

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED 1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 21, 1915.

No. 1165

## EDITORIAL.

Put in some ice.

Get the posts ready for next spring's fencing.

Pork, which is made rapidly, nets the most profit to the feeder.

Remember the dates of the Live Stock Association meetings and attend.

System in farming is just as important as system in any other business and yet it is almost altogether neglected.

Increase production first by increasing yield per acre which means better cultivation and improved farming practice.

The scales and the Babcock test are the best measure of the dairy cow. Her appearance may deceive but her production, never.

Even though January has given a thaw there is no excuse this year for a lack of ice, which was made early in the season and of great quality.

A young cow requires a warm pen, but the rest of the flock enjoy the open air even in winter, with shelter only from storms and inclement weather.

It is impossible, what happens to some so-called poor land when the right kind of farmer gets hold of it, often it is not the land which is at fault but the land holder.

Kitchener believes that a steady advance with strength to continue is better than a rush which dies out from sheer exhaustion plus short of the goal and so it is in everything.

A successful farmer, who is also interested in a number of other business propositions, calls his farm his pen. Truly a farm properly, confined, scratched, brushed and smoothed out is a very fine pen and one which, unlike a pen, is profitable.

Do not discard a cow until her worth and condition is known. We recently saw a heifer which, with a five pound a day milk production, had been condemned and yet under new management a heifer was then giving over thirty pounds per day.

It is much easier matter to stand on a platform and tell the producers to increase production, than it is for these men already overworked, to attempt the increase in any one crop or branch of their operations without detriment to the other branches of their farm work.

The "Increase Production" campaign should be carried to the town lots which land agents and the estate exaggerators have sold to the gullible who, said lots being located anywhere from the city to ten miles from the last suburban street, in the stage or town which was supposed to be the future of the very near future. These lots are far more valuable growing wheat or potatoes than words and rubbish.

### "More Than Usual"; How?

The Slogans "Patriotism and Production" and "More Than Usual" are being spread throughout the length and breadth of the land. As one would naturally expect, the farmer is the man specially invited to be present at meetings where the campaign is elaborated, and specially exhorted to act upon what the campaigners outline. This special Governmental undertaking realizes, and is endeavoring to drive the realization home to the farming population, that there is in this country a grave need of an increased production owing to the unprecedented demoralization in Europe. Granted there is such a need, the over-worked farmer although willing to put forth an earnest endeavor to meet it would like to know how he can do so when his hired men are enlisting for active service and he has no labor supply to draw upon. How can he grow more wheat, more oats, more flax and produce more milk, more beef and more of almost everything else? This is what he wants to know. We believe that he is already fairly well convinced that he should. It remains for those pushing the "Increase Production" propaganda to tell him how. He is told that there are many unemployed in the cities and that a certain percentage of them, possibly, one third, have had farming experience but he is not told how he can get these men out on the farm to help him increase production. He is told that there are thousands of inexperienced men available, but no one seems to know how to induce these men to go on a farm or how to get them to increase production very much if they were there. They are not readily available until on the farm and earning a profit for their employer. No farmer wants to, and it would not be profitable to any one in the end if he did, increase his output at a cost greater than the value of the increase. The campaign is on, and as being pushed, vigorously, the farmer must farm better than ever before but how? Farmers want some practical suggestions from the statesmen sent out by the Government as to how they are going to do it. If they are to give better cultivation, and to plan their work so that grain, fruit or live stock can be produced more economically they want the suggestions of the experts. Farmers generally are already over-worked. If they put forth an extra endeavor in one direction it must be done at the expense of some other, perhaps equally valuable, end of their business. If they grow more wheat they must grow less other grain and perhaps feed and must keep less stock. If they plow up the old pasture they want to know how to combat white grubs and wire worms to make the new crop more profitable than pasturing. If they increase milk at once a mighty effort is necessary and more help absolutely essential. Give them the help and no special meetings other than those arranged for in the ordinary course of events would be needed. It is easy to formulate schemes, it is more difficult to evolve practical schemes, and it requires still more foresight to carry out even the most practical plans. The Government has started a worthy enterprise but which one of the leaders sent out to spread the gospel of "Increased Production" to waiting farmers can tell these people how they can greatly increase production under present conditions of the farm labor market? Which one of them can forecast the price of the increased products two months after the war is over and tell the farmer how he can produce these extras at a profit at the prices which will obtain then? Which one of

them can give any light on practical methods of marketing when large quantities are produced and thrown on the market? Who can estimate the loss to the live stock industry which would result from a rush to grain growing? These are questions which are hithering the producer. Will there be a campaign to help him sell his increased products if they should, by any reason, become a drug on the market in the future? Anyone can cry "produce" but few can show the way; some may produce more but all need help in marketing. Governments have a way of formulating schemes to effect certain things but not often do they tell explicitly how to work these out. It is time for a right about-face. The farmer demands to be shown how as well as told what. There could be no better time than right now. At the very next meeting let it be explained how this increased production may be accomplished and then all hands together and it will be done. "More Than Usual," How?

### "Its Time for a Change"

There is something puzzling about the attitude of the present day farmer. He is either getting his fill of agricultural information from his farm journal or he has so fortified his mind with learning and wisdom at Institute Meetings that any further knowledge would be superfluous for he no longer fills the hall or schoolhouse in the country on occasions of an educational complexion. There are exceptions to this statement, it is true, but generally speaking farmers do not embrace all their opportunities for the acquisition of information vital to their business and their success. Chores have become an exacting duty and the busy man with no help must needs stick pretty closely at home. However, we are remunerating men to investigate and experiment along agricultural lines, we employ men to oversee, as it were, the entire business of which we are only one member of the company and yet farmers can not get away from home once a year to hear what is new and get in touch with these men. Farm journals report the thoughts of the speaker but space will not permit of a detailed or verbatim reproduction of their remarks and the farmer who cannot leave home to attend a dairyman's convention, which is the last word in the dissemination of knowledge valuable to a dairyman, is a prisoner in the most vital sense of the word. A prisoner within walls he has built by the habit of staying at home and lack of companionship with men. Farming is not the "profession" or "nobly occupation" we read about if its devotee is chained steadfast to the plow or dairy stable. Man and man must telegraph back and forth their thoughts and when farmer and investigator meet on common ground there is an interchange of ideas beneficial to both. It is not indeed that Canada's husbandmen and dairymen are bound at home or else so enveloped in a cloak of self-satisfaction and content that they cannot meet occasionally to worship together at the shrine of the dairy cow. Both practical and scientific men gave their experiences at the Eastern Dairyman's Convention, at Perthborough, a city located in the centre of a dairy district, yet the meeting did not draw the men out. The weather was bad, the farmers were busy, they had the mores to do and everything combined to depreciate the effect and benefit of the convention. Whatever the cause may be there is not the enthusiasm among farmers that these trying times demand. There is need for a revival in