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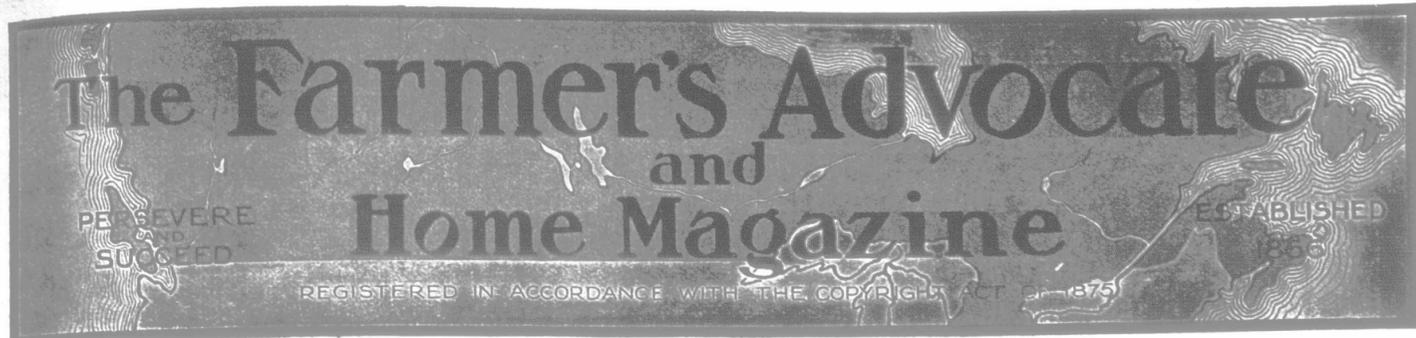
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VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 10, 1915.

No. 1185

EDITORIAL.

It is now a good time to plant late potatoes.

Cultivate the corn and summer-fallow once a week.

Never do by hand what can be done with a horse.

Italy has placed another seal on the doom of despotism.

Darken the windows in the calf pens during the hot summer weather.

A free people cannot be cowed down or conquered by barbarity.

As the potatoes and corn peep through use the light harrow frequently.

A clover paddock for the pigs means more profit on the summer's pork.

It must be a crippled brain that classes children as contraband of war.

Do not stop reading and thinking because the summer season is the busy season.

The man who shirks when doing his road work injures himself as much as anyone else.

Feed is dear, but the only way to make a pig pay for his keep is to give him more feed.

Germany hates everybody but the Huns and the Turk. Oh Kultur! Wherefore art thou?

German methods do not improve as the war grows fiercer. We hope they are signs of weakness.

It is to be hoped that Jack Frost has now gone on his annual summer vacation to last until late September.

The submarine continues to take its toll, and is proving the most effective of the newer inventions of destruction.

Those who delayed planting corn until after the recent frosts now console their unlucky neighbors with: "I told you so."

Fall wheat on clover sod has done better in many instances this year than on summer-fallow. The water got away more readily.

Pasture may be saved by changing the stock from one field to another, allowing the grass to get a start in one while the other is being pastured off.

With the idol of the people hustling together munitions of war, there should soon be no cry of shortage of ammunition on the part of the British forces.

Where mangels have been sown thickly on the flat a stroke or two with a light harrow just after they are up may save hoeing. Do not try it unless the plants are very thick.

Look Around.

Early June is a little between seasons on most farms. The seed is in; the corn is planted; the root ground is prepared or perhaps sown; the hoeing is not ready; and haying does not come in for a few days. It is one of the most promising seasons of the year and an excellent time to take a day or two "looking around." It is said that the man has good judgment who does not rely wholly on his own and nothing could be truer. The next neighbor can always tell you something you do not know and very often that something would work out to good advantage on your own farm, for conditions are often very similar on adjoining farms. Call on the neighbor and have a little friendly chat over stock and crops for there is no better subject just now, when all efforts are being put forth to produce more than ever before.

It is not well to end the visiting with one neighbor or with one locality. Far better to call on all the neighbors and take a few short trips to other districts, making a study of methods while engaged in ordinary conversation with the farmer. It will surprise you how much can be picked up by the man who keeps his eyes and ears open. It is not necessary to cross-examine your host. Walk over the farm and through the stalls and let him do most of the talking. Then in turn, invite him to see how you farm and help him all you can when he seeks information. A little back-and-forth co-operation of this kind would help everybody. Try it this June.

Reorganizing Farmers' Institutes.

Notices were sent out last week carrying a suggested plan for the reorganization of Farmers' Institutes in Ontario. The new outline comprises a County Board of Agriculture and if brought into actual practice will mean the passing of The Farmers' Institutes.

Farmers' Institutes had their beginning in Ontario in 1884 and came into actual operation in January 1885. Similar work in scattered localities had been carried on back as far as 1792 when an agricultural society was doing good work in Upper Canada. In 1830 agricultural societies were encouraged by Act of Parliament and the first Provincial Fair was held in 1846. These societies came under the control of what was then called the Board of Agriculture composed of a large number of representative farmers of the Province. The first Farmers' Club was organized in 1846, and Farmers' Clubs flourished and became dormant. In fact all these societies had their bright and prosperous periods and their quiet and dormant times. Some, then, favor calling 1885 the year of revival of Farmers' Institute work. It was really the year of inception, at least as far as the name goes, and now after three decades it passes and the old Board of Agriculture appellation is about to return to a place in the sun. During recent years Farmers' Clubs have been gaining ground; District Representatives have seemed to favor this class of organization; the agricultural press has established itself as the one best means of carrying agricultural information to the farmer; scores of organizations of farmers have sprung up, and interest in the old-style Institute meetings has waned somewhat.

Once organized, Farmers' Institute work grew rapidly. Twenty-six meetings were held the

second year, and forty the third year after organization. In 1890 the Province was divided into seven districts, and in 1891 ninety-five meetings were held. During the following three years the work advanced apace, and F. W. Hodson was appointed as the first Superintendent. In 1899 special efforts were put forth to organize Women's Institutes, and in 1901 the work was favorably reported, twenty having been organized the first year and twenty-four the second year. This branch of the work has increased and is still growing.

In June 1900 there were 18,058 Farmers' Institute members and the total attendance for the year was 138,982 at 715 meetings held. In 1901 the total membership ran up to 20,307 with 730 meetings, and a total attendance of 131,653 persons. On June 30, 1903 the membership was 23,754; 837 meetings were held during the year, but only 126,459 attended.

Of late years interest in Farmers' Institute meetings has seemed to flag, and in 1913, ten years later, 18,290 members were reported in June, while the large number of 1,415 meetings were held, but the attendance had dropped to 94,266. Another drop was registered in 1914, when in June the membership was down to 15,462, the meetings held during the year were 1403, and the attendance 93,880. All this happened before the war which has also been a factor in curtailing the work.

Notwithstanding the fact that rural Ontario has suffered from the lure of the cities which has drawn many good farmers and their sons and daughters cityward, the falling off in membership and attendance has been such as to indicate that the day of the Farmers' Institute as it has existed since the revival was rapidly passing. When interest wanes, something must be done. An able staff did all in its power to keep the old ship afloat, but it finally became apparent that it would have to go into dry dock for repairs. The suggested plan is the result. It is simply a change of method which carries with it a change of name.

The object of the new organization is to secure the co-operation of all agricultural organizations, especially Farmers' Clubs, and representative men in each locality. This is necessary to stimulate interest in meetings. Fewer meetings than formerly will likely be held by the Institute or Board, but it is hoped that a larger attendance will be the rule and greater interest result.

Among the outlined objects of the Board, one of the strongest features is "the development of local talent" and an "endeavor to bring the rank and file of the farmers into touch with the most successful local men." Right here is where the old Institute showed its greatest weakness. It did not develop local talent as it should, and it has not brought the rank and file of the farmers into touch with successful local men. Speakers were brought in from outside with a set line of subjects which did not always fit the class of farming being carried on in the locality. Sometimes methods were recommended which were not according to the best practice in the particular locality. Local men lost interest and finally failed to turn up at meetings. Besides, it was found to be no easy task to get good, practical farmers who were also good platform speakers and who could be induced to leave their homes and farm business to tour the country giving a series of lectures. The consequence was that sometimes the best men were not available while others not so capable and not having so good a farm to leave at home, or a little more gifted