

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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Assurance of the Future.

For the past few months a few Canadians have been greatly exercised over that un-named something which they said must take place in the British Empire as a marked change from conditions which have been and which have unified and strengthened Britain and her institutions. Nothing could ever be the same again. There must be some binding agreement, some central control, some closer Imperial relations, but none of the enthusiasts cared to clearly define the change and its meaning. It is probable that even they were none too sure that the rank and file of Canadian people desired any great change, for, as a matter of fact, they do not. Great and lasting empires are not built by binding documentary agreements and Imperial central control. People, whether they live in the heart of the Empire or in the farthest young nation within that Empire, insist upon self government and in the British Empire get it in full measure. Systems may not be perfect; improvements will come but only when the people demand them. The young nations overseas from the Home Land prefer to love, respect, honor and fight for the Home Land not by any binding law, and Sir Robert Borden's statement that, "the best assurance of the future is the record of the past" is most fitting just now, and with his further words to the effect that an Imperial Parliament would be "neither feasible nor wise" at the present time was welcome to the ears of loyal and true Canadians who asked nothing but the right for themselves and for Canada to do their duty as they saw it and carry on the great constructive work of democratic principles in the greatest Empire that has been. Standardization is, as General Smuts recently intimated, in the Old Land, impossible in the British Empire. If a few agitators will leave the peoples of the various nations within the Empire alone, they will eventually improve the system now in vogue, provided it needs improvement. Suggested changes with nothing more definite in view than mere change do not appeal.

As already announced the Empire is to have an annual meeting of what is called by some an Imperial War Cabinet, composed of Premiers or other accredited representatives from the overseas Dominions together with representatives of the British Government. Imperial Conferences such as this cannot

but work for the good of all concerned, but a conference is not a federated parliament. Just one suggestion: Since the nations of the world are fighting for permanent world peace (at least they all say so, and everyone believes the Allies are sincerely striving toward that end), would it not be well if the words "war" or "peace" are to enter into the nomenclature of the cabinet after the war, to call it the "Imperial Peace Conference," or the "Imperial Peace Cabinet," rather than "The Imperial War Conference," or "The Imperial War Cabinet?" After the war, if peace is to be maintained, some of the brains, effort, time and money formerly used to prepare for war should be utilized for permanent peace, else it will never be realized.

Humbugs.

One would naturally think that at this stage of the development of commercial things that enough good and valuable articles could be found to sell to the farmer without having to resort to humbugging him. The virtues of articles which are of real value do not have to be overdrawn very much in order to get a lasting demand for that article, no matter what the class of goods may be. When you see a patent medicine advertised to cure everything from chilblains to bald heads, you can bet with assurance that many will buy and be humbugged, and that the dope has very little value for any one specific trouble. Cure-alls cure nothing. When an agent calls around with a fruit catalogue illustrated with overdone plates of new fruits with high-sounding names and descriptions which are impossible, a percentage of the public buys the new in preference to the tried and proven varieties. Human nature likes to take a chance—likes to be humbugged.

Then there is the cure-all for crop ills. Recently a so-called food for plants has been introduced into Ontario, and it has been claimed that it would not only feed the plants and produce large crops, but it would relieve from all bother of grubs, wire-worms, Hessian fly, would purify the soil and be death to all insects; it would cause garden vegetables to grow free from insects and diseases; toads and grasshoppers would not frequent a berry patch where the plants were dusted; it would cure the unsanitary condition of soil in orchards, and thus remove a great portion of the cause for spraying. A number of other things were claimed for it, and yet just recently the Department of Inland Revenue at Ottawa got out Bulletin No. 371 dealing with this material called "Nature's Plant Food," which states that it is nothing more than crudely pulverized rock, such as may be obtained from the siftings of any stone pile where Syenite has been crushed for road-making, and is not even ground to any uniform degree of fineness. The bulletin characterizes the attempt to sell this material in Canada as a "gross fraud."

We might further state that representatives of the firm handling Nature's Plant Food attempted to place some of their ground rock on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm, "Weldwood." The extravagant claims made for the material, the analysis which did not reveal much available plant food on the surface, together with Prof. Harcourt's note regarding it, caused us to refuse to give the stuff a place on the farm or to give those connected with it any chance to use the good name of "The Farmer's Advocate" in any literature they might get out. Such are fond of testimonials. Moreover, "The Farmer's Advocate" would not carry any advertisement for any such questionable material.

Enlarged Market Reports.

A thing of great importance to the farmer is his market. It is important that he get full reports of the prevailing prices and general trend of that market. In the past "The Farmer's Advocate," with special correspondents on Toronto, Montreal and Buffalo markets has given its readers the best available information. In the future we hope to do even better. The Markets Intelligence Division of the Live Stock Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, is collecting much valuable market data, and in co-operation with them we are able to publish each week a full and complete comparative statement which, as readers would notice last week for the first, somewhat changes the complexion of our market page which we now hope to continue as two pages or more. There is much food for thought in these new reports. The destiny of the stock sold is shown. Highest prices and average prices are compared with those of previous weeks and of a year ago. Numbers of each class of stock marketed are given in a

complete classification. This is additional to our former market service which is being continued. "The Farmer's Advocate" market page is worth money to you. Make use of it. Save it each week.

There's a Limit to Endurance.

BY ALLAN MCDAIRMID.

The man on the farm has to listen to more appeals and advice to-day than ever before since old Father Adam began to till the soil of the Garden of Eden. According to the records, man was first made to work as a punishment for disobedience, but since that time it would appear that he has so developed the habit that he is now more or less unhappy unless he has a regular occupation to take up his time and attention and to give him the sense of being of some service to the world in general and to his friends and relations in particular. In fact, it would seem that without this regular employment of mind and muscle, man would soon degenerate into the condition of the wild animal; but so far is this from being likely to take place at the present time that the tendency is all in the other direction. Men are being coaxed and driven to greater efforts this year than ever before in history. And this is especially so in the case of the farmer. As we said, he is getting all kinds of advice and encouragement to strain every muscle for greater production, and no thought seems to be given to the fact that there is a limit to the endurance of even farmers. Having been a farmer all my life and consequently living in a community of farmers, I think I am in a position to say that what the average farmer needs is not an incentive to greater efforts and longer hours in the field, but something in the way of an education along the lines of shorter hours, efficiency and recreation. As a class, men on the farm are working from fourteen to sixteen hours a day at the present season of the year, and this rule holds good for the greater part of the summer as well. This being the case it should be evident that the efforts of outsiders to get the farmer to speed up, and to even work on Sunday if the case seems to require it are misdirected, to put it mildly. Why are men whose work is not any more laborious than that of the farmer, agitating for, and getting, an eight-hour day? It is because both the men and the employers are beginning to realize that a man who is going to put the best of his thought and energy into his work must have sufficient time for rest and recreation. It has nearly always been found that a reduction of the hours of labor in a factory employing a considerable number of hands, has been followed by an improvement in the quality and an increase in the quantity of the manufactured article. The reason for this is not far to seek. Men's faculties are restored by rest and recreation and they are consequently more efficient. They have been re-created, and they have a surplus of mental and physical energy to give to their labor. The consequence, as we have seen, is more and better work. Time and again I have noticed the fact, and heard others remark it as well, that the farmers that make a habit of doing chores and other odd jobs until nine and ten o'clock at night are almost invariably behind with their regular farm work. They will be seeding when others are cultivating their corn, and then in haying time they will be making a half-hearted attempt to get the better of the weeds that their more practical neighbors had ceased to think about for the season, and of course, it is the same throughout the whole of the farm operations. If these men got away from the same old round of duties occasionally, and took a reasonable amount of rest every twenty-four hours, they would probably become roused up sufficiently to take a real interest in life and to have their work done at the proper season and in a workmanlike manner. So, arguing from this standpoint, I maintain that it is worse than useless to urge the farming community to greater effort than usual, when that effort has the element of aimlessness in it that has characterized it in the past. What we need are better methods. Farmers' lives need to be better balanced. The rest we have spoken of as being so necessary need not all be taken in the form of idleness. Almost every one has the chance now-a-days to substitute certain kinds of mind work for the work of the hands. As the eye, that has become trained at short-distance work, can be relieved by fixing it on objects that are far off, so can the rest of our make-up be renewed and revived by change of scene and thought.

And one thing, more than any other, that will increase our capacity for production without increasing the strain, is to so work that we will develop an interest in what we are engaged in up to the point where we almost forget the means, in the thought of what the accomplishment is going to be. An object in life creates enthusiasm and enthusiasm lightens labor and increases ability. One of the best things that can be said about money is that it furnishes an object in life for millions of people who would otherwise probably have developed a habit of laziness that would have degraded them infinitely more than did the habit of acquirement. I have in mind two brothers, one of whom might be said to have had an enthusiasm on this matter of money-making. To the other it seemed to be almost a point of indifference whether he made money or anything else. The first made a success of his calling and in his latter days was able to retire from the farm with a comfortable income and the consciousness of a well-earned rest. The other who had, if anything, a better start, ended up by losing his farm and having to go and work by the day for less than ordinary wages. So much for enthusiasm. It's the one thing that is going to increase production in these war-times. If we can't work up a case of it for anything but for the financial rewards