

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Don't neglect the ice harvest whenever the crop is ready. The season is passing.

Exercise, well-ventilated quarters and plenty of dry bedding go a long way towards preventing crippled pigs.

A literary or debating society in your community would prove of great help to you and to your friends. Why not get busy and organize one this winter?

This month and next will see many meetings of associations. Why not arrange to attend one or more of them and link up with those you are most interested in.

If the strawberries were not mulched for winter there is still time. Alternate freezing and thawing is very injurious, and a liberal mulch applied now may save the beds.

It has been stated that only one per cent. of all the sires in use in Canada are pure-bred. This, if true, points to a speedy method of improving live stock in Canada.

The next session of Parliament promises to be an important one. If the tariff question is introduced and debated there will be some interesting press dispatches put on the wires at Ottawa.

In spite of the fact that we have had no prolonged period of severe weather, the winter is almost half gone. Don't be deceived by the clemency of the weather man, but begin to prepare for spring.

The Western Ontario Dairymen's Convention, the Experimental Union and the Ottawa Winter Fair are reported in this issue. These cover a wide range of subjects, and in them there should be something for everybody.

Other cities should object to the free advertising Montreal is getting out of these press dispatches regarding the carloads of whiskey discovered en route to various points. If Montreal has so much to spare there will soon be a boom there that will read like the stories of "Forty-nine."

Statistics show an average yield of spring wheat in Ontario of 23.3 bushels in 1918, an increase of 3.2 bushels over 1917, 8 bushels over 1916, and 7 bushels over the average yield for 1882-1918. The total production was 8,186,191 bushels, Renfrew County leading with 843,698 bushels.

Canada will, no doubt, pass through many trying circumstances before conditions become normal. The embargo placed recently on Canadian shipping is a visitation of misfortune much to be regretted, but if we keep our hand to the plow and look to the future with confidence the outcome should not be disappointing.

There were 2,872,722 cattle of all kinds in Ontario in June, 1918. Of these, 1,102,039 were milch cows and 60,563 were bulls, or one bull of serviceable age to every 18 milch cows. If the scrub bull were eliminated considerable feed and labor would be saved, to say nothing of the improvement that would take place in the average quality of our herds.

## Do Something for the Horse!

A large measure of the inactivity in the Canadian horse market is due to the neglect of our agricultural colleges and experiment stations to conduct investigations with the equine kind and to modernize their teaching so as to instruct farmers how to make one horse, or two, take the place of the laborer no longer available. Furthermore, there is the breeding and rearing of horses, and in this regard our institutions have been willing to accept the word of the ancients as conclusive. There was a time when the cost of production did not seem to matter much so long as Smith's three-year-old was speedier, weightier, or could start a heavier load than Brown's. However, what is wanted now is some up-to-date information on how to rear horses as successfully and yet as cheaply as possible; how to hitch three or five, or perhaps six, seven, or eight together, and have them work smoothly and comfortably at all farm work without a side-draft. Such investigational work is in progress in the United States, but we should be able to see these things tried out under Canadian conditions. At a recent horse meeting in the neighboring Republic, the secretary of the leading breed of draft horses there, publicly charged the agricultural colleges and experiment stations with negligence in regard to horses, and the same accusation strikes home with almost equal force in Canada.

Thousands and thousands of dollars are being expended on perfecting the tractor and making it suitable for farm work. The horse is not given a chance to demonstrate its usefulness, and is gradually being relegated to the background. It has long been the custom for officials representing founts of information and learning to advise farmers to breed their mares annually, yet at one of our leading Ontario institutions not one colt was raised in years. This is a sample of what is being done to save the horse and prevent the almost entire extinction of the farmer's favorite animal. It is time our agricultural institutions got busy and recognized the horse as a farm animal, rather than as a mere machine.

## No Place for Bolshevism in Canada.

There has been cheering for Bolshevism right here in some of our Canadian cities, where Jack is supposed to be as good as his master and a fairly liberal amount of independence is a blessing with which all classes are endowed. We have suffered no reign of tyranny nor have Canadians been forced to surrender that which they really need to sustain life and health in order that some aristocrat might grow rich at the expense of others. There have been inequalities in opportunity and inadequate returns for labor expended. Reforms are needed but they can be effected with the ballot if the voters of Canada will use their suffrage as it was intended they should. It is easy enough to cheer for the Bolsheviks of Russia, but there are few in Canada who would elect to live under their rule of murder, pillage and blood-red anarchy. What the Bolshevik theory is we know not, for what good there may be in it is overshadowed by the cruelties and excesses of Bolshevik practice. Bolshevism, as we know it, cannot be excused on the ground that Russia is undergoing a revolution. Lenin has provoked anarchy, made beasts of the people, and now his agents are appearing in other countries with no good object in view. Bolshevism is stealing into all nations for the express purpose of undermining constituted authority and sowing the seeds of disruption and upheaval. In Germany it may be met by a more disciplined mind and forced to modify itself so as to, at least, resemble extreme radicalism. English labor expressed itself recently at the polls as opposed to anything akin to Bolshevism, and in the United States the advance guard have only just arrived. A troublesome foreign element there may espouse the cause as they are likely to espouse anything through which

they may give vent to that anarchical spirit common to their kind. Anyone who cheers for Bolshevism in Canada is a dangerous citizen, or else he knows nothing about that which he applauds. It is a sorry day for any country when it exchanges ballots for bullets and maintains a Government in power through the wholesale murder of a helpless minority, and this is what Bolshevism is doing. We want none of it.

In the latter part of this issue may be found a description of Bolshevism, written by a revolutionist himself who became associated with the Lenin and Trotsky movement in order to introduce a mollifying influence and save the Russian people before they went too far. Gorky, the author, tells us what Bolshevism is, and any man or class of men who want to introduce it should be deported.

## Fruit Men Combat Express Increase

In another column will be found a brief report of the hearing granted the fruit growers of Ontario by the Board of Railway Commissioners in the matter of the proposed increase in express rates. The evidence brought out at the hearing serves clearly to show the sentiment of the fruit growers in this matter. Anyone acquainted with the nature of fruit marketing in the tender fruit districts of the province must realize the serious setback to the industry which would follow if the commodity rates, which provide moderate transportation charges for the quick shipment of perishable fruits and vegetables, were abolished. Notwithstanding the losses claimed by express companies during the last two years, there is every reason for believing that such wholesale increases as are proposed, would, in the long run, be disastrous to the country at large. Before such a step is taken, plenty of time is required for investigation into the alleged losses of the companies, and an effort should be made to find out if the fruit business has been financially unprofitable for the companies. The volume of this business is tremendous, and is really the only basis so far discovered of profitable tender fruit marketing.

Equally interested in this matter are the dairymen, whose protest was registered at Ottawa a few days earlier. The express shipment of milk and cream is inseparably bound up with present methods of dairy manufacture and just as it is impossible that producers shall be satisfied with a lower price than they have been receiving, so is it highly undesirable that consumers be forced to pay greatly enhanced prices in order to satisfy the combined interests of the express companies through the abolition of commodity tariffs. Figures presented in "The Farmer's Advocate" of January 9, testify to the enormous increases asked for.

## Our Future Immigration Policy.

Canada is entering upon a new era. This Dominion is in a position to grow agriculturally, industrially, and in all branches that go to build up a young nation. Our resources are vast and our citizens are energetic and intelligent. We have everything to guarantee development except the two essentials without which we cannot grow, namely, capital and people. The former will flow into this country when the demands for it elsewhere become less urgent, and no doubt people of different nationalities will be glad to seek refuge in Canada, which offers a home amid the environments and customs of the New World. Formerly we accepted strangers without sufficient discrimination and we have, alas, too many monuments to the folly and looseness of our past immigration policy.

During recent years a large number of settlers have come in from the United States. With them they have brought equipment, money, and, in some cases, live stock. As settlers and future full-fledged citizens of Canada we can wish for none better. The British Isle,