

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Buy more Victory Bonds.

Plan the work, then work the plan.

Did you ever stop to think when you buy a Victory Bond, your neighbor's taxes help to secure your investment?

In spite of an exceptionally fine fall the first flurry of snow finds a considerable amount of fall plowing still to be done.

Utopia has not been reached with the advent of the farmers' Government into power. But, we are a step nearer the goal.

There is much work yet to be straightened up around the farm. Make the best use of every fine day. King Frost will soon hold things in his mighty grip.

The Minister of Labor in the Provincial Cabinet will probably have to work more than eight hours per day to get the machinery of his department oiled up and running smoothly.

If an account of the farm business has not hitherto been kept, start this winter. Too much guess work and too few figures are all too common when estimating the net returns for the year.

Strikes are the order of the day. Convenience or welfare of the public is apparently not taken into consideration. If the farmers ever strike for shorter hours and higher pay there will be real suffering.

Now comes the test as to how well our orchards will stand the winter. If we are facing a long cold winter, as some would have us believe, those who have prepared their trees for it will suffer the least.

A cost system in production is as essential to the farmer as to the business man. The land is the farmer's factory. Are you handling your work in that factory as efficiently as you might? If not, what's the reason?

The recent serious damage to the potatoes on the prairies will probably mean that Ontario's short crop will be worth more money. It seems an invariable rule that the misfortune of one is the good fortune of another.

Dairymen need to practice good feeding methods this year as never before. Concentrates are very high and spring grains none too plentiful. The most profit will come to the man who studies his animals carefully and feeds wisely.

That flock of pullets that you are depending on for winter eggs will not be able to do everything themselves? If they were hatched early and are in good condition now it will be your own fault if they do not pay well for themselves this winter.

Instead of striking for fewer hours work, the aim should be to increase production in factory and farm so as to enable the country to meet its obligations. If capital had always given labor a square deal there would undoubtedly be less unrest now.

When we get more voice in the government of the country the agricultural industry will have a higher standing socially and economically. Already the people of Ontario are beginning to say, "The farmers are all right;" but the goal will not be reached until "farming is all right."

A Day's Work.

Canada stands in great need of production on the farm and in the factory. The forests, the mines and the fishing grounds must give up their wealth in order that our obligations may be honorably discharged, and that Canada remain solvent. Without labor our great natural resources are useless, or potential only, and it is by industrious, honest toil that our great possibilities will be converted into tangible wealth and prosperity assured. This can never be accomplished under present conditions by tying every industry and enterprise in the Dominion down to the eight-hour day. The economic and social freedom of the working man must be realized, but in bringing this about there is no necessity for placing an obstacle in the way of agricultural and industrial development that will cripple Canada and make it impossible for her to compete with older and more firmly-established rivals.

There are examples in industry and business where short hours can be granted, but it will usually be found that these enterprises are so protected by patent rights, or the absence of competition, that the short week is easily possible. In some cases, too, an eight-hour day is long enough, and in other instances six hours is all an ordinary man should endure, but these ought to be made the exception rather than agriculture and other industries upon which national prosperity primarily depends.

There have been two industrial conferences held in North America within the last three months, namely, those at Ottawa and Washington, and in the effort to arrive at an understanding between capital and labor agriculture was practically ignored, except that the industry was represented at the Washington Conference. Any action predicated on the belief that agriculture is an unimportant factor is sure to fall short of adjusting economic conditions satisfactorily, and will certainly fail to bring about social, economic and industrial relief. From the standpoint of capital the farming business is the largest business, and when considered from a labor point of view no enterprise can compare with farming as regards the number of laborers engaged in it. The agriculturist is at once a capitalist, an employer and a laborer. With a full appreciation of this fact, it is difficult to understand how minor groups can possibly arrive at a definite settlement satisfactory to the whole nation of workers and employers.

The representatives of agriculture at the Washington conference stated the case thus: "Neither the day nor the week is a unit upon which agricultural costs or income can be satisfactorily based. Conditions are so variable that it is difficult to prescribe a rule applicable to all localities, or to any locality at all seasons. It is, however, becoming most difficult for farmers to secure laborers who are willing to work more hours than do laborers in other industries. Experience shows that the hours of farm hired laborers approximate the hours of labor finally prescribed in other industries. The nature of agricultural work is such that it cannot economically adjust itself to a specific hour day. If a definite hour per day basis is determined upon in other industries, however, this basic day must be the unit of all estimates in farm production costs."

This argument applies to Canada with equal force, and the competition which Canada must meet in farm products on the markets of the world makes it utterly impossible for this Dominion to base farm operations on an eight-hour day.

This, we understand, is a federal issue and has no bearing on provincial politics. The minimum wage and conditions under which men labor can be dealt with to a considerable extent provincially, and they should be dealt with. However, Dominion legislation for the eight-hour day would be disastrous at this time when national prosperity depends more on production and thrift than on all other factors combined.

Oleomargarine on Suspended Sentence.

The Dominion Government recently passed a Bill permitting the manufacture and importation of oleomargarine until August 31, 1920, and its sale until March 1, 1921. The privilege for the oleomargarine traffic in Canada was obtained by an Order-in-Council passed under the authority of the War Measures Act, and it was plainly pointed out at that time that it would be easier to permit it then than it would be to get rid of it, after the alleged demand for margarine no longer existed. That argument seemingly was sound; for bit by bit the manufacturers of oleomargarine are endeavoring to secure a permanent place for it in the Canadian trade. Canadian dairymen have never raised an objection to the sale of any product which was not camouflaged, or masqueraded as a substitute for butter. They have no objection to the sale of any combination of vegetable oils and intestinal fats, but the pernicious habit which has existed in the past of endeavoring to slip margarine over as a good, though cheap, substitute for butter has prejudiced a good many against it. It is questionable, too, whether clean, edible butter should be used for the manufacture of oleomargarine, thus still further diminishing the supply of a commodity of which there is under-production. Cheapness has been claimed for oleomargarine, and it was admitted for the sake of the so-called poorer classes. These classes have, as a rule, been very ungrateful, for throughout the war they have purchased the best brand of butter obtainable, and left margarine for the wealthy, if they wished to use it.

There is already an acknowledged shortage of milk and its products in Canada, and dairying will certainly not attract patrons to it if some commodity is, in the end, going to decrease the demand for products of the herd. The matter seemingly narrows down to a choice between the best and most nutritious food which nature affords, and a substitute which science and reliable investigators declare to be inferior.

If the Government ceases to protect its people by removing the ban on oleomargarine, then it is plainly the duty of every institution in the land to educate consumers as to the respective merits of milk and butter and the alleged substitute which is being offered to them. In this campaign the National Dairy Council unquestionably should lead.

The Last Call for the Victory Loan.

Subscription lists for the Victory Loan close on November 15, but there is yet time to make application if circumstances permit one to enlarge on purchases already made. The need for over-subscription is generally appreciated, and there can be no doubt that prosperity, measured in terms of prices for product or in wages, will be in direct ratio to the success of the Loan now being offered to the Canadian people. There is no better security than the entire resources of Canada which are behind every bond, and the rate of interest is high when the gilt-edge character of the security is considered. Success for this Loan depends almost as much on the number of subscribers as on the amount actually raised. Large quantities of capital removed from banks or industries will, to a certain extent, preclude industrial development. It is the loose ends that should be gathered up and the surplus earning of the people that ought to be turned to good account. Farmers, as a rule, re-invest their surpluses in live stock or farm implements, but it is not a bad plan to have a reasonable fund that can be drawn on quickly in cases of emergency. The bonds are easily negotiable and will be gladly accepted as collateral at or above par. In the last analysis the Loan is deserving of support for the reason that agriculture is the beneficiary which profits largely by it. Nevertheless, from a patriotic