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EDITORIAL.

You cannot afford to be just an "average" farmer in 1915.

This is the last week of winter; are you ready for spring?

Another harrowing outcome of the war is the impetus given the use of barbed wire.

The darkest of clouds have a silver lining. Our Governments have not yet been driven to the desperate expedient of reducing their own salaries.

Canada's "war taxes" are not to be used to defray the expense of the war, as the money for this is to be borrowed from England and posterity must foot the bills.

The man who sold his stock unfinished and his grain this year likely made more money than if he had fed the grain, but what about the years to come and the fertilizer for the farm?

If twenty-five years of talk did not succeed in increasing production, how can we hope for very much increase as a direct result of one campaign of three meetings or so in each county?

Those in close touch with the "Increase Production" campaign now realize the futility of holding meetings in large towns and cities. The place to reach the farmer is as close as possible to his own door.

The question has been raised since the recent tariff changes were made public, that there is a possibility that the higher tariff may prove prohibitive in some articles of commerce. If so the revenue will not be enhanced by the advance, but manufacturers will profit by the higher protection.

The political storm which is sure to break over this country after the calm caused by the war will be, unless we miss our guess, one of the most furious ever experienced in Canada. However, everyone is pleased that both parties have shown the good sense to agree to a truce during the crisis.

The London Free Press quotes "The Farmer's Advocate" as saying that given the necessary farm help the farmer will make his land produce the maximum without being told, and adds that "the question of farm labor will stand a little discussion." What is wanted is a little prompt and vigorous action in getting men able and willing to work in touch with the place on the land that so urgently needs them.

The author of "Gulliver's Travels" occasionally made remarks such as one might expect to find nowadays in the newspapers. In one place he observes: "The King of the Brobdingnagians gave as his opinion that whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass grow upon a spot of ground where one grew before would deserve better of mankind than the whole race of politicians put together." Our distinguished Members of Parliament might do worse than make a bee line for the corn field. "Bigger crops and a smaller Hansard" is proposed as a battle-cry for 1915.

Take the Information to the Farmer.

That it is necessary to take information to the farmer rather than to expect the farmer to come after it has been demonstrated in more ways than one but with no more convincing proof than in the present "Increase Production" campaign. The larger towns and cities do not bring out large audiences to listen to farm talks, and those who do come are not, as a general thing, directly interested in farming. The place to get the people interested in increasing the production of their farms out to hear speakers is right in the heart of a farming community—in a small village or even in a hall situated right out in the country. District Representatives in their Short Course work have found that they get larger classes composed of more appreciative students when they set, as a place to hold the class, a small town or village situated not always in what is generally believed to be the "best" part of the country. We know one class this year which numbers nearly 100 members, and it is located as indicated. We know others in much larger towns where only four or five came out each day to take the work. We have heard of one "Increase Production" meeting being held in a fairly large town where only fifteen or sixteen people turned out to hear three men who are thoroughly competent to discuss farm subjects, and only a few of those who did come were farmers; at the same time we have heard of a few other meetings in smaller towns that were well attended and considerable interest shown. A census taken some time ago in three separate areas in the United States proved that farm papers were more popular than any other of the methods in operation to carry information to farmers, mainly because they went right into the homes and the information contained was couched in simple language easily understood. The point holds true with meetings. Get as close to the farmer's home as possible; set meetings at a convenient hour; and tell those present something of immediate and direct value to them.

Exemptions to be Commended.

The Government deserves a word of commendation on certain phases of the new tariff. They did well not to increase the duty on reapers, binders, mowers, harvesters and ditching machines, and it was also wise to leave corn on the free list and to hold down the tariff on printed books. They might also be commended for exempting binder twine and material for its manufacture from the advance, also pure-bred animals to be used in breeding for the improvement of live stock.

With regard to the first-mentioned articles we might remind those responsible for the tariff changes that tillage implements are really of more importance in this connection than are harvesting machines. There are several forms of tillage implements for each harvesting machine, and they are used for several weeks—even months—each season, where harvesting machines are used only a few days. Far more tillage implements are worn out yearly than is the case with harvesting machinery, and farmers no doubt would have liked to see them also exempt from tariff increase. In the great effort now being put forward to increase production cheap tillage implements are of more importance than harvesting machinery.

Feeders are finding difficulty in making a profit on their operations at present prices of Canadian-grown coarse grains and hay, and at the market prices obtaining for finished beef, pork and mutton. Anything which makes for cheaper feed should be welcomed by our stockmen, and corn usually does this, or at least it is the case this year. It is a good thing that corn is left on the free list. We see no mention of cottonseed meal and cottonseed cake, formerly free, but now we believe subject to the 7½ per cent. duty. Cottonseed meal is being extensively fed in this country, and it has helped many a feeder to keep down the cost of producing milk and meat this year. It, too, should not be dutiable.

Canadians generally will back up the exemption of printed books containing valuable knowledge from the higher tariff. Text books, books on industrial work, and all such valuable acquisitions to learning are still permitted to enter free as they should.

The breeder of pure-bred stock is also pleased that no duty has been placed on breeding stock intended to improve live stock in this country. If production is to be increased we must have the best, and the Government was wise in keeping this in mind in this particular.

There are other good features. It is well in a time like this to commend the Government where commendation is deserved, and not be looking always for something to harshly criticize.

The Tariff Increase.

The tariff has always been a bone of contention between the two strong parties in Canada's Parliament, but for once a very marked change has been made without the usual strenuous opposition of the party in the minority. The political truce must be very real when this is so, and yet almost every day we read in the party press short paragraphs intended to stab the other party to its very vitals. It is well that the representatives at Ottawa, no matter what they think, show a united front publicly and are ready to bury the hatchet until the worst crisis has passed.

The general tariff has been raised 7½ per cent., and the British Preferential 5 per cent., with only a few articles of commerce exempt. Besides this a war tax is to be placed on a great many things, all of which is to bolster up the revenue while Canada really borrows \$100,000,000 or more from England to foot war bills, and hands this burden on to posterity.

This is no time to complain, and we are pleased that the press and the people generally are taking this view. Canadians realize that each must do his part, and few indeed are grumbling. The hope is being generally expressed that the advance in tariff and the new tax may greatly increase the revenue, and that it will give no special advantages to certain protected industries by reaching the prohibitive stage and shutting out certain articles, thus depriving the Government of revenue and giving manufacturers an undue advantage. We hope nothing of this kind will result. The Canadian public is being educated to buy Canadian-made goods. The manufacturer has now a great opportunity to "make good." Surely he has enough protection now. Let us hope that none will abuse the privilege. People will not object strenuously to indirect taxation through tariff increase at this time, but they will take exception if prices of manufactured articles go up a great deal more than the amounts caused by in-