

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 8, 1914.

No. 1150

EDITORIAL.

Is civilization only skin deep?

Canada cries for bigger crop yields.

People are tiring of stories of annihilation.

Never has rough feed been more valuable than it will be this winter.

Who can tell whether or not it will pay to feed cattle this winter?

They say in the United States that Europe has knocked the H. out of Hague.

An apple waste is imminent; why not eat more apples and a smaller quantity of citrous fruits.

There has always been room for more good men on the farms, but the need is urgent now.

By growing a big crop in 1915 Canadian farmers are entrenching our fighters on the firing line.

It is a well-farmed farm on which there is no waste. There is still time to save a good deal this fall.

Where now are the evidences of culture and civilization of which so many proud boasts have been made?

We are glad to note that township and county fairs have been well attended, and exhibits have been above the average.

The German Emperor's brain storm may not throw him into a lunatic asylum, but it will surely land him in safe keeping.

If some of the time and energy wasted on war discussions were spent in pushing business, the latter would not feel the depression so strongly.

When the primitive people of uncivilized parts hear of the awful slaughter in civilized Europe, they must wonder whether civilization is really worth while.

Concentrates are expensive, and every ear of corn not going into the silo should be carefully husked and stored. Much waste often occurs with this crop.

The success of the men who, in the next few months, decide to begin farming depends largely upon themselves. Farming is a business in which individual effort and ability count much.

Increase your grain acreage if this can be done without a decrease of all-round yield per acre. The farm being worked under a regular crop rotation with the best cultivation is yielding well now. Rotation and system is what is most needed.

It is to be hoped that the Kaiser is at home when the allied armies make their afternoon call at Berlin. One thing is sure, unless he makes faster progress he will not be absent attending a banquet in Paris.

Stayers Not Squatters for the Farm.

For years and decades a steady stream of young men and young women floated unregarded from country concessions and rural hamlets to the larger centers of population, gradually, and even rapidly, swelling them out of all proportion to the number of people left at the producing end of our country's business. Then writers began to complain of the high cost of living, and consumers commenced to cut down on the more expensive foods in order to keep their living expenditure within the limits of the earnings of the household head. From the pens of word painters flowed glowing pictures of the possibilities of a back to the land movement. All this was not enough to stem the tide. But then the shock came—the war. Men who had still been able, under conditions just previous to the war to make ends meet found their jobs gone and prices for necessities advancing. To find occupation for these men is the problem facing the country. Naturally, as in most other problems of a national nature, the solution is sought in the farm. Never in the history of Canada have farmers been so advised, coaxed and exhorted to increase the production of the land, to find employment for city out-of-workers and re-establish the balance of rural and urban communities. Men of all classes, races and creeds, men of all nationalities, trades and professions are being advised to farm. The country districts need men, but they need efficient men. Tradesmen, mechanics, clerks and office men must remember that farming requires brains as well as brawn. It is no occupation to be played at for a time, and left to its fate the moment the tide again trends cityward. The land requires men not afraid of work, not afraid of comparatively long hours, unperturbed by temporary hardship, men of judgment, men willing and ready to make the best of what may seem hard circumstances, but which with the right kind of stuff may be turned into a profitable venture. "Back to the land" will be no joy ride for many who are not workers and business men in one. The man who has ability and is willing can learn farming. It must be remembered that success with a farm depends upon individual capacity and effort, and that the riddle of the most successful agriculture has not yet been solved. We would not keep any desirous of bettering their positions away from the farm; think it over Mr. Town Dweller, and if you decide that you are the man for the farm get there now, but weigh this question carefully, "Will agriculture and my country benefit by my farming operations?" The man and the farm, both stand to lose if he makes it only a haven of refuge to tide him over a hard winter. The farm needs stayers not squatters, and a little capital is necessary.

Greater Efficiency Needed.

It is not how much work that counts, but how well it is done. If there is one thing more than another needed in this country in this trying time it is a greater efficiency. An endless amount of waste results through half-done work. The country, and particularly the farm, needs men who can and will do things. Most anyone can manage to exist on a farm, but it requires a high-class efficiency to make the farm yield the returns which it should yield, and which it will if rightly handled. We saw an acre and a quarter a few days ago which will give its owner this year in the neighborhood of \$700. This is a high yield, the result of good management and hard work well done. The crop was onions, kept

clean, well worked, and on judiciously-prepared ground. There was no special effort to make a showing, the whole being accomplished with the ordinary high-standard of preparation and work done on this place. This is a special crop, but even so the lesson is plain. Many are the poor and unprofitable crops of onions due to inefficiency. What is true of this crop is true to some extent at least of all crops and of all classes of farm operations. Know how to do it and do it well should be the aim of all, and then the increase of production of which we hear so much would become a fact.

More Acres or Better Cultivation, Which?

While agreeing with the greater part of what is being said in favor of increasing production in Canada in 1915 and subsequent years, "The Farmer's Advocate" believes that too much emphasis is being placed upon an increase in acreage and not enough upon larger yields per acre. True it is, that considerable areas now devoted to pasture land, acres which have been seeded down for many years and now produce only a sparse growth of grass might be profitably broken up and sown to cereal and fodder crops, and we hope that such will be the case, but it does seem to us that there is a more urgent need of a better all-round cultivation and the practice of more "system" in farming generally. It is not the man who is growing the largest acreage of grain crops in Ontario who is making the best success of his farming operations. Driving through the country, we care not what part, it is plain to be seen that the man who practices a short rotation of crops, which necessitates the keeping of live stock, the cropping of a comparatively small acreage to grain, and the devotion of a considerable acreage to clovers, alfalfa and other legumes, and the remainder of the farm in a well-kept hoed crop of some kind, is producing more grain, more hay, more corn and roots, and more milk and meat than the man who resorts to a large acreage of grain with no regular rotation and a small acreage of grass and hoed crop, relying mainly on a big grain acreage. The farmer with the system will one year with another produce more grain on a small acreage than his neighbor will on the large acreage. It is evident then that to increase the output of Canada's farms, especially in Ontario where live stock must be reckoned as one of the main-springs of farming, the first consideration is to increase the yield rather than the acreage, although both may be worked for under present conditions, because there is no getting away from the fact that in some sections in Ontario too large an acreage has been devoted to pasturage for the good of farming generally. We would like to see some of those who are exhorting farmers to grow more grain next year pay a little more attention to methods of increasing yields.

There is yet this fall time to do much in the way of cultivation, ploughing, harrowing, cultivating, and even ridging up that the frost may have every opportunity to do its work upon heavy soil. All these operations should be pushed to the limit. Then the farmer may do much towards increasing his yield by a careful selection of seed, as he has the entire winter ahead of him for this, and should plan to sow nothing but the very best. There is a good deal in variety, and it will pay, where seed must be bought, to consult tables showing the results