

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Keep the corn clean with the horses and cultivator.

Too many rains show the necessity for more drains.

Canada is in this war—not one political party in the Dominion.

The farmer's problem this fall will be one of getting plowing done.

Food is as necessary as fighters, and cannot be produced without men.

Keep up the supply of comforts for the soldiers. The need is still urgent.

Authorities on the subject are agreed that a scarcity of live stock will prevail in all countries after the war.

Here is the way the farmer puts it up to his neighbor: "You help me and I'll help you, and we'll get our crop off all right."

Indications point to the greatest need of increased crop in 1918, and from now until it freezes up this fall is the time to prepare.

If all Canada made such an effort to do its part as rural Canada is making, we would more nearly approach the real strength of the nation.

Those who think of setting prices should study the effects such a policy has had on Canadian cheese production and endeavor to avoid mistakes.

Prof. G. E. Day advises live-stock breeders to "carry on." This has been a good motto at the front, and is just as useful and needful here at home.

Some seem to think the farmer has no right to own an automobile. As a matter of fact, his is the business and life which can make the best use of a car.

There is some objection to the Conscription Bill in rural districts on the grounds that it gives no definite assurance that all farm help will not be taken.

The Dominion Government might well consider the removal of the duty on tractors coming into this country. If it is so necessary that our farmers produce why not make it as easy for them as possible?

Those who are trying to change Ontario's system of farming find the Ontario farmer somewhat of a business man. He has adjusted his operations to meet conditions of labor and market and cannot change very rapidly.

Dr. C. A. Zavitz, Prof. of Field Husbandry at the O. A. C., says Ontario should sow at least one million acres of winter wheat this fall. Now is the time to get the sod ready, to clean the summer-fallow, and to lay other plans.

One outcome for good in connection with the help-farmer propaganda has been that the general public have been brought to the point where they are beginning to give the farmer credit for knowing something about his own business.

Those who cut hay early in Western Ontario found considerable difficulty in finding any sun to make it. If the Ottawa Valley and the East could have had some of the rain Western Ontario has experienced things might have been a little better distributed.

Quality First.

Sales of pure-bred live stock are breaking records for high averages. All classes of pure-breds are in good demand. Stock for the block meets ready sale at a high price, and everything promises well in the live-stock business. Just now, however, is a good time to size up the situation. In another article the live-stock producer is advised to "carry on." This does not mean that any should rush pell mell into the breeding business in an endeavor to get maximum quantity at the expense of quality. Because good breeding stock of proven strains sells high and is in increasing demand, is no good reason why anyone should expect satisfactory results from the promiscuous mating of inferior individuals. Now is the time to breed for more quality. There is always a demand for the best. There is seldom much profit in the inferior grades. When sales go up to a high average some seem to think that quality does not count so much. But it does. It is the good stuff that sells, and in boom times as in any other the good stock is the only kind to buy and breed. The man who buys choice animals is the one who generally makes a success. But because one man pays a high price for the select individual with the choice pedigree is no reason why another should pay an exorbitant figure for a cull with poor papers. Now is the time to exercise judgment in buying and breeding. The future is bright for good stock. Be sure your plans are such as will produce it. Better a few of the right sort than many of the "so-so" kind.

Speed the Plow This Fall.

If those in closest touch with conditions read things aright, next year is going to be the trying time in the war. It is next year's crop that is worrying Britain most. It is next year's crop that we in America are now concerned with in so far as laying plans for an increased acreage is concerned. All indications point to a need of all that can be produced, and Canada has her share of the responsibility and effort. This year's crop is now in, and with favorable weather farmers will harvest it. Next year's effort depends largely on the progress of the cultivation work this summer and fall. Dr. C. A. Zavitz, of the O. A. C., says Ontario should sow one million acres of winter wheat this fall and a big acreage of winter rye. If this is to be done work must start immediately in preparation. There is a small acreage of summer-fallow this year which will doubtless go in to wheat. The rest must go on land plowed out of sod or stubble. It is estimated that in the last four years the increase of grass land in Ontario has been over one million acres yearly. Dr. Zavitz advocates plowing considerable of this land as soon as possible and getting it ready for wheat. The earlier it is plowed after the hay is off or after early pasturing the better. It should be well worked down before the wheat-seeding time approaches. Clover sod would be better for wheat than the old sod, but the latter, where the land is good wheat soil might be taken up to advantage. Barley stubble can be utilized, and top-dressing would help both.

Wheat is not the only crop. Fall plowing must be done for the next year's seeding of spring grains. If the land is not plowed this fall all the government tractors and propaganda in Canada cannot get in a big acreage next spring. Fall plowing is a big job. It comes in with corn and root harvest and with threshing. All these take time. Help to plow will not be plentiful from the cities unless men are conscripted to farm as well as fight. There is only one way out. Farmers will, as before, plan to do the work themselves. Use two-furrowed plows instead of the single plow wherever possible. If a tractor is available make use of it. Perhaps the authorities at Ottawa will show their sincerity of purpose by removing the duty on tractors

and encouraging farmers to buy if it is so necessary, as most of us believe, that production be brought up to the maximum. The man who gets his fields well plowed late this summer or early this fall and works the top will be in the best position next spring, and the effort is worth a new plow with two bottoms instead of one, and if available a tractor under certain conditions may help out immensely. Farmers will again have to plan to do the best they can, and we feel sure their effort will be for the best. Exhortation on the part of non-producers avails nothing. The farmer realizes the need and knows his help limitations, and he is forced to farm as a business not as a philanthropic undertaking to please the whims of those who know little of his trials. Agriculture in Eastern Canada is in safe hands when the men on the land are allowed to do their own managing. They could do with some good hired men, and they can do without the poorer kind of help. However, it is important to all that a big acreage be plowed this fall, and those who can and are willing to plow should find their way to the land, and no obstructions should be left in the way of the farmer getting machinery and implements at reasonable prices to carry on his fall work.

"Carry On" in Live Stock.

As the war drags on and more organization and greater correlated and concentrated effort becomes necessary to bring it to a successful and permanent end, the eyes of the Allies turn toward systematizing food production and distribution. Food controllers have been appointed in many countries, and we now have three in whom the Canadian, American and British people are greatly interested. Hanna, Hoover and Rhondda have a gigantic task in hand, for while they desire to do the best for their respective nations it is a rather difficult undertaking to very radically interfere with the recognized channels of trade and over-ride the law of supply and demand. Speculation in foodstuffs or dealing in futures can be, to some extent, controlled, but when it comes to saying what shall and shall not be done and setting the prices for goods, no one can foretell the effects. It would obviously be defeating the purpose of the governments in their endeavor to increase production and supply more food if arbitrary prices were set below the limit of profitable production at the present time. However, these are facts apart from what we set out to discuss, viz., live stock and the war, and yet any food-control measures must take live stock into consideration. It is a well-known fact that cattle, horses, pigs and sheep consume much food in the form of cereal grains that would go farther as human food. In other words the stock are uneconomic users of cereal grains which may become quite apparent if a country is faced with famine. But no one in touch with the situation would advise the slaughter of all live stock to increase the supply of cereals available for human consumption. In Britain efforts are being made to reduce the numbers of live stock kept in order to save grain, but at the same time an endeavor is being made to preserve the best breeding animals for quick recuperation after the war. In Canada there is no reason to cut down upon the live stock at the present time. There are some irresponsibles or would-be fixers of everything agricultural who would pass a law prohibiting the slaughter of all lambs and calves, no matter how small their prospects of ever growing into profitable beef or mutton. Perhaps it never occurred to these people that these young things would require the same kinds of grain to feed them as are eaten daily by the human race. It would be ridiculous for one group of people to be crying for a law to save the calves and lambs while others just as earnestly advocated killing wholesale. Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, takes the sanest and safest view—"carry on." His advice is always sound, and this time