

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Swat the fly.

Plant more corn.

Is the farm garden in yet?

There is yet hope—farmers are organizing.

When the test came the English people stood behind Lloyd-George.

An early attack on weeds with horse cultivator and hoe is advisable.

Considerable relief is felt when the bulk of the stock gets out to pasture.

Eat more of the products of the dairy. Milk is one of nature's foods and is the cheapest and best on the market.

Every kind of weather appears to be suitable to the growth of weeds, which are persistent enemies of hoed crops.

Windows and doors of the house and dairy should be screened to keep flies from coming in contact with the food.

A large acreage of hoed crops half cultivated may not give any larger return than a smaller acreage well worked.

A considerable amount of grain can be saved by growing the pigs on pastures; besides, grass is cheaper than grain.

Older farmers will not have the same patience with inexperienced help that the younger men will, but patience is a necessity.

Careful planning and systematizing of the farm work will aid in accomplishing the task of greater production with the minimum of labor.

Look over the haying and harvesting machinery and make needed repairs now so as to avoid delay when the crops are ready to harvest.

Keep the fences, especially those around the pasture field, in repair. The stock will find the weak place if there is one, and once they trespass there is no end of trouble.

When doing the road work draw a full yard of gravel, even if your neighbor is inclined to go light to save his team. The man who tries to shirk when working for the township is the greater loser.

The expected reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, is long over-due, and the top-heavy Department at Toronto is still maintained. When will they get down to business in high places?

It has been said that "Work never kills a man." Work within reason is beneficial, but there is a limit to every man's strength and ability. To over-step that limit even for a short time usually results in impaired health and a shortening of the period of usefulness. No man can afford to be careless regarding health.

Why Farmers Are Organizing.

Considerable impetus has been given of late to the organization of farmers' clubs and other kinds of associations where the people of the rural districts can get together. Clubs which have been in existence for some time report sudden increases in membership, and new organizations have no trouble in adding a full list of names or securing capital with which to proceed. There is an awakening throughout rural Canada which is very likely to bear fruit and raise a banner under which political partisans will feel very much out of place.

When asked regarding the reasons for this movement, the President of a newly-organized club recently said: "We can save dollars for the members but behind it all is the feeling that we are poorly represented in Parliament. We want young farmers in our clubs who can foster non-partisan views and when we get them we can unite in the different constituencies and elect farmers to represent us at Ottawa. We have two men right among us who are vastly superior to the man whom we elected last fall and the time has come when we shall no longer go to the towns and cities for candidates."

There is promise now that the ideals for which "The Farmer's Advocate" has striven so long and ardently will be realized. The fact, that out of some 235 members comprising the present Parliament only 39 are farmers does not appeal. The personnel of the Commons includes 73 lawyers, 39 farmers, 23 physicians, 23 manufacturers, 22 merchants, and a small spattering of other professional men and artisans. The incongruity of such representation in the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, which is known the world over as an agricultural country of the first importance, is enough to stagger one who gives any thought to self or representative government. How incongruous it would appear if a riding in the City of Toronto, Montreal, or Ottawa went out to the back concessions or side roads and selected a candidate to represent their interests; but it is just as inconsistent for the rural constituencies to hasten town or citywards for a representative who knows nothing about farming, and in nine cases out of ten has no sympathy with it. Representative government should be representative. Let the urban people choose the lawyer, the manufacturer, the physician, or whom they will, but send farmers to parliament to represent farmers, just as the manufacturer or lawyer represents the urban interest which elect them. The agricultural interests of this country are enormous and yet we only have 39 members out of some 235 who profess to be attached in any way worthy of consideration to the greatest industry in the Dominion. Some of these perhaps do not understand conditions as well as they might, so is it any wonder that the urban population in the Province of Ontario, for instance, should increase by leaps and bounds while the rural population has dwindled and declined?

The long over-due awakening has come at last. This new-born independence must develop and take on shape. This will require time but there are good brains and true leaders in the rural districts. If they will devote a part of their time to the work which lies ahead and temper passion with good judgment, the results will surely raise our national life to a higher level and make for good-will and prosperity.

In war and in peace, in good times and in bad times, there must be an equal distribution of hardships and of sacrifice. Everyone must do his or her part and do it well. Equal rights for all but special privileges for none must be lived as well as preached. The way to bring about this ideal is through representative government. The form will not suffice; we must have the substance of such government or the goal for which we are working will continue to advance far ahead.

Farmers' organizations should build on a firm foundation. Partisanship and creed should be thrown off at the outside entrance and not allowed to enter under any consideration, not even in disguise. Those steeped

in party traditions should delete from their minds any cherished memories of the past or hopes of political favors for the future, if they wish to become staunch members. If we get our rights we shall need no favors. If those operating under certain advantages, gained through corrupt methods or political favoritism, are deprived of special privilege and are obliged to compete under a system of equity, Canada will be able to boast of a happy contented and prosperous people and patronage will die out of our public life. Politics has been described as the "doctrine of good government." Allow matters pertaining to legislation to be discussed but banish partisanship which would ruin any club and bring to naught the earnest and unprejudiced efforts of those working for the cause.

Herd Makers.

In the stables of many breeders of pure-bred live stock will be found a cow, still on active service, which has thrown exceptionally good calves and has made the herd what it is. There may be others in the same line which look just as good but when bred to the same sire fail to produce the excellence and merit that have been responsible for the one cow's retention on the farm. These outstanding cows are not all of the same family within the breed to which they belong. They differ in this respect but that does not matter. They are tried and proven. The owner is frequently asked to set his price, but when he looks back over the years when he has sold hundreds of dollars' worth of stock from the favorite, while he has realized only half the amount from any other, he concludes that his good cow is worth as much to him as to anybody else. Many an opportunity to make a name for the herd has been lost when a good offer for the best individual has been accepted. One or two hundred dollars on top of a common bid looks large to some, but what does it amount to when distributed over five or six of her progeny and perhaps some of the second generation from her. One of the best breeders in England once said that it required twenty years to build up a herd; how long then would it take if the best are continually sold off? Frequently a bull will distinguish himself and bring fame to the herd he heads, but he must be mated with first-class cows. The importance of good females in herd building is too often overlooked.

When All Toil and Spin.

The Anti-Loafing law will, no doubt, bring into service a great many hands that heretofore have been idle except at meal time. It is to be hoped that the palms made white and tender through years of disuse and the protection of kid gloves will take on a deeper hue and a firmer texture. These words are not tempered with malice or resentment, punishment is not the aim. However, a fairer distribution of labor and toil, a greater equality of man to man and a more universal mingling of classes in the country's service will bring about an understanding of each other's hardships and pleasures that could not be accomplished in any other way.

Some people are dilatory, some are obstinate and some are downright lazy. With these the law should be severe and exacting. Others labor conscientiously at work, which, in their own minds, they consider essential, but which is not doing anything towards the winning of the war. They should be reasoned with and enlightened. There are yet those who consider that their standing in society exempts them from labor of any kind, and that employment would besmirch their good name and bring dishonor to the family tree. These should be disillusioned and made to see the error of their ways. At the time some useful and essential activity should be allotted them. Ideals are changing, idleness is becoming a crime in the eyes of society; the "gentle-