

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Boost Better Bulls!

Banish the non-producers!

Cull the flock and market the non-layers!

Salt the live stock on pasture regularly. Salt is cheap but essential.

It may still be possible to do a great deal of good in the corn field with single cultivators.

Keep the calf-pails clean and scald them frequently. Sunlight is also a good disinfectant and the cheapest obtainable.

The Resolute won the great yachting victory, but Sir Thomas Lipton won the respect and esteem of all true sportsmen.

The hay-fork always breaks on a busy day. The time lost in splicing a rotten rope is worth more than a new rope would cost.

The Hessian fly should not be allowed to prevent wheat growing in Western Ontario. Proper methods employed by all would control the fly.

A little extra care in selecting and caring for next year's seed grain will pay handsomely. Seed grain handled in an indifferent manner will yield an indifferent crop.

The farmers' movement got away to a good start in Nova Scotia on July 27. The Peninsular Province will be the better for some strong agricultural influence in the legislature.

The flocks in the Townships of West Zorra were culled last week under the direction of Professor W. R. Graham and G. R. Green, the Agricultural Representatives for Oxford County. Watch egg production jump in West Zorra!

The frequent summer rains have kept the pastures good, but August is usually a dry month. Don't allow the cows to want for feed, or the milk flow to fall off. A little extra green feed will keep the milk or cream cheque up to par.

Young men entering the O. A. C. this fall must decide before they commence their studies whether the course is for two or four years. We understand that one cannot complete the two-year course and then make up his mind whether it is advisable to continue and obtain the degree. The courses are entirely separate. The new regulations will be an improvement, so far as the two-year course is concerned, but it is a question whether graduates will surpass, on the average, those turned out prior to the change.

The Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa have announced the estimated acreage devoted to field crops in Canada this year and in practically all staple crops there is a decrease from the estimated acreage last year. The total crop may be good this year, may be good indeed, owing to favorable conditions, but these decreases in acreage do not augur well for agriculture. Farmers are forced by labor conditions to curtail their operations, but labor as a class will be the first to suffer from the ill effects of crop reduction. There is a great national problem involved which requires the sympathy of all classes and their efforts to solve it.

The Herd Bull Always a Menace.

Farmers are not cowards, but matched with a vicious bull man is but a willow wand. Thousands of men daily are risking their lives in the presence of herd sires without suitable weapons of defense or safe and open channels of retreat. "Oh, he's quiet," is heard time and again, but perhaps the following day, or the next, the "quiet" animal turns upon his trustful attendant and another's name is added to the long list of tragedies caused by vicious bulls. Three deaths from this cause were reported week before last, and we knew of other near tragedies and miraculous escapes occurring during the same period. It is the quiet bull that is the most dangerous. It is seldom that a vicious bull gets the chance to harm or injure any one. One never throws the reins down when driving a runaway horse, and likewise a cross bull is never trusted.

It is a mischievous and exceedingly dangerous practice to permit children to handle the bull, but it is often done just to show how docile the animal is or how courageous the boy or girl may be. The dairy breeds as a rule are perhaps a little hotter blooded than the beef breeds, but a bull is a bull regardless of breed, and anyone entrusted with the care of one ought not to hazard his own life or the lives of others by carelessness or foolhardiness. It should be remembered, too, that a club is a poor weapon with which to fight a furious bull; a fork is more efficient, and then the odds are little more than even. Fatalities, which are all too common, are in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred due to carelessness. The danger is slight when a bull is properly handled with a staff, and never trusted, but slipshod, careless treatment of a bull will sooner or later bring one to grief.

Wheat versus the Fly in Western Ontario.

In Western Ontario farmers are obliged to combat the Hessian fly intelligently and consistently if they are to continue growing fall wheat. There are only two alternatives, fight the fly, or cease growing wheat. The odds, at present, are in favor of the fly, but farmers, nowadays, are too well equipped with information regarding the growing of crops and the methods of combating insect and fungous pests, to give up without a stiff fight.

The wheat stubble now standing in most fields is harboring the fly in the pupa stage, and the adult will emerge in August. H. F. Hudson recommended in the last issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" that wheat stubble, where the fly has been prevalent, should be plowed down and rolled. It is quite a general practice to seed down with wheat, and on Weldwood Farm we have a twenty-five acre wheat field where the seeds have caught splendidly. It is impossible in this case to plow the stubble, and we shall be obliged to resort to other means of fly control. A good many farmers will find themselves in a similar position. However, one can do a good deal to prevent fly infestation this coming autumn. The fly, which emerges in August, will soon begin to lay its eggs, and if a small patch of wheat be sown early and then plowed down vast numbers would be trapped. Late sowing must be practiced by one and all; if one grower sows early, his field will become a breeding ground for the community, and neighboring farmers will suffer from his bad practices regardless of their own good methods. The dates for seeding will vary in different districts, and growers of wheat in the various sections of Western Ontario should get together and arrange to sow their fall wheat not earlier than a definitely fixed date. "The Farmer's Advocate" will make a survey of the whole field, and in an early issue will suggest seeding dates that may be adapted to the various sections in Western Ontario where the fly is proving a menace.

It's Time for a Change.

If we may be allowed to use an out-worn political slogan, it can well be said regarding our present social conditions that "it's time for a change;" not in our laws and institutions only, but in the hearts of Canadian citizens. Nine-tenths of the people have been kicking and knocking and slamming for five years, while the other tenth have been lining their pockets and waiting for something to happen. But nothing does happen, because there is no solid, sane, reliable leadership. One must rant and "knock" to be a leader, while a booster is looked upon with suspicion or rushed away to the nearest alienist and examined as to his sanity. The cool, level-headed, conscientious servant of humanity is swallowed up in the mob, and the sound of his voice is not audible. Governments, good and bad alike, are tottering; the church is struggling against heavy odds to retain its grip on the people who were once sober and devout. Soap-box orators with nothing at their command but a flow of invectives and indescribable verbiage will draw a crowd, while a sane lecturer would not attract twenty-five people in a small town if there happened to be a moving-picture show or some other place to go. Some farmers, too, are so dissatisfied with conditions that they go about reforming the world while the thistles grow up in their fields and infest the neighboring farms whose owners are prosperous and contented. Every one has a different tale to relate, a different desire to be gratified, a different rule for the universe. It is a time for some good hard thinking. "Divine discontent" has brought about many good reforms, but discontent is carrying all classes out into the night. Agitation is all right when we agitate for something definite, something tangible. There should be some well-defined principle for which to strive. Let us construct; let us build something, rather than tear down and demolish.

Grape Growers Organizing.

The grape growers of the Niagara District endeavored in 1919 to form an organization for the marketing of the grape crop, but met with only an indifferent success. Probably 200 members were secured who went so far as to pay a nominal membership fee and declare their desire for a better price for grapes. The grape crop was a bumper one, and it was reported that prices being paid across the line were much higher than those being offered Canadian growers. These factors were, no doubt, the principal incentives to organization. The organization was able to make no noticeable impression on market prices, although it must be said that it was late in being formed. This year there is again a movement on foot to organize on more or less of a centralized basis, and there is another good crop in prospect. For some reason the tender fruitmen—those who usually operate on high-priced land—have always found it difficult to organize co-operative marketing associations on a permanent basis. There are, it is true, a very few successful organizations in existence, but they are localized, and so far as we know are not making much progress toward organization in a larger way.

If, as we understand to be the case, the grape growers are organizing in such a way that they hope ultimately, to be able to sell in large quantities through the organization, so that a buyer who wants 100 tons of Concords, say, will be able to make his contract with the marketing association and not with the individual grower, it will be interesting to watch the result of the attempt. This is the type of co-operative organization toward which agriculture must progress, but there is a lot of prejudice and other impedimenta to overcome before it will be quickly taken up. Despite the progress of organization there is yet to be developed that "sticking" quality without which no organization can grow. The efforts of those farmers who will stay by an association and