

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Don't neglect the summer-fallow.

Breed and feed are important factors in the live-stock industry.

Throw the swine a few freshly-cut sods and some green feed each day.

Work horses on pasture at night require their regular grain allowance three times a day.

When working at the hay, horses, as well as men, are refreshed by an occasional drink of water.

A good sire is an asset to the community. Why not club with a few neighbor farmers and obtain one?

The corn and potato crops are made or lost by the cultivation they receive during the growing season. Keep the cultivator going.

When flies are thick and the weather warm the calves will thrive well in a shed or stable during the day with cut grass or good clover hay.

Every cloud has a silver lining. The hay crop should be good. Have the machinery ready to harvest it in the quickest and best possible manner.

The preserving season is here, and authorities say that fruit can be canned without sugar. Sweetening will be necessary when the product is consumed, but unnecessary to preserve it.

Many weeds are controlled by preventing them from going to seed. A few hours spent this year in pulling stray plants out of the growing crop may save days in cultivation later on.

In many cases the good cow goes and the poor one remains to eat up the profits. The scales and tester would prevent this, for the figures themselves shame the man who acts so unwisely as to sell the profitable producer and feed the poor one.

Do not deprive the stock of salt. Their digestive system requires it. Rock salt may be placed in the open in the pasture, but salt in bulk should have a cover over it to prevent rain dissolving and wasting it. Place the supply within easy reach of all classes of stock.

Guard against blight destroying the potato crop by spraying thoroughly with Bordeaux mixture several times during the season. An article in this issue on summer treatment for controlling potato diseases contains pointers which may assist the grower in preventing diseases of this crop becoming established in the field.

Rape sown in drills at the rate of two or two-and-one-half pounds per acre will furnish an abundance of fall pasture for feeding cattle, sheep and hogs. Having it in drills permits of cultivation which assists in eradicating many noxious weeds. A good crop may be expected if rape is sown by the middle of July. Latter seeding will give a fair amount of feed.

## Who Will Name the Men?

The Minister of Trade and Commerce has announced that delegates of the various branches of Canadian industrial life will be asked to convene during the early autumn and prepare for the unusual conditions which are sure to follow in the wake of restored peace. Agriculture, the announcement says, will send its quota, and the question arises, who will appoint these representatives of Canadian agriculture? It is not a matter of no suitable representatives, we have them, but the machinery for appointing them is lamentably wanting. To be effective the conference cannot be large, and probably every branch of industrial life will send only a very few. In such a case several phases of farming must be represented by a few men who have a large field and a great diversity to consider. The Manufacturers' Association could elect one man because they are a unit unto themselves, but consider for one moment how even two or three delegates could be named to voice the opinion of all the rural constituencies. There are numerous farm organizations, but there is no council of agriculture for the Dominion of Canada that can, even to a small degree, speak for the people at large. Some of the organizations we have are strong in their particular fields, but a fruit growers' association cannot represent the mixed farming interests, no more than the grain growers can speak for the live-stock breeders. One might say, "let all the farm organizations get together and elect their representatives." Here again obstacles might arise through the multiplicity of the different bodies, each of which would consider their interests paramount. To get actual representation anywhere the farmers must select and appoint their own delegates, but as previously stated, the machinery for doing so is not yet in operation.

What Canadian agriculture needs at this time is a council of agriculture to speak for the people whose representatives they are. If all the various organizations could be welded together into one unit we would then be able to voice our sentiments with authority and effect.

## Do Not Breed Cattle Too Young.

There has always been a tendency on the part of some breeders to allow their heifers to freshen before they have acquired sufficient growth and maturity, and now that the demand for all kinds of cattle has received an impetus through a world-wide shortage, the evil practice may be tolerated by many who are not far-sighted enough to appreciate the consequences. The results of premature breeding were in evidence last winter at some auction sales. Where heifers were permitted to bring forth young at an early age, representatives of the herd generally showed a lack of substance, constitution, ruggedness and thrift, and this untoward effect will be the reward of any breeder who departs from the path beaten by his successful competitors and hastens his young females into the producing class. Some animals mature more quickly than others, and the individual itself and the way it is developing will suggest to the herdsman the proper time for mating it with the bull. The dairy heifer allowed to freshen when 30 to 32 months of age should make a large-framed animal with plenty of constitution and vigor, and when we consider that we expect 9 to 12 years' labor from a cow it appears reasonable that they should be thoroughly equipped. There may be a slight present gain by getting the females into the working class, but the subsequent profits are sure to be decreased thereby. It requires several years to breed up a herd of cattle under the best management, and if the future is not looked to

some breeders may, in after years, regret their haste. Only recently an instance of too early breeding in a beef herd came to our attention, and at the annual meeting a year ago of one association, which champions a beef breed, they considered it necessary to add a new rule to the Rules of Entry, as follows: "No application for registration shall be considered where the sire of the animal offered for entry was less than 8 months old at the time of service, or where the dam of the animal offered for entry was less than 9 months old at the time of service." Such a clause as this should be altogether unnecessary, but it was intimated that registration had been applied for on animals with even younger parentage than was allowed in the new rule. Some of these, no doubt, were due to accident, and the sires and dams were not mated by the herdsman or caretaker. Yet, in the opinion of the directors such restrictions were deemed necessary to safeguard the interests of the breed.

This is no time to jeopardize the quality of our breeding stock by too early matings. Canada can become the source of foundation animals for other countries if we have the proper material, and that can only be produced through wise and cautious breeding.

## Keeping the Boss in His Place.

A famous Canadian political leader once declared that the farmer was the most patient of beings—he never asked for anything, and he never got anything. In the conduct of the affairs of the country the case of the farmer, not being unitedly and effectually presented, could be safely ignored. It was and still is, by the mischievous devices of partyism, that other and less important interests attain their ends, while those of the class that feeds them all are side-tracked. In his notes "On the Open Road," Ralph W. Trine attacks the blind following of a party simply because one chances to belong to a particular party, and many times just because his father or his uncle or his mother or his aunt belonged to it. This has been one of the chief causes of the most notorious political corruption and debauchery. It is for this reason, more than anything else, that bosses and machines have been able to grasp and hold things as they do, and in the name of party fealty have stolen the rights and natural possessions of the people for their own enrichment. We resent the expression that Mr. So-and-so "belongs" to some particular political party as though they owned him body and soul, and all they had to do on election eve was to "ring him up" and he would be "there." "We can count on Jones; he's all right." But it is a hopeful sign that Jones is becoming less and less dependable from the standpoint of the political boss. Now and then in the affairs of the country a man of independent integrity looms up of a little larger calibre than the "Boss" and the people back him up. What is it that deprives the "Boss" of the power of corruption? Simply decisive independence in party affairs. Mr. Trine very properly goes further and puts it up to men as a moral obligation to support "their party" only when its platform is essentially the best, and when it is constructed for the purpose of being fulfilled and, not in whole or in part, for purposes of deception, and when its candidates are the best men that can be named. Once this becomes distinctly known and that men and parties who have the public interests will be promptly turned out of office, it means a revolution and a new apart political life. Government is not some payee, and distinct from the individual voter, and he is in a sense it is an expression of him lies, that it morally bound to see, as far as a little circle we is conducted aright. If in our