthie Webster 3,200 guineas. James Durno's average at Uppermill was £368 10s. for 21 head. F. L. Wallace, Balcairn Farm, made the splendid average of £780 14s. 4d. for 43 head, and received 5,100 guineas for Balcairn Dazzler, a November calf sired by Earl of Kingston. These are only a few of the good sales, and they all go to indicate that the Shorthorn breeders of Britain are not downhearted.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle were the feature of a two-day event at Aberdeen, where 341 head averaged £86 11s. 7d., and where 1,000 guineas was paid for a yearling heifer.

Rams have been selling at unheard-of prices, and naturally enough these high-priced sheep at the present time are the descendants of those which fetched the high prices only a few years back. British live stock men are a people with keen business foresight, and their confidence in the future of cattle breeding may be taken as a pretty reliable guide.

A False Guardianship.

There are a good many live stock organizations in Canada, but few of them are ever heard of except when they hold their annual meetings, and then there is little of real value to report. During the last year and a half the swine industry in Canada has been handicapped by severe and unjust restrictions, but the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association, which should be interested, and those alleged guardians of the industry, the Eastern and Western Canada Live Stock Unions have maintained a death-like silence. For the past eighteen months the Canadian packers have labored under severe difficulties, and the Dominion Government has been deeply concerned with the problem of swine marketing; but the live stock organizations, which should constitute the great headquarters for a rally of producers to the cause of better marketing arrangements, have been asleep at the switch. The result is that Western Canada, which went hogless almost two years ago, has not come back, and the producers of Eastern Canada, without the steadying influence which should be exerted by the organizations to which they look for guidance, are gradually yet surely ceasing to breed hogs.

The situation, at present, is a complicated one. A continuance of partial food control in Britain is seriously affecting the hog industry here, and the astuteness of the purchasing agents for the British Ministry of Food is not helping the matter any. Canadian packers are told how much the British Ministry will pay, and they can take it or leave it as they so elect. The purchasing price is based on Chicago quotations for market hogs, the sellers of bacon being allowed a differential varying from 1½ to 2 cents per pound. Payment is made in such a way that the British Ministry of Food, by taking advantage of the rate of exchange against her in both Canada and the United States and of the rate of exchange against Canada in the United States, is able to lay down Canadian bacon in England at the same or even a lower price than they actually pay for the much

inferior United States product. In other words, the British Ministry of Food is making a profit on Canadian bacon which is used to make up losses on their purchases in the United States, and this handicap is now being borne by the Canadian packer and producer. If given the opportunity, the consumer in Britain would quickly show his appreciation of Canadian bacon by paying the premium to which it is entitled, as happened in connection with Irish and English bacon when de-controlled.

The conditions governing the marketing of hogs are only temporary, and there is no reason why Canadian farmers should not be steadily building up the industry and providing a steady and appreciable volume of product. Our live stock organizations should be working energetically with producers, packers and Government to open and keep open the channels of trade that our product may flow unrestrictedly into consumption. Equally important, too, is the function of an organization in keeping producers informed and guided along the right pathway. The Canadian Swine Breeders' Association and the two Unions have a duty to perform at the present time; will they rally and help put the industry on a sure and steady foundation, or will they continue to slumber and allow the industry to wane? We sincerely hope there will be an awakening and that Canada may soon get back into her normal stride.

A Word About Subscription Rates.

After what has occurred in the publishing field during the past three or four years, we know our subscribers will not be surprised on reading the announcement in last week's issue that "The Farmer's Advocate" has been obliged to increase its subscription rates. Owing to the enormous increase in costs from which there is no escape, many publications have suspended, others have amalgamated, and practically all have raised their subscription rates. The subscription price of "The Farmer's Advocate" has not been increased for the past seventeen years, and the publishers regret, as much as anyone, that a raise is necessary. It was thought that perhaps the years of abnormal conditions could be lived through and that the cost of producing the paper could be again restored to normal; such, however, seems hopeless. The last supply of paper purchased—and which has not yet arrived—is costing more than was ever paid in the history of this publication, and owing to the growing scarcity of pulp it is not likely that the price of paper will be appreciably reduced. Postage rates will be increased 200 per cent. at the beginning of the new year, and a still further 300 per cent. postal increase is called for by the Government in 1922, which will mean an added expense of \$8,000 annually to us. Salaries, travelling expenses, wages, printing, mailing, postage and every item involved in the production of a paper have soared so outrageously that former advertising and subscription rates do not suffice to adequately meet the ever-growing expense.

Many subscribers have repeatedly expressed surprise that The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine could maintain its high standard of excellence and retain its old subscription price, when everything else had doubled and trebled in value. This has been possible only on account of the high standing of the paper, and a determined effort on the part of its publishers to keep the cost to subscribers as low as possible, and yet produce a journal that would meet their every need. With the same object in view, The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine is being offered for two years for \$3.00 paid in advance, which is no increase to those who take advantage of this special generous offer. More than that, our subscribers are given the opportunity up to January 1, 1921, of renewing at the old figure, namely, \$1.50 per year, and we especially urge our readers to send in their renewals direct to this office, and to take