

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 4, 1918.

1332

## EDITORIAL

Treat all seed for smut.

Try a little spring wheat.

Sow plenty of seed, but do not waste by over-seeding.

Roll all the meadows as soon as the land will bear the horses.

Are you planning to increase the horse power on your farm?

If feed grows much scarcer it will be "Root hog or die" in earnest.

The publication of the ship losses will only set the Allies to the task.

Remember Verdun! The line held then and it will hold again.

Whether or not it paid Von Hindenburg to advertise may soon be known.

Do not forget to plan in the seeding operations for a pasture paddock for the pigs.

Sow some mixed crop—barley and oats and perhaps a little wheat also if heavy feed is desired.

A prophecy is made in an article entitled, "Can We Really Co-operate?" published in this issue.

Some people are learning from experience that it is better not to talk at all than to speak too loudly.

Those who paid high prices for feeder cattle last fall will be careful when they lay in their next stock.

Germany swallows little nations singly, but will choke to death in the attempt to down them all en bloc.

Let nothing be left undone in the work of re-establishing returned heroes in some congenial occupation in Canada.

The spring offensive in the fields of Ontario is about due. This old Province must go "over the top" in production this year.

The civilized world prays that the Allied west front holds. The Kaiser's legions may meet their Waterloo before this summer is over.

All too many people still persist in keeping their backs to the land. There will have to be a right about face some day. All cannot live in cities.

There is generally a bigger crop to thresh on the farms well stocked up with farm animals than on those upon which little attention is paid to live stock.

They are reported to be on the land earlier than ever in the West. An early seeding means a good deal toward large crop returns. It makes for a bigger acreage and greater yields.

The maple syrup crop in Western Ontario, at least, does not promise a bumper yield, but good weather for sap is generally bad weather for wheat and grass, and we need the wheat and feed more than we do sweets anyway.

### The Boy You Get.

This year, as last, a campaign has been put on to secure boys of 'teen age for the farms, and according to all accounts many are answering the S. O. S. signal and are signing up. We understand that it was at first hoped that 25,000 would be available, but these figures are going to be exceeded by perhaps 10,000 or more. Our hats are off to the boys who are willing and ready to do what they can. We have talked with farmers who had the lads last year and most found them useful and satisfactory. Although not able to fill the labor-shortage gap, they were a real help. Of course, a few did not fit in. They got blisters on their hands and their backache inclined them on the hoe handle, and they got homesick and work-sick. But there were only a few of this sort. Most were manly fellows who laughed at the blisters, straightened the kinks out of their backs, mastered the job and made friends on the farm. The farm also stood to gain, for many of the boys developed a liking for agriculture and things rural. Let us hope that this year's effort will be a greater success. The boy has responsibility and the farmer has his also. A great deal depends upon the treatment the lads get as to the success of the venture. They cannot take the place of trained men. No one should expect it. They cannot do heavy work, but, if willing, there are many jobs on the average farm that they can do and in this way they can do their bit. The lads are at an impressionable age. Character will be formed in part, during their summer's work on the land. They will form their ideas as to farming and agriculture from their summer's experience. The farmer should see that the boy he has gets the proper viewpoint. "Character grows strong and clean on the land." The farmer can help the boy. The farmer has a responsibility. Make the boy like the country. Teach him to work hard but do not make it drudgery. Help him to enjoy his work by explaining it to him. The why and the wherefore count with every boy. And boys should give good service. They are going out to work not to "make" examinations or to "put in" time. As the farmer and his wife are kind and considerate to the boy, he should also be appreciative, gentlemanly and ready to do his part. Boys are not men, but they can be mighty close to it. Give them a chance.

### The Great Problem—Farm Labor.

In another column in this issue a hired man gives his views on the farm labor situation. Those who would have men in large numbers return to the farms should read this article. He has figured out that the wages paid to female hired help on the farms last year would amount to about one dollar per day, and to hired men about two dollars per day for the year. These, says our correspondent, are not big wages. We have contended in articles published in recent issues that farmers as a class, cannot pay wages to compete with city industry. The proof is plain to be seen. Men and women of the working class have left the country for the city and there remain. Why? Because they get bigger wages, have shorter hours and think they have an all round better time. Some hired men say that the reason they have left the country is because farmers are too mean to pay fair wages. This is not so. Farmers are willing to pay all they can afford to, taking into consideration the work done and the returns which the farmer gets for that labor. Profits in farming have not been such as to encourage either the hired man or the farmer himself in many cases to stay in the country, and we find a large proportion of men who once farmed for themselves now working in the cities because their wages in the cities amount to more than they were able to make on the farm. It is not only the hired men and hired girls who have gone to the cities, it is farmers' sons and farmers themselves. Farming has not been the job it should have been for either farmer or farm laborer,

and many of both classes have sought employment elsewhere. Let no one blame the hired help for going where it can do best, and let no hired help or others blame the farmer. There is a good reason why farmers have not paid big wages in the past. They could not afford to and the fact that they, in large numbers, have left the farms for other work is proof sufficient. When prices for farm products advance as they have done in recent years, prices of everything else advance and the farmer with regard to hired help and returns is still at a disadvantage. Wages went higher and higher in the cities. Big returns and the chance for bigger profits boosted wages all around, and as wages went up everything the farmer and consumer had to buy advanced in greater proportion. Farmers still cannot compete in the labor market and men and women work elsewhere. The farmer cannot blame them. They cannot blame the farmer, and the city dweller can blame neither. Some radical readjustments are yet necessary before the farm can compete with the factory in the labor market. A few years ago the farm laborer got little for his work. His wages have trebled. When the farm laborer's wage was low, the returns from the farm on which he worked were not enough to leave its proprietor even the then low laborer's wage, in many cases. Both left the farm. To-day the wages for the farm laborer are higher and the returns from the land are greater, but cost of living for the laborer and increased cost of production for the farmer have cut a big hole in net returns, and the city still has the advantage. When the city employer of labor pays high wages he figures to get a profit on these higher wages, and sets the price of his product accordingly. When the farmer pays high wages he must depend upon someone else to set the price of his product. There is a big difference—a wide gap to bridge, but all classes are coming closer together and a solution of the great problem may yet be found. In the meantime let none cast slurs at others. All classes of the community are more or less to blame for the present state of farm labor affairs.

### Treatment For Bad Roads.

The Farmer's Advocate has for many years explained to its readers the advantages of using a split-log drag to smooth off the road early in the spring. The drag, properly used, is always a success and the wonder is that its use is not more universal. Go where you will at this season of the year mud roads are found rough and generally in bad condition, but where the roads have started to dry and the drag has been used they are smooth and in the best possible condition to shed water and dry up thoroughly. If you haven't tried a drag in your locality now would be a good time to start. A little co-operation among farmers in this work would soon make miles and miles of better roads. Make a drag and use it on your lane and in front of your own place. Your neighbor will soon follow and in a short time the value of the treatment for bad roads will be known over the entire country.

### The Crime of the Century.

The crime of the century is the slaughter in Europe, and that crime is of the Kaiser's own making. War at any time is hell, but war which drives countless hordes in solid formation into the mouths of cannon, into the hail of machine gun bullets, into the battering barrage, line on line and regiment on regiment, only to destruction, in the hope that by sheer weight of numbers those who remain trample over a pavement of the corpses and wounded of their own comrades to the lines of devastation which were their objective, sinks to lower depths than that expressed by General Sherman. The Kaiser's ambition for world power stops at nothing. His troops are merely a means to an end. If they suffer and die it matters not to him and his war lords so long as they gain the mastery. Their men make