

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

### Buy Victory Bonds.

When fall plowing the orchard this fall be sure the soil is turned toward the trees to protect the roots.

Speed the plow. Every acre turned over now greatly assists in getting the maximum production next year.

Even though the Provincial Plowing Match was not held this year, fall plowing can still be done neatly and well.

Cover the root pits lightly in the fall, but don't forget to add more covering as the thermometer drops towards the zero mark.

Milk and its products are food for a strong, virile people. Urge your neighbors to drink more milk, eat more cheese, and use only good butter.

You can get the last ounce of milk from the cows by feeding and milking regularly, making them comfortable, and by the exercise of kindness.

The Germans are being forced out of Belgium by the road they entered, but they are finding it much more difficult travelling than they did four years ago.

Failure to have clover plants stand the winter and spring frosts is frequently due to the new seeding having been pastured too closely in the fall. If possible, keep the stock off the new seedings.

Watch the flock carefully. Continue selection of the most promising laying stock until you are sure you have only the best retained. Then see that they have plenty of good feed and comfortable quarters.

Have you thought much about the desirability of public institutions competing in the live stock showing? This may come up at the breeders' meetings this winter, and it is a good thing to come prepared.

Before winter sets in look over the drain outlets. Any that are blocked or partially so should be cleaned out. This may prevent the drain freezing this winter, and certainly will result in the land drying up more quickly in the spring.

In districts where grapes and raspberries are not entirely hardy, it is safest to cover the plants with soil during the winter. Grapes can be partly taken down from the trellis and covered with strawy manure, or soil. The snow will help.

With all kinds of feeds at a high price, the feeding problem should be more diligently studied this fall and winter than ever before. Introduce a cost accounting system into your feeding operations and find out what it costs to grow an animal or to make a pound of gain. If the animal does not respond to your care and does not pay for feed consumed it is not worthy of a place in your stable.

What about that hay-loader and binder standing under a tree in the field where last used? Are they to remain there until next year's crops are ready to garner? Remember that the elements are very destructive to iron and wood. Is there no corner of the barn or implement shed that could be used to protect the implements from rain, snow and sun? The yearly loss to Canadian farmers through neglect to properly protect their implements when not in use is enormous. Everyone should endeavor to stop this leak.

### Why Two Prices?

It appears to be a common practice for all classes of men dealing with Governments to ask more for their goods or services than could be realized on the open market. Why is this? Farmers and breeders of pure-bred stock are not immune from this practice. We recently heard of a breeder, having a particularly good animal for sale, who asked a neighbor a certain price for it, but when a few days later a representative of a Government farm, who took a fancy to this particular animal, asked the price it was just double that asked the neighbor. This is but one instance; many could be enumerated. In the first place, it is poor business and a very short-sighted policy to "exact the pound of flesh" just because the Government is paying. Breeders complain that the herds and flocks at our Colleges and Experimental Farms do not contain the highest quality representatives of the breeds, but yet when an endeavor is made to secure the best foundation stock, or herd and flock headers, the men in charge of the live stock on these farms are confronted with this two-price policy, (a fair valuation for the public, but a greatly enhanced price for the Government). It is generally believed that the ordinary breeder can purchase animals at a better price than can the Government. Why should this be? Do not the breeders realize that it is an advertisement for them to have their stock purchased for Government farms? Instead of the short-sighted policy of doubling the price, breeders of pure-bred stock would not lose by offering the good individuals that they can spare to the Government Colleges and Experimental Farms at the same price they would expect to get from their neighbor breeders. This would permit of the best individuals of the breeds being kept at the places where they are most likely to be seen by the public, and would be good business for the individual breeder as well as for the breed as a whole. Have one price and business will be better in the end.

### The Manitoulin Election.

It is evident that the farmers of Ontario have reached, or are reaching, another phase in the struggle for parliamentary representation. When the farmers of Manitoulin united solidly in support of an independent farmers' candidate, in opposition to a merchant backed by the Government and supported in the field by their ablest speakers, a campaign was inaugurated which is unique in the history of Ontario elections for many years back. A Conservative member had sat in the Ontario Legislature from this riding since 1902, and notwithstanding that agriculture is paramount on the Island and that farmers' organizations have been fostered there, as they have been in every Ontario county by the Government whose candidate was defeated, this Government placed a merchant in the field to represent the farmer in Parliament.

Shakespeare wrote that "It was always yet the trick of our English nation, if they have a good thing, to make it too common." Apparently this is the tendency of Anglo-Saxons everywhere, for useful as merchants may be in the body politic, they can only prove, as representatives of the farming section of our people, "Like a late morn, of use to nobody." What methods of reasoning led the Government to encourage the election of any but a farmer candidate from this riding are hard to fathom, unless it be that "Policy sits above conscience." Experience has, indeed, proven that for the most part,

"Just experience tells in every soil,  
That those who think must govern those who toil,"

but it is easy to place too much faith in every trite saying. Farmers are a thinking class, and whoever argues to the contrary is assuredly not abreast of the

times. The twentieth century has brought many a rude awakening to the farmer, and the events of the last few years have marvellously weakened the old independence, bringing to light, instead, a newer, stronger confidence and a conviction that to vote with one party or the other is not a complete fulfilment of one's duty as a citizen. Rather, the gross inequality of our whole scheme of economics in Canada, a predominantly agricultural country, presages a vast change in favor of the agriculturist. This change will come; it is as much a fact as that our boys are "over there" fighting for democracy; but such a transformation necessitates a different complexion on the part of our law-making bodies. Agriculture must first have due representation in these bodies and this will come—is coming. If it is slow it is because "It is the folly of the world constantly which confounds its wisdom."

We claim to be assisting in the great battle for Democracy in Europe. For hundreds of years humanity has struggled onward until now Democracy has become our guiding principle. Socialism is rampant and, while we may not be ready for Socialism in its purest form, we are at a stage where further progress is barred unless each class shall be awarded a just share in the government of our country. So far as the farmers are concerned it is in their own power to bring this about, but it is also within the power of leaders in Government circles to assist very materially in this triumph of Democracy. Manitoulin is an illustration: it is probably as well organized co-operatively as any section of Ontario, and what can be done there can be done any other place—with organization. It is rather startling to find the idea prevalent that this election was fought out on Dominion election grounds—the Military Service Act, to be exact. In the larger sense, nothing could be farther from the truth and anyone who knows anything at all about the farmer would realize instantly that it could not be so. A few, or more than a few, may have voted with this in mind, but the real issue was the widespread desire to be represented in Parliament by one of themselves. This is the only just interpretation of the results in Manitoulin, and to hear otherwise is to incline one to believe with Burns that

"It's hardly in a body's pow'r  
To keep, at times, frae being sour."

### A Farmers' Platform.

Men keen for the advancement of Agriculture and filled with a desire to see the farmer accorded greater recognition in the laws of the country, have for long felt the urgent need of a strong agricultural influence in Parliament. Bearing the disappointments of past attempts to bring this about, such men frequently lament the lack of sufficient co-operation among farmers and point to the need of a united stand by all agriculturists, on the great questions affecting our national welfare. This must be done before representatives can be sent to the Legislature, qualified to speak and act in the name of Agriculture. The present tendency, on the part of organized farmers, to secure by their own concerted efforts and consolidated ballots, parliamentary representation, makes such a platform all the more necessary and imperative. Such a platform has not been entirely lacking for the last two years, since the Canadian Council of Agriculture drew up and published "The Farmers' Platform," as later approved by several of the provincial organizations. But different considerations affect the farmers of the different provinces and it is necessary, in order that each farmer member may be enabled to do his duty, that he realize as definitely as possible the purpose for which he was elected. To this end an open stand on the vital questions affecting agriculture in different sections is essential, and it may be wise to adopt certain rules for the guidance