

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Produce what you can.

What land you work, work well.

Kill the weeds early and save labor.

There is time yet to test the seed corn before planting.

We cannot afford to hold any peace parley with weeds.

Has your back yard observed its annual Junk Day cleaning yet?

May may be the most awful month the world has ever known.

The grass is yet too soft to be good feed. Give it a chance.

Increase the good stock and feed more of what the farm grows.

Keep the stock stabled at least another week. More if possible.

Russian troops have been welcomed in France! The German Crown Prince, take notice!

If you would have good summer pasture, do not turn on it too early in the spring.

Give the youngsters a hearty start by providing an early and well-prepared plot for the school fair competition.

Thorough soil preparation means less work with the roots. Here is one place, at least, where preparedness means safety.

If the demand for canned meats keeps up Canada will surely soon have fewer "cutters and cannery" among the cattle stock.

If you do not believe in co-operating to do the farm work, try it on some heavy work and be convinced. Make arrangements with the neighbors.

The noble generosity of the United States for the stricken in the great war has hardly redeemed it from the reproach of a commercialized neutrality.

Horsemen agree that it is not more horses but better horses that Canada needs now. What are your plans for improvement? The use of better sires?

Were the roads ever worse than they have been this spring? Surely those who travel them will know where the bad spots are. When they know is the time to make repairs.

Unless all the great nations come to some agreement toward permanent peace, preparedness for war may not prevent war, but it may mean a measure of protection for helpless women and children if more war should break out.

What people are objecting to is not so much the "Production and Thrift" campaign nor a campaign for more recruits, but the lack of team work and the lack of system, which is responsible for the taking away of men who should stay, and the leaving of men who could go.

Surely More Sheep.

To a man who understands sheep and knows something of their value, there has always seemed to be among farmers in this country considerable prejudice against this class of stock. It is a fact that only a very small percentage of the farms are carrying any sheep at all, and few, indeed, are the holdings which are well stocked. Excuses of different kinds are given for not keeping sheep, but most of them seem rather lame. We are told that there is a dog nuisance, that sheep are difficult to fence against, that they are hard on the pasture, and that they do not pay. This looks like a formidable array against the woolly tribe, but, according to an Act passed by the Ontario Legislature, recently prorogued, municipalities will pay in the future full value for sheep killed by dogs. This should somewhat obviate the difficulty, and we believe that it will have the effect of increasing the tax on dogs in some municipalities, and thus will serve to rid the country of some of the worthless curs which generally do the damage. With a little care the dog nuisance is not as bad as some people believe, and where remuneration in full is possible few should blame the dogs because they have no sheep. From experience with sheep we have not found them difficult to fence against. Of course, the fences must be tight at the bottom, but all fences should, and, in fact, sheep are considered by those who have flocks to be easy on the fences. We are agreed that sheep bite close, and if run in too large numbers with other stock, may be hard on pasture but they will destroy enough weeds to compensate for this, and if properly managed and changed from one field to another occasionally they will not be found to injure the grass very much. And now we come to the most important point. With lamb and mutton selling at prices around \$10 and \$11 per hundredweight and wool at forty to forty-four cents per pound, he is indeed a careless and poor shepherd who cannot make sheep, under favorable conditions, pay their way and leave a fair profit. It is not always the best time to buy when prices are extremely high, but a small flock started on a right foundation and properly looked after surely would be a paying investment.

Keep the Cows.

Owing to the abnormal shortage of labor, in some of the dairy districts adjacent to Canada's larger cities, there is a likelihood of there being a shortage of milk supply, or at least higher prices will prevail. In fact, already, producers supplying the Toronto market are raising their price on this account. This is not the most disturbing element in connection with the dairy business, however. A cent or two a quart up or down may not cause any very appreciable increase or decrease in the number of cows kept for dairy purposes in the Dominion, but, if we mistake not, dairying will receive a hard blow if more men are taken from the farms to the war and labor becomes correspondingly scarcer. Dairying is one branch of farm work, which, so far, has not been mastered by machinery. The milking machine is solving the problem to some extent, but so far has not been very widely adopted by milk producers. If they cannot get the help or have not sufficient labor within their own families, it looks as if some of the cows would have to go. This will not be so bad if only the poor producers are discarded, and the man who has been testing will know which to feed and which to sell, but a marked shortage of labor, such as Canadian farmers will experience this year and until the end of the war, will be sure to have a tendency toward decreasing the number of cows kept for dairy purposes. Wherever possible

it would be better to retain all the good cows and plan for a year or two to do a little extra milking, dropping something else, because, at the close of the war, help will likely be more plentiful, and dairy products are selling and will continue to sell at a price which should make them prove profitable. Besides, dairying is one of Canada's most stable forms of specialized agriculture, and is, as well, one of the best paying branches on a farm where mixed farming is carried on. Canadian agriculture must continue to prosper as mixed farming with live stock. As a general thing it would be a step in the wrong direction to let the cows go unless they were of the unprofitable kind which were not paying their way. Keep the dairy cows and more hogs, at the present time a very valuable class of farm stock in this country.

Put on the Spray.

Some classes of spraying materials are much higher this year than formerly. We believe that bluestone, for instance, is about six times as high in price as it generally is. This may have a tendency to cause some, none too ardent believers in spraying, to discontinue the practice this year. Such should not be the case. We are told that prospects for fruit are good. If a bumper crop of apples is produced, prices may not be very high, but if sale is to be had for the crop it must be good, clean fruit, properly put up. This cannot be expected without proper and thorough spraying. Then there is the potato crop, one of the most important considerations in Canadian field husbandry. It has been demonstrated time and again that to ensure freedom from blight, several applications of Bordeaux mixture are necessary. Surely no one would run the risk of losing a crop of from 250 to 400 bushels of potatoes per acre because bluestone is 25 or 30 cents per pound, as compared with four or five cents per pound, which formerly prevailed. It requires about four pounds of bluestone to do an acre of potatoes each application, and four or five applications generally suffice for the season. The extra cost of four or five dollars per acre is very small, and should not be enough to even cause a grower to consider dropping spraying. Celery growers also find it necessary to spray for blight, and the most successful will use spray material even though it be higher in price.

One Silo, or Two?

Where a farm is carrying all the stock that it should carry, and where it is all arable land, it is sometimes found difficult to provide plenty of pasture for the stock throughout the summer. Various methods of supplying summer feed, such as soiling crops and annual pastures have helped over the difficulty, but it looks more and more each year, particularly as labor grows scarcer, as if the summer silo would be the best means of solving the problem. When labor is as scarce as it is, every stock farm should have at least one silo, and the bulk of the roughage fed to cattle in the winter should be silage. It may be that before very long we shall be saying the same thing about the summer silo. With a small silo filled for summer use, the dairyman or stockman has no reason to worry about his pasture, and he has his feed in such a form that it may be easily fed entailing very little work during the busy season. When soiling crops must be cut and hauled to the barn, considerable work is entailed. Annual pastures will not produce as much feed per acre as will corn. For economical summer feed, as well as for winter roughage, it begins to look as if corn will be the basis of the ration. Those who have no silo at all would likely find it profitable to build one this year, and to plan to fill it with well-matured corn. It may be