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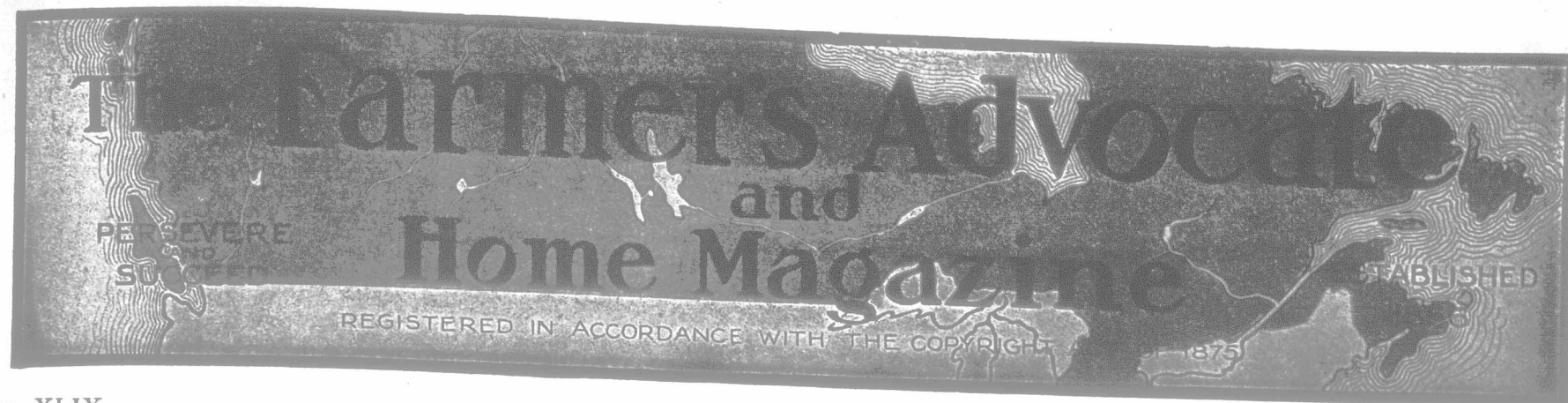
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VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 22, 1914.

No. 1152

## EDITORIAL.

Plow! Plow! Plow!

If ever agriculture needed skilful and capable men it is now.

How long will the human slaughter continue? It is really appalling.

When is a fort not a fort? About two days after the enemy's artillery arrives.

Keep the stock that is quickly matured. A rush for food materials is imminent.

Cattle in low flesh now are hard keepers all winter. Do not delay feeding too late in the season.

The present conflict has proven that if we sow the seeds of war we shall reap war in all its awfulness.

Fall is a good time to fence. Keep the hired man and let him fence after other fall work is done until it freezes up.

The back-to-the-land movement is now being felt as a necessity by urban people. The war may do some good.

Because prices are up is no reason why plowing and fall cultivation should be slighted in the rush to get more land "blackened over."

Weed out the non-laying, old hens, the non-productive ewes and the unprofitable dairy cows now before they eat a pile of high-priced feed.

Work left too late in the fall is generally done at much greater inconvenience than that accomplished earlier in the season. It is about time to be at the turnips.

A top-dressing of well-rotted, farm-yard manure would surely help many of the fields of winter wheat which have been sown on rather poorly-prepared soil this fall.

More and more it is being demonstrated that Canada has a big place to fill in feeding the Empire, and yet large proportions of some crops waste for want of harvesters and a market. It's a queer old world.

There is a difference in plowing, and a great difference in the crops which grow on good and bad plowing; which will your 1915 crop be on the straight, even, well-turned furrow, or the zigzagged, half-turned, rough rooting?

What an appetite the newly-turned furrow and the crisp, cool weather gives the plowman! His homeward way may be weary, but it is all made up for by the relish with which his good digestion causes him to partake of his meals.

The greatest factor working for the success of fall fairs is the management. Fair boards make fairs. If alive to their opportunities they get the money to compile a prize list big enough to bring out large entries which soon make a show popular, and crowds are assured.

### Which Way Are We Going?

The eyes of Canadian enterprise are now turned in two directions, toward new and enlarged lines of manufacture and toward the farm. Suddenly, the war disrupted old sources of supplies and channels of trade. Strongly organized and alert manufacturing interests may be expected to readjust their operations and launch out in fresh directions where the outlook seems large enough to warrant it, and the necessary monetary sinews are available. Already the war has stimulated some industries and slackened others. Generally speaking, it has turned attention sharply to the farm and farming, because of the quickening effect on the demand for foods and upon prices. But agriculture is not nationally nor very strongly provincially, an organized industry like manufacturing, though there are healthy exceptions such as the Grain Growers' Association of the West, and the associations of growers of fruit and other specialized products in Ontario and other eastern provinces. Some of these relate chiefly to marketing rather than to production, which remains largely still a matter of individual initiative and enterprise. In so far as co-operative organizations make certain branches of farming more remunerative, they will promote production. Despite a good deal of bemoaning and occasional criticism to the contrary, we have no hesitation in declaring that farming in Canada is making substantial and encouraging progress in the face of no inconsiderable handicaps which include the long-established trend of public school education, and the shortage of rural population compared with that drawn into the professions and strongly-promoted town industries. The tide may be slowly turning toward the farm. We hope it is, because it will tend to the future security of the country. The horrors of the war in Europe certainly do not lend enchantment to town life. The masses in the stricken and ruined cities of Belgium attest this with unutterable woe, and the unemployed outside the zone of combat know it and will realize it more keenly as the winter draws on. Canadian farming is and has been advancing because men are taking it more seriously, and are giving to it the thought and application which it deserves. It is a pre-eminently safe occupation, and in many respects, one of the very best. Like any other business the better conducted the better it pays.

Said an observant business man driving across the country lately with one of the editors of this paper, "Farmers are taking more interest in their work and in the appearance of their farms." The superb crops of roots and corn, and the improved condition of the out-buildings on several farms in sight were the immediate occasion of the remark. The thousands of enquiries and the stream of communications received during the year by "The Farmer's Advocate" are perhaps the most conclusive evidence that could be given of the keen practical interest taken by the men of the farm in their work. For the future, even more than in the past, advance will be the result of individual knowledge, wise planning and personal effort. Recognition of this principle has been the mainstay of "The Farmer's Advocate" policy for nearly fifty years. Farmers who equip themselves and will to succeed do succeed. We have observed this in thousands of cases, and are grateful to have had a share in co-operating with the toilers on the land whose assurances of the reality and value of the service rendered through these pages enhearten our efforts for the un-

mediate future when the farmer shall realize as perhaps never before the extent to which we must rely for success, chiefly upon his own individual resources. At the same time, with no uncertain or divided voice, the farmer is entitled to demand of the state, which for its very existence depends to such an extent upon his efforts, a fair equality of conditions in order to the occupancy of land and the prosecution of farming.

### Keep Your Man.

There is a practice all too prevalent on the farms of this country, to hire men from seven to nine months during the summer season and let these men go as soon as it freezes up, and winter sets in. This has been rightfully blamed for a large part of the rush of hired help to the cities where all-year-round employment is given. No farmer who succeeds in obtaining a satisfactory hired man should turn this man away to winter, expecting to get him again next season, for such does not often happen. Obviously the procedure to follow on farms where there is enough work to make it necessary to hire in summer, is to make plenty of work to keep the man or men busy in winter. This can readily be accomplished by keeping more live stock, which will soon increase production beyond the increased cost of operating the farm, due to hiring winter as well as summer. There are added reasons why the man should be kept this year. Prices are good and likely to be high, and there is money to be made from an increased output from the farms. Moreover, this output is urgently needed to feed the people who will be dependent upon it. Besides this the hired man out of work cannot get employment in the city this winter. There are hundreds looking for work there already. To send him there would only add to the burden and trouble. If he is a good man keep him busy outside as long as the weather stays open, and find work for him around the buildings when winter sets in by giving extra care to stock, cleaning and even hand-picking seed grain that yields may be larger next year, cutting the summer wood so that this job will not interfere with seeding and summer work, cutting an extra supply of winter wood that it may be dried ahead and better fuel, cleaning and oiling harness, tightening nuts and repairing all the farm implements and machinery ready for the field, removing tumble-down and useless fences and cleaning up the fence rows, straightening up the orchard, burning the brush and rubbish which harbors insects and disease, and possibly doing a little pruning. There are dozens of jobs to keep him busy—work that needs doing and work when done that will prove profitable. The city employer of labor who once twitted the farmer of being unfair to his hired help in turning them away for the winter has, in many instances, lost no time in "laying off" his men when he had nothing for them to do. The farmer is better fixed; he can arrange things to find work for his good man, and work profitable in a season like this to man and employer alike. We are not asking that lazy loafers be kept. By no means. The man must be willing and able to work, and must consider that conditions are such that highest wages cannot be expected. Co-operation between the hired help and the farmer will work wonders this winter toward a greater production. Do not turn away the hired man. Find him work on your own farm and in your own stables.