

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LV.

LONDON ONTARIO MARCH 18, 1920.

1434

EDITORIAL.

Do not put off till seeding time what you can do this month.

Preparedness is the only substitute we now have for hired help.

After such an old-fashioned winter, an early spring is not unlikely.

There is probably plenty of seed corn to go round, but it pays to order early and get the best obtainable.

This is a critical time of the year for the farmer when the live stock are bringing forth their increase. Eternal vigilance at this season is the price of success.

When one man alone tills one hundred acres he will find it more profitable to strive for larger yields from a smaller acreage, and grass a larger percentage of the farm.

The one redeeming feature of Bolshevism is that under its regime able-bodied men are obliged to work. Men in this country are looking for a substitute for work, and annoyed because they cannot find it.

There is only one fair way to market the products of the farm, and that is on a quality basis; and the right kind of progress will never be achieved until a man is rewarded according to the thought and effort he puts into his work.

It cannot be claimed by even the most critical opposition that the Speech from the Throne, delivered March 9, to the Provincial Legislature, promises undue consideration for any class, or that legislation of such nature is at all probable.

Eleven thousand immigrants from the British Isles have landed or are landing in Canada. If any of them have had experience on the land, it would be the best thing for them and best for Canada if they located on farms as helpers or renters.

The fact that the Drury Government proposes to make some temporary readjustments in the public school system of Ontario "pending a thorough inquiry into the whole subject," is proof that the Government is anxious to bring about a much-needed change for the better.

With a large number of immigrants (many of whom are, no doubt, married) coming to Canada, farmers would, perhaps, be well advised to provide a house or cottage for the farm help, and make an effort to obtain some of this assistance. On larger farms, where help is absolutely essential, the extra house has become the best solution of the labor problem.

The horticulturists assembled at Guelph on March 5 did quite right in protesting against the ruthless destruction of shade and ornamental trees by the Bell Telephone Company, the Hydro Electric Power Commission, and other like corporations when stringing their lines across the country. We cannot afford to sacrifice these shade and ornamental trees for commercial gains. Old Ontario is already too bare of trees, but a great many of these old landmarks are constantly falling or being shorn of their branches by linemen who have nothing to put in their places but bare poles and wires. We need to conserve our trees for more than aesthetic reasons; they are as useful as ornamental, and Ontario, without shelter from sun and wind, would not be a happy place even with all its poles and wires.

Control of Steamship Companies.

Notice has again been given to the House of Commons at Ottawa of a Bill to bring steamship companies under the control of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners. At the spring session of 1919 a Bill to this effect was introduced by J. E. Armstrong, East Lambton, who has been advocating this reform for several years, but the scope of this Bill was later altered and submitted as an amendment to the Consolidated Railway Act passed at that session. This amendment was opposed strongly by the Government when it was discussed in committee, and it was finally lost by a vote of 36 to 61.

As we view this matter, the Government deserves no praise for its opposition. What is required in any country that aspires to democracy, as does Canada, is the abolition of all monopolies and special privileges. Common carriers such as railway, express and steamship companies should be prevented from imposing such tolls or tariffs as will prove a hardship to shippers, or, ultimately, to the consumer. The railway companies are subject to the control of the Board of Railway Commissioners in the matter of rates, and so far as we are aware it has yet to be proven that in this case control is not warranted. The shipment of goods by water on Canadian lakes and rivers will grow steadily as the country develops, and it is decidedly unfair to the people generally that steamship companies should have it in their power to impose any rate that they feel they can collect without encouraging too much competition.

It is generally considered unfair to impute motives, but one wonders what motive prompts a Government that refuses to sanction a reform, the underlying principle of which is as vital to democracy and as near to the heart of Canadians as is any legislation tending to do away with profiteering and the exploitation of the people. To refuse to impose any restrictions upon those catering to the public service for private gain under conditions which our steamship companies now enjoy, is a position which we should think any alert Government would hesitate to take.

A Word of Caution to Soldier Settlers.

Returned soldiers settled under the auspices of the Soldier Settlement Board ought to make the very best use possible of the loans placed at their disposal. Some, perhaps, have not had a great deal of experience in managing a farm and financing the business; in such cases they do not fully appreciate that farmers must take poor years with the good, and make the surplus from the fat years carry them through the lean seasons of crop failure and low prices. The \$1,500 or \$2,000 placed at the settler's disposal to assist him in getting started must be carefully husbanded; absolute essentials only should be purchased, every dollar should be placed where it will bring in the greatest returns. A settler might easily so embarrass himself financially by making unwise purchases and foolish investments that he would never get out from under the load of debt incurred at the beginning. He would then condemn the occupation and start all over again in a new field, which, in the majority of cases, would provide a living but not the independence and freedom he would enjoy in farming. We have seen so many failures in farming, due to extravagance and big ideas when getting started, that we warn soldier settlers to go cautiously for the first year or two until they get their bearings and some experience in farm management. It would be easy indeed to overstock with horses, or expensive implements when cheaper ones would do the work. It might be expedient to engage a neighbor to do some work, such as cutting the grain with his binder, and compensate him with horses or man labor. In most cases soldier settlers are heavily enough in debt to the Govern-

ment and should not otherwise compromise themselves by purchasing from private parties, giving their notes as security or buying on time. Farming is a good occupation, but it is not a get-rich-quick scheme. Soldier settlers should go cautiously at first and then branch out as their revenue and gradually decreasing obligations warrant.

Live-Stock Markets.

During the last couple of months there has been a lack of steadiness in the market for commercial live stock, and the price of dairy products may soon reflect an unsettled condition in that trade. International finances have not been any too healthy, and such a state of affairs must certainly, for a time at least, influence the whole trend of commerce. The world's supply of meat and dairy products has not been overdone. If all provisions were distributed as they would be under ordinary conditions of trade and financing, the cupboard would still be comparatively empty. During the readjustment, disturbances are sure to occur that will temporarily affect the markets to which we cater, but these should not be allowed to discourage Canada's policy of increasing and improving the live stock on the farms of this country. In spite of the fluctuations and disturbances in the markets at home and abroad, those who have kept their live stock up to a high standard as regards number and quality have, in the great majority of cases, prospered most. Live-stock husbandry does not permit of any interruptions or breaks in the general policy which guides a farmer on to success. The wisdom or foolishness of any change in attitude to-day is not revealed for one, two or three years, when it is too late to correct the error. Live-stock rearing is a good business, and no one makes a mistake by going in too strong with good quality stuff. In spite of the fact that the markets have been somewhat unsettled, 1920 should be Expansion Year in the live-stock industry of this Dominion.

The Ear Marks of a Nation.

It is being heralded abroad that Canada is a nation because she is numbered among the great self-governing nations of the earth as one of the signatories to the Peace Treaty. We should all be glad to accept this evidence as outward signs of nationhood, but it should be remembered that this honor came largely as a reward for our war effort and the sacrifice of almost sixty thousand lives in the cause of right and liberty. After paying the price we did for the opportunity to declare ourselves a nation, it would not be keeping faith with those who died, or giving expression to the true spirit of Canadian people, should our Governments and national institutions fail to measure up to the true standards of nationhood. Population and natural resources in themselves will never make a country famous—worthy achievements, noble aspirations and high ideals are the ear marks of a nation.

The great war gave Canada an opportunity to reveal her loyalty to the Empire and the virility of this ambitious young commonwealth just blossoming into nationhood. Canada came to the front in time of war; can we maintain that position in times of peace? The answer to this question depends on a national conscience deep rooted in the Canadian people, and a determination to put ideals and aspirations before individual, before class and before party. Unfortunately, there has been a class consciousness in this country, or feelings in the breasts of certain great groups that economically and socially they were separated from their brother countrymen. In time of war social or financial standing, political dogmas, and doctrinal points of religion were left behind and the men went into action as comrades in the same cause. This is the spirit that should permeate society at home where we are called upon to