

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, February 3rd, 1915

THE FARM GARDEN

On a great many western farms no proper provision is made for a vegetable garden. There is scarcely any type of soil which will not, with proper preparation, produce good garden crops, and yet vegetables are bought by many farmers. There is really no reason why any farm should be without a good garden. Of course, where all grain growing is practiced, work comes with a rush in the spring but, with proper management, time can be given to putting in garden crops just as well as to grain crops. As a matter of economy an effort should be made to plant a really good garden this year. With proper arrangement, growing the different vegetables in long rows, a great deal of the old-time drudgery of the hand hoe can be overcome by using a horse cultivator. With the end in view of giving reliable information as to the way to grow vegetables on the farm this issue of The Guide has been arranged. All the articles published contain the experiences of farmers who have successfully grown garden crops in the West. Such material is the most valuable information which can be obtained on this subject since it is actually the product of experience under western conditions. It is hoped that readers will recognize it as such and that it will be instrumental in giving such necessary information as will cause many more farm gardens to be planted during the coming year. No garden can be completely successful without protection of some kind. Hence tree planting on the bare prairies is an essential to success with vegetable gardens. But more than this, nothing looks so dismal and cheerless as a farm house and buildings set out on the bare open prairie with nothing to arrest the full sweep of the winds or break the unending monotony of the dreary landscape. Trees have a mission. Planted on the homestead they afford a protection in all kinds of weather to the buildings and stock, they add to the actual money value of the farm, but, best of all, they create a homelike feeling and appearance about the place which settles in the hearts and memories of the young folks and tends to draw them closer to the farm. "More production than usual" is being strongly advocated just now. "More care in production than usual" might be more appropriate. A step in the right direction will be made this year by every farmer who makes allowance in his farming plan for a complete farm garden and the preparation of the ground for planting trees.

THE PATRIOTIC ACRE

Of all the plans that have been devised for raising funds to relieve distress caused by the war, there is none more practical than the Patriotic Acre scheme which was first proposed by T. M. Morgan, of Aquadell, Saskatchewan, a member of the Thunder Valley branch of the Grain Growers' Association. The suggestion, it will be remembered, was made by Mr. Morgan to the Central office of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and after consideration by the provincial executive, was enthusiastically taken up throughout the province. The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association approved of the scheme at the Brandon convention, and instructed the

executive to make such arrangements as are necessary to make it effective. Referring to Mr. Morgan's original suggestion, contained in a letter published in the Saskatchewan section of The Guide, on October 28, 1914, we find that his proposal was that each farmer should put in one acre or more of wheat extra in the spring of 1915, the proceeds of which he would undertake to contribute to the Patriotic Fund. The way in which this proposal has been taken up speaks well for the generous spirit of the farmers of the West. Almost the only criticism that has been made is that one acre is not enough for the large farmers and that the scheme will not produce any revenue until next fall. The first objection, of course, is met by the fact that the farmer who is able is at perfect liberty to cultivate as many Patriotic Acres as he wishes, while as to the delay, it is now evident that even if the war should, happily, be over before next fall, the distress resulting from the terrible destruction of life and property will remain for a long time. Those who can, should give now to one or other of the war relief funds, and the subscription lists of the various funds show that the farmers are doing their duty nobly in this respect. By next winter, however, it may very well be that there will be a falling off in the contributions of those engaged in commercial pursuits, and the proceeds of the farmers' Patriotic Acres will then come in most opportunely.

GOLD IS KING

For the past twenty years in Canada there has been a growing tendency to measure success by the accumulation of wealth. The trend of legislation has been to give special privilege to those who know how to seek it. By means of these special favors a small number of men in Canada have amassed fortunes at the expense of the remainder of the population. In very recent years the habit of conferring titles upon Canadians has increased to a considerable extent, and a very large number of these titles have been conferred upon men whose only claim to such titles is the huge fortunes which they possess. The cumulative effect of such a tendency in Canada has been to establish a form of hero worship of which the idols are multimillionaires. It is not difficult to realize the effect upon the coming generation when they are led to consider that true greatness is nearly always linked up with a large fortune. It will be impossible to develop in the minds of our youth the highest type of patriotism and the high ideals of citizenship by teaching them to worship gold. It is this worship of wealth in Canada that has developed the tremendous power now held by a wealthy few, and has produced the low standard of public morality in our country. Real patriotism, which means service to our fellowmen, has been crushed in the struggle for wealth, while neither farmer nor industrial worker has received his due reward. Before Canada can develop into the great democratic nation for which it is destined King Gold must be dethroned and the idea of service be inculcated in the minds of our youth.

THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION

There are many, even among the organized farmers of Western Canada, who are inclined to become discouraged by what they deem the slow progress towards the improvements which are badly needed in this country. Such people must remember that social and economic reform has always been of slow growth in every country. Such reforms come only when an enlightened public opinion has been created of sufficient strength to force the hands of legislative assemblies. It is not necessary to have in Parliament, or in our legislatures, a controlling voice in order to secure legislative enactments for the public welfare. It is, however, necessary to have a well formed public opinion throughout the country. It is also necessary to have a number of outspoken champions of Democracy in legislative halls, but these representatives are a development of the growth of public opinion in the part of the country where they are elected. In Western Canada public opinion has been formed very rapidly in favor of democratic reforms during the past few years, and our legislators, of both political parties, at Ottawa will not long be able to ignore this steadily growing opinion. The provincial legislatures in the Prairie Provinces have already to a very considerable degree responded to this public opinion, and year by year they will undoubtedly meet the demands of public opinion to a greater extent. The greatest need is to have every individual well informed on the questions which the organized farmers are pressing, and when this educational work has been carried out thoroughly in the three Prairie Provinces, the response from Ottawa will come in the shape of democratic legislation regardless of which party is in power.

TELEGRAM FAVORS INQUIRY

Elsewhere in this issue we reproduce an editorial article from The Winnipeg Telegram, calling attention to the necessity at this time of encouraging agricultural production in this country. The Telegram, our readers will be glad to observe, takes a broad view of the question and realizes that in addition to any immediate steps which may be taken to bring more land under cultivation, a thorough study of conditions is necessary to ascertain and remedy the conditions which are responsible for the failure of the agricultural industry to keep pace with the development of the cities. To this end The Telegram supports the request made to the Dominion Government last November by the joint delegation of farmers and manufacturers, for the appointment of a commission of enquiry, and expresses the opinion that the government would do a wise thing in ordering a complete and exhaustive investigation. This declaration by The Telegram, which is the mouthpiece of the western wing of the Conservative party, shows that there is a demand from all sections of public opinion in the West for the appointment of the proposed commission. The commission could not now complete its investigations and report to the session of parliament which opens this week, but it could profitably spend the spring