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EDITORIAL.

Most districts have been experiencing the usual barley-harvest rains.

Has autumn or after-harvest cultivation begun on your farm yet? Frequent rains are giving an excellent opportunity to advance this work.

Every noxious weed seed that can be induced to germinate now is a help toward ridding the farm of these pests, and means a saving of labor and worry later on.

The crying need of more live stock should not be answered by the breeding of all the scrubs in the country. Better have a few animals of the right kind than a surplus of inferior grades to drag the market down to the lowest level.

"Dairy Produce and Hogs High." These are common comments upon the market situation in our large cities, and, properly carried on, no two branches of agriculture fit in with each other better than do these two. What an opportunity!

Present indications do not point to a very heavy corn crop this year in most localities. Do not cease cultivating until the size of the corn positively does not permit of further working. Cultivation is the only means by which growers can hope to make up for the injuries done by the unfavorable season.

Illustrative of the advantages which Eastern Canada offers, compared with Old Country farming conditions, a young man from Scotland, in his first year as a hired help on an Ontario farm, reports that he has been able to save more than he did in the five years previous on a farm in the Old Land. And besides, he has to the good the farmer's training in Canadian farm methods.

Two powerful agencies have been at work to deplete the rural population: One, the misdirected school system, which educates the youth off the farm, or does little or nothing to qualify them for its activities, and the other an economic policy that promotes the city and its industries, at the expense of the country, by tending steadily to withdraw population from the land.

Of all seasons of the year, none are to be more appreciated on the farm than harvest. Harvesting the season's crop cannot help giving the owner a sense of satisfaction. Who would not be pleased to see the heavy-headed golden grain falling back on the endless canvas which conveys it to the deck, from which it is discharged in regular bundles, tied and ready to stook? What more satisfying sight can be imagined than a heavy field of grain drying in the stook, under the clear summer sky? And best of all is the time when the crop is all housed and the barn bulges and creaks with its abundant load; when the threshing machine in a short time separates the grain from the chaff, and the stack, mow and granary are filled with the feed to be turned into meat or milk during the coming winter. How much of the crop will be disposed of? The more of it that is fed on the farms, the better for the country's agriculture.

The Tariff on Traction Ditching Machines.

In going over considerable areas of the Province of Ontario during the past month, members of "The Farmer's Advocate" staff have been struck with the deplorable condition of the crops in certain sections, compared with other portions. Sometimes the alarming contrast was apparent on adjacent farms, and even on different fields of the same farm. Correspondents in various parts of the country verify the existence of this state of affairs, which careful and extended inquiry attributes to the absence of drainage or insufficient drainage. In one extensive stretch of country, the sickly, stunted character of the field crops was most conspicuous, and it was found that there tile draining had been almost entirely neglected. Last spring there was an excess of moisture and cool weather, with the result that on undrained land seeding was delayed and the land improperly worked. Expert demonstration confirms the outcome of general farm practice that the late-sown crops are the poor crops, and nothing so hampers spring sowing as a wet, cold soil. Cases are cited from actual experience where the increased crop from a field the first season has paid the cost of the drainage, and, once the work is properly done, the improvement is permanent. In olden times, it was thought only the low places in the field needed tile draining, but now it is known that it pays handsomely to drain the higher ground, as well.

Careful and long-continued work done by the drainage authorities at the Ontario Agricultural College has demonstrated that, taking into consideration both wet and ordinary farm lands, drainage would give an average crop increase valued at a trifle over \$20 per acre. There are probably 4,000,000 acres of land in what is known as "Old Ontario" urgently needing underdrainage, and probably 5,000,000 acres of slash, swamp or waste land, of which at least 3,000,000 acres might be reclaimed by drainage, the crops from which, added to the increase from lands already under cultivation, would make a grand-total increase of \$100,000,000 per year. Such an increase would go far to solve the high cost of living problem and materially benefit all classes of people. The drying up of wet or swamp lands would also prove of inestimable benefit from a sanitary standpoint, removing many causes of disease and mitigating others, such as those of a tubercular nature. What is true of Ontario is also to a greater or less extent true of the other Provinces of Canada, excepting such areas as those of Alberta.

When the needs of drainage are so evident and the benefits so immediate and lasting, how is it that the work is not more generally done? By the staff of the Physics Department at the Guelph College, and by the County Representatives of the Department of Agriculture, a great deal of drainage-survey work has been performed. By the urgent request of farmers who realize the need, proper systems of drains have been laid out, but, unfortunately, in too many cases it has been found impossible to carry on the undertaking to completion. In the year 1910 as many as 15,000 acres were surveyed on 400 farms in 37 different counties, and last year it was continued at about the same rate. Less than half the progress in drainage is being made that should be done, and Ontario is suffering a loss annually of probably

\$1,400,000 for that reason. Naturally, the Provincial Government does not see its way clear to undertake the work of draining individual farms, and farmers themselves confronted by the appalling scarcity of labor, are unable to grapple with the problem. So, over the country, valuable land is reverting to pasture, and but little is realized from some of the richest soils that are among the most favorably situated in the world.

The land cannot be properly worked and everywhere weeds are gaining ground for the same reason. Time was when in every locality there were men ready to handle drainage tools, but it was heavy labor, and now the ditcher is practically non-existent. Skilled and unskilled laborers have been drawn away to the cities, whose industries thrive at the expense of the soil. Tillage and harvesting machinery has enabled farmers to overcome some of their obstacles with less manual labor, but ditching has not been so relieved to any extent.

Lack of tile is not the real impediment. Clay from which tile can be made is to be found in nearly every township, or at least in every county, and tile-making machinery is not difficult to procure and operate. In Ontario alone there are probably over 200 tile yards, the number and capacity of which might be vastly increased, along with the related industry of tile-making outfits. But neither the one nor the other will be developed unless the trenches to receive the tile can be made. Labor for this work, as we have stated, is practically impossible to obtain.

What, then, is the solution of this great problem? In a word, the traction ditching machine, which, with a couple of attendants, neither of whom has to work very hard, can make as much trench in a day as a score of strong, experienced laborers toiling with spades and shovels. These machines have been perfected by United States firms, but their manufacture has not been undertaken in Canada, nor is it in prospect, we are given to understand, because the great outlay required would not be warranted by the Canadian demand. These machines cost anywhere from \$1,200 to \$2,900, according to style and capacity. Not being manufactured in Canada, there is no "infant" or full-grown industry to protect, but still, upon the machine a duty of 27½ per cent. is imposed, which, added to the heavy original cost, becomes practically prohibitive, in so far as farmers or other men of moderate means are concerned. Some few have been imported, and their efficiency fully demonstrated, but the \$600 or \$700 duty blocks the way. At the ordinary agricultural implement schedule of 17½ per cent., the burden would not be so bad, but, under all the circumstances, and when the advantages are considered, obviously the proper place for traction ditchers is upon the free list. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the tariff section of which looked into the matter, have not opposed this small concession in the interests of the country's greatest industry, agriculture, and it is hard to conjecture why remedial action should be so long delayed.

Cement-making has grown to be an important Canadian industry, but a short time ago, by order-in-council, the Government, in its wisdom, for the furtherance of building and other enterprises, cut the duty on imported cement squarely in two, and the large inflow of the greatly needed material was hailed with satisfaction. That the