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# FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

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## EDITORIAL

### An Empire's Loss

In the death of King Edward the Seventh the British Empire has lost one of the most worthy of the many noble sovereigns who have sat upon her throne. The shocking news came with such suddenness that grief almost resulted in a lack of appreciation of the nation's real loss. He commanded the love and respect of all classes within his domains as well as of sister nations the world over. Quiet and unpretentious diplomacy, in an endeavor to maintain peace, made his opinion count for much with the rulers of other lands. Perhaps his part in avoiding more serious differences with France, with Russia and with Germany never will be known.

Agriculturists had, in the late king, a close friend. As an enthusiastic stockman and a winner of prizes his name will go down to history. Recent winnings were made with Shorthorns and Devons from his herds. On the race track his horses have long been prominent, having on several occasions carried off Derby honors.

The great Empire no longer has him to rule over her affairs, but the late King always will be spoken of as the people's friend and the peacemaker. His last words form the substance of the opinions of all peoples—they, too, think he has done his duty.

His successor, George the Fifth, though not yet recognized as a master hand, no doubt by the training he has had and the example of his worthy parent and others of the royal family will continue to direct the affairs of the British Empire for justice and peace. Long live the King!

### Harrow the Crop

Some are inclined to prognosticate Western Canadian weather conditions for every growing season. This year the early spring is said to be a forerunner of a dry summer. This prediction may come true, and, if so, a new batch of weather forecasters will consider the advisability of going into the Foster class.

It is to be hoped that the dry weather spoken of does not materialize. The June rains characteristic of the Canadian West always are welcome. However, it is wise to take all possible precautions to provide a moisture supply. Melting snow and spring rains have combined to give thoroughly prepared soil a fair supply of water. The early opening of spring has permitted seeding to be finished early and the farmer now has time to take steps that will conserve that supply. Many are afraid to go over the growing crop with harrows because they consider too much damage is done. Those who have practiced it, however, agree that a light harrow used when the crop is two or three inches high breaks the surface crust of the soil and forms a powdery mulch that serves as a blanket to prevent excessive evaporation. The crop may present a damaged or backward appearance for a few days, but it soon comes on and makes better growth than similar crops on which harrows were not used. Try it on at least part of the crop. In addition to conserving the moisture you will kill millions of weeds that have not yet become thoroughly established.

### Speed at Plowing Matches

Announcements are made for some of the plowing matches of another season. These functions are worthy of hearty support. Careless plowing has contributed more than is generally conceded to the increasing numbers of dirty farms. That poorly turned soil means an increased crop of weeds is demonstrated every season by the rows of vigorous noxious plants that stand out prominently, showing every round made by the plowman.

But, at present-day plowing matches, is not too much credit given for what is commonly termed *good plowing*, and the item of speed almost neglected? At the rate some competitors go about the work allotted to them they would do much less than half a day's work in ten hours. Moreover the unnatural positions assumed almost make onlookers glad they are not plowmen. This latter, of course, cannot well be made to count against a contestant. With regard to speed, however, the score cards now in use should be revised, giving eight or ten points out of one hundred to all who finish the area marked out within a given time. The time limit should be such

as will show a reasonably good day's work with the class of plow used. Those who fail to finish in that time should lose half a point for every five minutes. Every acre in Western Canada should be well plowed, but no premium should be allowed on waste of time, even at a plowing match.

### Short Two Million Hogs

According to the way hogs are being delivered at the principal markets of America, there is some ground for the forecast of 15-cent hogs in Chicago in 1910. Receipts at the five chief markets of the United States show that two million less hogs were marketed from January 1 to April 30, 1910, than were marketed in the same months of 1909. Sheep receipts decreased by 309,000, and cattle showed an increase of 62,000 head.

At Canadian markets, while definite figures are not available, it is assumed that much the same conditions prevail. Cattle receipts at Eastern markets are reported liberal, and hogs are being marketed in fair numbers, though not as heavily as a year ago. All of which seems to tend to indicate that the crest of the wave of high prices for live stock has not yet arrived. It seems morally certain that before the end of 1910 hogs will have to sell higher in the United States than they are selling to-day. If the hog shortage on the other side of the line is as large as it appears, it is not improbable that the highest prices ever made for pork products in America will be made during the next ten or twelve months.

### Unearned Increment

Writing to *The Daily News* (London) recently, and commenting on an editorial headed "Canada's Agricultural Progress," J. Hawkes deplores the "stupendous folly" of allowing Canadian lands to go to mere speculators. He says:

"Travelling westward from Winnipeg 23 years ago I saw the land for many miles immediately outside that already important city lying uncultivated. Why? Because it had already been bought up by capitalists who were content to wait patiently for the unearned increment. At that time any amount of land of fine quality, in what is now the province of Saskatchewan, and close to the Canadian Pacific Railway, was to be bought outright for \$1.25 per acre. Since then I believe it would be safe to say that millions of acres of this land have changed hands at anything from \$5 to \$10 and \$15, practically the whole of which might to-day have been capital value in the hands of the Canadian nation.

"Beyond the agricultural value there is the enormous urban value already created; and