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LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 15, 1920

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EDITORIAL.

Get rid of those boarders in the herd and flock.

As the days lengthen the hens will be getting back to full time, and the egg basket will fill more quickly.

When Germany begins to talk about the rationing of potatoes, it should be evidence that the food situation is critical.

With eggs at present prices they should be promptly gathered and marketed quickly so as to take advantage of the best prices

Sow the proven varieties of grains, rather than invest in some new variety just because the story told by the salesman sounds big.

Really good and entirely satisfactory commercial varieties of apples are few in number. Read the article on this subject in another column of this issue.

Don't neglect giving the flock some kind of green feed during the winter months when they are confined indoors. It will help greatly in egg production

Seldom has there been such a change in the personnel of many town and township councils. May the men elected give efficient service in their municipalities.

A neat, convenient cottage for the farm hands will help solve the labor problem and relieve the necessity of having outsiders constantly intruding upon the privacy of the family circle.

The implements which were giving a little difficulty last fall may give good service for a number of years yet by giving them a general overhauling and replacing worn parts with new.

If you are contemplating new buildings or remodeling your barns or stables, take advantage now of a little slack time to look up plans and convenient labor-saving arrangements.

Don't neglect attending one or more of the conventions that are now being held. The Breeders' meetings are especially valuable to all live-stock men, and deserve enthusiastic support

The meeting of the National Dairy Council in Winnipeg in February should be a good one. Financing is still a pressing consideration, and upon this the future of the Council depends.

There is no use weeping now over the results of using a scrub sire for so many years. Start a campaign of constructive breeding in the herd and flock by using the best sires available.

Breeders should begin now to prepare animals for showing at the Royal Canadian Winter Fair in November or December. Make this show worthy of the best support of the Canadian live-stock industry

In certain sections apple pruning should now be under way in order to make sure it gets done. In other places everything should be got ready for a sufficient thinning out of the branches to insure well-colored fruit.

The announcement has recently been made that the Soldier Settlement Board is making provision for the settling of ex-soldiers from the Imperial army on the land in Canada. Canada will welcome all such men who have it in them to make good as farmers.

Dissatisfaction at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The staff at the Ontario Agricultural College has been chafing for many months under treatment which they have considered unjust and uncalled for. A storm was brewing, but the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Doherty, appeared at the College last week and threw oil on the troubled waters, promising some relief in the matter of salaries in a short time, and a general peace settlement within a year.

The situation was becoming very tense and the chief of one department, who recently lost a valuable assistant and was threatened with the loss of another, appealed to the President in such a way as to make it very plain that he could not carry on if this second man could not be held. This particular professor preferred to be relieved of his department rather than undertake the spring activities incident to his branch without trained help. Had this department been scrapped, the records and results of many years' work would have been rendered valueless and an impossible situation created. This crisis was the culmination of a year's fruitless efforts on the part of the O. A. C. staff to get some recognition that would make it possible for members to remain at the Institution. For one reason or another there were eighteen resignations tendered in 1919, but, leaving that feature and the results out of consideration, in the closing weeks of the year two men had recently gone, four more were preparing to go, two more were probably going, three more would like to go, and all were dissatisfied. This was the situation that confronted the Minister and called forth his promise of immediate attention to their case.

Broadly speaking, a big grievance at the College is the matter of "salaries," so-called. Artisans engaged in construction work about the College are receiving higher pay for services rendered than members of the staff, who have spent years in equipping themselves for responsible positions on the various departments. Certain members of the junior faculty are drawing as little as twelve or thirteen hundred dollars, and in some cases they are obliged to support families out of this small stipend. Lecturers and associate professors are getting more, but far too little, and heads of departments are ranging around twenty-three to twenty-six hundred dollars per annum.

The O. A. C. is affiliated with Toronto University, but the salaries paid at the latter Institution are sixty-two per cent. better, it is claimed, than those paid at Guelph. Agricultural colleges in the West pay from twenty to forty per cent. more to their men, and thus are able to, and do, help themselves at will to the best men at Guelph. United States colleges draw heavily from the O. A. C. staff and commercial work takes whom it chooses. A faculty committee has been working on the salary question for over a year, but the matter was so juggled about by officials and the Civil Service Commissioner that conditions became intolerable.

Another matter which the Minister of Agriculture must take into consideration is the almost utter absence of co-operation between the various departments, and the lack of harmony between the President and his staff. Where the blame should rest for this unhappy situation it is difficult to say. War work and the Commissioner's task obliged the President to spend too much time away from the institution, and it is furthermore possible that he has shouldered a large percentage of blame that should have gone to the Department of Agriculture and the Civil Service Commissioner. We do not propose to enumerate or dwell on the domestic grievances peculiar to the Institution; the Minister is, no doubt, acquainted with them and will, as he promised, give them his individual attention.

One thing that should be impressed upon the faculty is the necessity of closer co-operation between departments and the pooling of efforts to solve agricultural

problems which are constantly arising. Owing to local jealousies and staff prejudices the heads of the various branches are too much inclined to play a lone hand, and thus make the solution of any problem incomplete because the equipment and knowledge of one department is not at the disposal of other branches. Until a problem is made a station problem, rather than the problem of one department, the Institution will not serve the public as it should or function properly in the whole scheme of investigation, experimentation and education in the Province of Ontario.

It is only fair to state, however, that certain departments manifest a willingness to co-operate and are, to some extent, working in unison, but there is need of a get-together meeting of the faculty and a genuine effort to unite the various units so the Ontario Agricultural College will continue to flourish and serve this Province as it should.

While everyone realizes that the O. A. C. trouble is a legacy passed on to the present Minister of Agriculture and Provincial Government, those now in control cannot afford to take a short view of the situation. It is little short of an insult to the agriculture of this Province that its educational institution and experiment station has been treated in such a niggardly manner. No one wants to see investigators, experimenters or instructors at the O. A. C. working for less than the day laborer, artisan, or rank and file, now command. Agriculture in Canada is now recognized as the industry that must carry us through the trying times ahead, and nowhere in this Dominion is farming of more importance than in the Province of Ontario, and nowhere can it afford to reward any more generously those working in its behalf. Graduates of the O. A. C. have manned the colleges and departments of agriculture throughout Canada; United States and foreign countries have come to Guelph for good men and have found them there; the Institution is favorably known throughout the world and the Minister of Agriculture will have the hearty approval of all if he deals generously with the O. A. C., and insures for that Institution a high standard and respected position in the agricultural and educational life of Canada.

The 1920 Seed Supply.

As the 1919 crop of cereals and clover seed was not bounteous in many sections of Canada, there is a comparatively small supply from which to select the seed for the 1920 sowing. It is doubtful if the supply of small seeds on hand was ever so low. The mistake of not providing for an adequate quantity of good, clean seed early in the winter is made by many. Other tasks requiring attention crop up, and before one knows it the bin of the cleanest oats, barley or wheat has been encroached upon for feed. Plot and field tests have proven the advisability of using the best seed available. Plump uniform kernels give a stronger germination and a more abundant yield than does the small, shrunken kernel under similar cultural and climatic conditions. Furthermore, the plant is able to withstand adverse conditions better than the plant from the weaker seed. This being the case, it is expedient that an effort be made to secure the seed supply while there is sufficient in the bin to choose from. A very satisfactory sample can be secured by the proper use of the fanning-mill. It requires the use of the right sieves and screens, and the adjustment of the fans so that the light kernels and chaff are blown out and the inferior kernels screened out. Once through the mill is not enough. There is nothing lost—outside of a few hours' time—if half the grain is screened out in obtaining a satisfactory sample. The small kernels can be used for feed. Carelessness in the seed selection does not augur well for a maximum crop, even though the utmost care is bestowed upon the seeding operations.

What applies to cereals pertains also to the small