



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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Preparedness for Spring Work Is the Farm Programme Complete for the Season of 1917?—By Agricola

MUCH of the success attained in farming must be attributed to good generalship. No battle that is considered decisive can be won without preparedness. Within the month previous to seeding, the farmer's campaign for the busy season should be thought out. To know what crops he will grow, what fields will be devoted to them, that the necessary implements are in good repair and the proper help available, will add immeasurably in keeping up with the work throughout the summer.

When there is a little slack time, it may be profitably utilized in seeing that all tools are in first-class working order. Are the harrows sharp, the cultivator points ready to bite, and the roller, the drill and other machinery ready for instant service? Perhaps the hay cutting and the wheat harvest seem a long way in the distance, but you are going to be busy then. Why not now take the opportunity to overhaul the mower, the binder and that side-delivery rake that you took so much trouble to store away? See that all broken and worn parts are renewed, nuts tightened, and bearings oiled—ready to start at the word go. Then, perhaps, the harness has been neglected. If repairs are advisable do not delay in having them done. Have the leather well oiled and the collars cleaned.

Machinery to Replace Men.

In these days when farm help is scarce and high priced it is good business to consider the class of machinery you purchase. Are your implements of the old-fashioned, narrow type, regular time consumers? Would it not be practicable to trade them to a dealer for wider and more convenient ones? When you are being pushed in a few weeks to get that heavy clay into crop before a three days' rain stops operations for a week, you will be impressed by the difference. It will spell dollars to you then.

It took a few days, lately, to get rid of several cross fences, making our fields average eighty rods in length, instead of forty. Walking up and down these short fields, between the tails of a plow for a dozen years, gave me plenty of time to do a little thinking. One of my thoughts had to do with an arithmetical calculation that would tell me the amount of time I was simply wasting in turning around a thousand and one times in the various operations of plowing, tilling and harvesting. I am satisfied that if the grand total were multiplied by a day's wages such as farmers are likely to pay this season it would represent a sum sufficiently large to make a substantial payment on a six-cylinder automobile. Here was time that could be utilized for other work on the farm, and to more profit. This I consider an important move in farm economics.

Harden the Teams.

As but few farmers are fortunate enough to

profitably employ the gas tractor to furnish the necessary power in the fields, the important question of getting the teams hardened and ready for the strenuous days of seeding should be given careful attention. Most farmers don't have to be told how to do this; just a hint by way of emphasis ought to suffice. If, however, the work is to be accomplished with a satisfactory degree of despatch there will be no economy in a short-



\$192.55 Per Cow

THAT the progressive, up-to-date dairyman can make a marked success of his business, even in a season when weather and crop conditions were perhaps the most unfavorable on record, has been amply proven by the results obtained in 1916 by Mr. Morden Gilbert from his fine Holstein herd at Hillview Farm, Sophiasburg Township. About a year ago the Gazette gave the record of Mr. Gilbert's herd for 1915, and the record was an excellent one, but during 1916 Mr. Gilbert has not only made far more money per cow owing to the increased price for cheese, but in the face of one of the most unfavorable dairy seasons for many years he was able to show a splendid increase in yield of milk per cow. In 1915 his average milk per cow from a herd of ten cows was 10,141 lbs., while the highest yield from any individual cow was 12,125 lbs. In 1916 the average per cow from a herd of nine was 12,228 lbs., each. The highest individual yield in 1916 was 14,253, an increase of 2,128 in highest individual record. A three-year-old that freshened May 1st was the only one cow in the herd that gave less than 10,000 lbs. in 1916. This is a record of which Mr. Gilbert has good reason to be proud, for it certainly means that the most careful attention has been given, not only to breeding up his herd, but that the best of care was given them, and food of the right sort, provided in abundance. This was not an easy matter in 1916, owing to the long continued dry weather. The financial return from Mr. Gilbert's herd for 1916 was most gratifying. The total money value of the dairy products of this herd was \$1,732.86, an average of \$192.55 per cow. If the value of the milk used on the farm was included in this estimate, it would easily bring the average per cow to well over \$200.—A. P. McVay, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

age of horses. Generally speaking, the horse market of late has been at a pretty low ebb, especially if one has an animal to sell—one that is not very good or not very bad. But go out and try to buy a really good one, and you will have your eyes opened wide. The ordinary market does not seem to have much effect there. On several occasions recently, I have seen draft teams of the desirable type pass hands at an average price of \$400. The best farmers are almost proverbial in respect to their admiration for a good horse. Some will even go so far as to slow up the work all around, rather than be bothered with an inferior animal; and there are not many who feel they can afford a long price for one that will only be regarded as an extra.

Pavement-sore, but Satisfactory.

One of my neighbors finding himself in that predicament last spring, found a solution that proved entirely satisfactory. Providing himself with the services of a reliable veterinary, he went on a little prospecting trip to the city. Operators of breweries, coal yards, etc., have many fine specimens of draft horses which they use for draw purposes. The trouble, from the city viewpoint, is that the hauling of heavy loads over the paved streets soon produces a footsoreness that precludes them from further service of this kind. Right here is where the farmer's opportunity comes in. My friend saw the point, and with expert assistance was able to select a team, otherwise sound and young in years for \$200. Work on the land soon restored the condition of their feet to normal. Three months after making the purchase he was offered \$350 for the pair.

Another chore, which, if neglected, will take up a great deal of valuable time, and can be done equally well when the frost is in the ground, is cleaning the seed grain. Seed oats or barley, if well selected, need not be changed every few years, notwithstanding a popular belief to the contrary, as large plump seed will continue to give good yields for many years. If one has the time three different cleanings are not too many in order to secure the "cream" of the grain for seed. The resultant harvest will prove it to be time well spent.

Universal Fertility Service

How about starting universal fertility service? All boys on the farm, and all men, too, are eligible to join. The requirements are that we do our share toward maintaining the fertility of the soil and promote agricultural preparedness by using the best methods of handling our soils and crops. Our experimental farms and agricultural colleges will furnish soil fertility ammunition in booklets and pamphlets. Bigger production is needed and to secure it better methods of farming are urgent.