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EDITORIAL.

It is difficult to see how live stock can fail to command a good price next spring.

Individual capacity has made more successful farmers than leaning on governments.

Prompt and courageous action in relation to matters of public policy are attributes of statesmen, and very often mean the avoidance of long-drawn vexations afterwards.

To be properly informed about his business, and given a fair chance in the race with other men, are the conditions that should enable a farmer to exhibit the capacity of being able to take care of himself.

A sunny, sheltered barnyard, in which cattle may feed, drink or exercise, makes for comfort, vigor and thrift. A wind-swept exposure on the north, west or south-west side may often be guarded by old lumber nailed on a scantling frame. It is wise to plant shelter-belts of evergreens to protect the barnyard, but, while these are growing, some temporary protection may be improvised.

One of the cheapest things about a farm are the door-fastenings, and one of the most important. The vexation and waste of time caused by latches that can be opened from only one side would justify the purchase of convenient ones, even if they cost several dollars per door, instead of a paltry twenty-five or thirty cents. Convenience makes for profit.

Heretofore, in the educational agencies set at work to promote Canadian agriculture there has been some overlapping by the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture, and hereafter there is liable to be more. This is needless, and could probably be avoided by occasional conferences between the respective Ministers or their Deputies. There is plenty of useful service to be performed, but intelligent energies need not be wasted in friction, nor good money expended by duplicated service in the same fields.

Of the natural conditions which affect live stock none are more important than fresh air, sunshine and pure water. During the summer season, the obtaining of these presents few difficulties. Winter brings the trouble. More glass in the stables will admit the necessary sunlight. A good system of ventilation will solve the fresh-air problem, and a good, tightly-covered well or spring will furnish the water, but pipes and troughs must be kept clean. These matters are worthy of attention at the beginning of winter.

There is perhaps no other class of people who show so much faith in the methods of the previous generation as do farmers. They have such faith in their fathers' and grandfathers' way of doing things that they still cling to them with a surprising tenacity. This is a progressive age for all callings, agriculture included. Get out of the old rut. Pick out the good from the old methods and retain it, but discard the unprofitable practices. Get ahead of the times, and put such enthusiasm into the work that agriculture will advance even more rapidly than other enterprises.

Regenerating the Department of Agriculture.

With a new administration installed at Ottawa, the people will look for the long overdue reorganization of the Department of Agriculture. This should be approached as a large business proposition, with public, and not personal or political, considerations in view. The choice and management of men is one of the supreme tests of administrative capacity; another, ability to see far-ahead needs; then, eliminating non-essentials and adjusting machinery to do the work. A farming country of infinite variety, and so much of it new, Canada presents a rare chance for the display of constructive sagacity. This may fairly be said without magnifying what governments can do, or falling into the notion that the more agricultural officials there are, the better it will be for farming. Chiefly in two ways is this national industry to be helped: First, keeping it unburdened by disabilities, natural or artificial; and, second, by information, best presented in the form of demonstration.

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In the first place, what is needed is a real Department of Agriculture. Its present composition is antiquated. Naturally, there should come the cutting out of such extraneous branches as Copyrights, Patents and Archives; possibly Census and Statistics. In the judgment of many, with regard to the Public Health Branch, the time has undoubtedly arrived when the preservation of the health of the people should occupy a much larger and more well defined public service than it has ever yet enjoyed in Canada. Live-stock health, with the growing meat and canned foods inspection service call for a very large display of technical knowledge, capacity and resoluteness at its head, but the increasingly complicated Human Health problem requires qualifications and plans of a diverse order. As has frequently been urged, the agricultural public will naturally count on the new Minister enlisting as his right-hand man an Agricultural Deputy, upon whom, of necessity, so much important and delicate responsibility will devolve in the future plans and smooth working of all the branches.

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The housing of the Departmental Staff is another problem urgently calling for solution. Members of "The Farmer's Advocate" staff, on the occasion of frequent visits to the Capital, have been forcibly impressed with the inadequate, confusing and hopelessly inconvenient arrangement of departmental offices. A few words will make this clear to our readers. The Minister of Agriculture, for Cabinet and sessional affairs, obviously must have his office in the main Parliament buildings. The Deputy now has his offices a block away, in what is known as the Langevin Building, where some of the branches were once located, but in time were crowded into what is called the Canadian Building, located several blocks distant, on another street. Judged by appearance, it was designed for some commercial or mercantile purposes, and secured as a temporary home for Governmental business. In this connection, it should be stated that the new Publications Branch, a highly-important arm of the agricultural service, has not yet, after seventeen months of existence, been provided with offices where its work could be really commenced. Then, in the outskirts of the city, at the Central Ex-

perimental Farm, are to be found another set of offices for the Director and the staff, but not all of whom are wholly and directly engaged on the work of that institution. In a very much cramped building on one side of the farm are to be found the biological laboratories, where technical work for the Veterinary Director-General and Meat Inspection Service is conducted. Without an experienced guide, it is, therefore, exceedingly difficult for a stranger to steer his way through the mazes of the Department or to discover what he may be searching for.

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Now that housecleaning time is on at Ottawa, why not wipe out this heterogeneous conglomeration of offices, and provide an adequate and respectable Agricultural Building, in which the Deputy Minister and all the offices would be housed, with lecture-rooms and auditoriums for meetings. Many gatherings occur at the Capital during the year, such as those connected with live stock, the National Records, fruit-growing, seed-growers, dairymen, and others; and as time goes on, these will increase in numbers and importance. There will likely be conventions, also, of international scope, which should be conducted in quarters in keeping with the dignity of the Dominion. We have seen national assemblages trying to comport themselves at Ottawa in a 19 x 20-foot room that a county council would laugh at. Such a building, as suggested, would likewise provide accommodation for museums in which to display Canadian agricultural and horticultural products to great advantage before visitors from all parts of the world. There might seem some objections to locating such a building at the Central Experimental Farm, as has been suggested, but, on the score of economy, and for all its chief purposes, in the long run, the gains from such a site would appear to outnumber any temporary disadvantages.

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The Government cannot afford to be parsimonious in its agricultural appropriations, but public money should be so expended as to give the best results. From a somewhat careful study of the situation, we doubt if this can be readily accomplished under present arrangements of the agricultural staff. For the future, we attach much importance to demonstrations under varying conditions. At the head of the Central and the many Branch Experimental Farms is the director (Mr. Grisdale), with control of plans, equipment and labor—a too arduous undertaking. The work of some of his staff, like Dr. Hewitt, the Entomologist; Mr. Macoun, the Horticulturist; Mr. Shutt, the Chemist; Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, the Cerealist, extends beyond the purview of Experimental Farm purposes proper. Dr. Hewitt, for instance, has to do with outbreaks of insect pests anywhere in Canada, and checking their importation. Now, on the inside staff there are officers like Dr. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General; Mr. Arkell, of the Live-stock Branch; Mr. Clark, Seed Commissioner; Mr. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold-storage Commissioner, and others that might be named. Take the case of Mr. Arkell: His is not a sort of roving commission to promote live-stock improvement and boom the introduction of good pure-breds. There are times when he will be needing facilities just such as there are on the Experimental Farms for rearing and feeding animals which should be at his disposal to demonstrate some point in practice, as might be approved by the Minister or Deputy, after confer-