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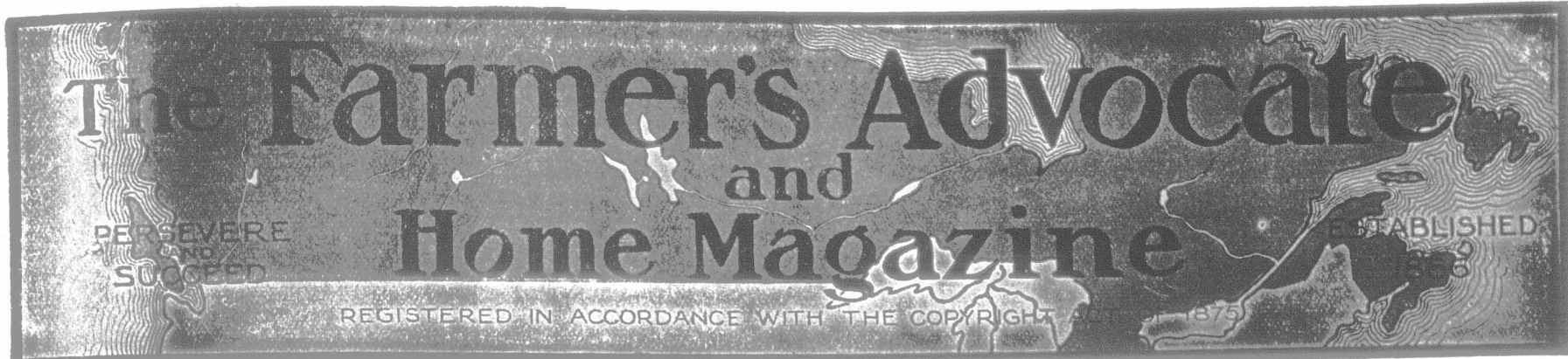
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VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 9, 1914.

No. 1124

## EDITORIAL

The farmer, is essentially a producer, but he might do far more as a seller of what he produces.

It is said that good politicians never break a promise to a man without giving him a better one to take its place.

Many meadows are injured by "punching" at this season. The place for the stock is in the yards or stalls until grass is plentiful.

The problem on the average farm, is how to get larger yields without increasing the cost, and the answer is, more live stock intelligently managed.

The political crisis in Great Britain suddenly shifted from the Irish question to the army. Militarism is hard to manage, especially the gold-lace variety.

If the hens have not supplied eggs for Easter this season, they should be replaced by workers before another winter. Hatch pullets early and get winter eggs.

If the field is wet and soggy leave it for a day or two. Early seeding is advisable, but "puddling" the seed in the clay is not a good start for the crop.

If the "Good Roads Commission" had been in some districts during the past week or two they might have obtained some very convincing evidence that something should be done.

Keep your eye on the fields. If the land runs together as the germinating grain is coming through and a crust forms, give a stroke with a light set of harrows or roll and then harrow.

The Chicago Tribune recently published the following skit on the financial situation. "The First National Bank of Aurora advertises: 'Money to loan to farmers for feeding cattle.'"

The call of the land is almost irresistible at this season. The mysteries connected with nature's awakening from her long winter rest appeal to all, and there is some excuse for the boy's desire to explore the woods and streams rather than study or clean up the door yard.

Next to harvesting seeding is about the best season on the farm, and if the sower would have a bountiful harvest he must seed well. In no other department of agricultural endeavor are slipshod methods so disastrous.

Better have a small crop and a good one than a large acreage almost a failure. If the back field is in poor condition, over-run by noxious weeds and growing up to Canadian blue grass, rather than risk a crop on it summerfallow or at least work well up until the season to sow buckwheat or rye. Clean it up, put it in good tilth, and be sure of profitable returns.

Taking chances in the business of farming is seldom advisable. Eliminate "chance" as much as possible by doing everything with a definite object in view and by adopting principles which cannot fail.

## The Men We Get.

The spring rush of immigrants to our shores is again commencing, but of the first ship-loads to land few seem disposed to look for work on the farms. It is reported that early last week eight hundred new arrivals were seeking work in Toronto, but when some of these men were approached by farmers searching for good help at a high wage they replied, "Not for me," and the farmers had to return to their homes without a hired man. It has been so for the past few years. While it is true that many of the immigrants seek and find farm work, (or rather the farmer seeks them successfully) and many of them turn out to be good farm hands, yet a great many more are averse to going to the country, and these latter will take almost any kind of work just to remain in a city. From experience we believe that it is not profitable for the man from the country to try and persuade an immigrant, to whom the very mention of the country is distasteful, to go with him to the farm. Such men are usually failures as farm helpers, and after a short period of from a few days to a few weeks, or months shake the country clay from off their hob-nailed boots and hurry back to city rooming houses. If the man loves the city and despises the country leave him there. But this is not the main question. Are we getting the right class of immigrants? We know that some of them are what this country most needs, but are the majority of that class? Not so very long ago we heard a good deal of winter hardships in some of the larger cities. What is the use of increasing these by inducing many more of the same class of people to come to and remain in these cities? There is room and to spare in Canada, but at the present stage of her development she needs men willing and ready to get out and till her broad acres. Our great industrial enterprises have taken all the available men, and many a community has been stripped of its native born as well. Canada needs farmers and farm helpers far more than she requires city loafers.

## The New Middleman.

The general consensus of opinion at the present time is that farmers are handicapped by being obliged to dispose of their goods through too many middlemen. Nearly all those interested recognize that there must be some form of go-between from producer to consumer, but at the present time the agitation centers around the fact that there are too many intermediaries. An extension of the Parcels Post service in the United States to permit of the shipment of farm products in lots of twenty to fifty pounds in ordinary crates and boxes is the new "middleman" which is destined to replace the several which now handle such goods before they reach the consumers' kitchens. Doubtless this or some modified form of it will in a short time spread to our own Parcels Post system.

It is operative in the United States over distances up to about 150 miles, and thus enables producers to reach the consuming centers direct. This is true co-operation between the Postal and Agricultural Departments. In time the importance of agriculture will spread to all departments of our Governments.

To show the advantage of the "Farm Products Post," as an American journal terms it, a writer states that food products for which the farmer receives \$3.24 on his farm are retailed in

the city for \$5.55, and under the new regulations the farmer will prepay postage and accept \$4.25 for the articles of food, for which the commission merchants now give him approximately \$3.24, and which they sell to the consumer for \$5.55. The farmer will be the gainer by \$1.01, and the consumer will save \$1.30 on each transaction of this size. Let the new department spread to this country as soon as our new Parcels Post system is ready for it. The Postal Department is about the most efficient middleman we know.

## Taking Better Agriculture to the Farm.

The farmer of the twentieth century demands to be shown. He is a reader and a thinker, and does not care to sit out valuable time even though it be his evenings listening to long addresses intended to teach him better methods. He farms what he thinks very well with the help he is able to get, and prefers to get what further education he desires delivered to his farm. He doesn't feel the need of going after it when he knows that if he stays at home it will come to him, and whether he knows this or not the fact remains that he does stay at home anyway. This is one reason the agricultural paper is so much appreciated. It carries what the farmer wants to know right to his sitting-room table.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has been engaged during the past few years in developing and perfecting a system of carrying the work of the Agricultural College to the farmer through District Representatives. This work has met with the approval of the man on the land. The college graduate, a practical man with scientific training, but not so much of the latter that he forgets that all operations must be based on their practical feasibility, carries his knowledge—the benefit of his trained experience to the farmer's field, orchard and garden, to his horse and cow stables, and to his pig and poultry pens, and distributes it without charge, and in so far as is possible demonstrates by actual operation what he explains in theory. He must and does show the man on the land what he desires to know. Each county, each township, in fact each neighborhood is different from any other. Local conditions are studied and recommendations are made accordingly. The District Offices are distributing centers for all government agricultural literature, and the many counties now having the services of one or two men are getting delivered to them, in so far as is possible, the best available information and assistance from the College through the Department.

This work has been watched, and modelled after it similar education, we believe is to be started in some of the other provinces in the Dominion. The undertaking is to be pushed even further in Ontario, and the Department finds that it is one of the most effectual ways in which to utilize the Dominion grant intended to aid agriculture through education. Good work is being done. The best men are needed for these offices. Men having age and practical farm experience to back up their scientific training are required. They must also be good mixers, not afraid of work, and able to apply themselves to the conditions into which they are placed. They must be specialists in the class of farming prominent in the locality in which they are situated. They must fit in. Besides all this a Representative should be a big man—a man capable of grasping the farming situation as it applies to his coun-