

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

There is one kind of war that is justifiable—and that is war on weeds.

Buckwheat, millet, rape and sorghum can still be planted and a crop produced to augment the winter feed supply.

Never allow a crust to form in the corn field. Once a week is not too often to cultivate the corn through June and July.

Instal a water system so you will have running water in the home, and so the women folk will not have to be running to the well.

Get the haying machinery in readiness and order all necessary parts. It now requires weeks to procure repairs, where it formerly required days.

Keep all dairy utensils clean and sterilize them frequently, remembering all the time that sunlight is one of the best disinfectants and the cheapest we have.

Many good authorities are of the opinion that the peak of high prices has been reached. Banks are tightening up and urging caution on every hand. The next six months may witness considerable change.

The Farmer and Labor Government made a good showing in the first round. Progressive, honest, conscientious administration is all the Province asks for or expects, and farmers have shown themselves capable of providing such.

One effective method of reducing implement costs is to care for and preserve the machinery one already has. Sun, rain and wind destroy more implements than ever wear out on the farm. House the farm machinery and treat it to a coat of paint.

The development of our dairy industry and the revenue it brings to producers and to the nation will depend upon the quality of our products. Producers should do all in their power to deliver clean, wholesome milk, and then hold manufacturers and distributors accountable for the quality of the product delivered to consumers.

Much of the trouble, political and social, in Canada to-day is due to the inability of people generally to understand the viewpoint of the rural people. The population of Canada have their eyes turned in the wrong direction, and not until the productive and natural industries of this country are given the premier place will the problems definitely be solved.

Technical agriculturists have been advising and promoting organization among farmers for years, but, like the blacksmith's mare which goes unshod, they have never had an organization of their own. Last week trained agriculturists engaged in professional work met in Ottawa and laid the foundation of an organization that should do themselves and the whole industry good.

It has been many years since we have had such a dry May. It was a very unfavorable month for the hay crop, and steps should be taken this season to produce roughage, such as millet, etc., to augment the supply. The pastures, too, have been hard hit and only a very favorable summer in regard to moisture will bring them up to par. Rape will help to make the late summer and fall pasturage more succulent and nourishing.

The Price of Cheese.

Patrons of cheese factories will be glad that the British Government has de-controlled Canadian cheese on the British market, with the exception of Government cheese held in stock or purchased in advance. This will allow the Canadian cheese industry to return more nearly to normal after the more or less discouraging prices that have prevailed in Canada during the last three years. Nevertheless, it must be expected that the purchase of New Zealand cheese by the British Ministry of Food until August, 1921, will have a somewhat steadying effect on the price that can be secured for Canadian cheese in England, but it is gratifying to know at least that our cheese is subject to no further direct handicaps from control, and that consumers in England who like Canadian cheese will be permitted to buy it at whatever price they are willing to pay.

It was unfortunate that the cheese industry in Canada should have suffered a temporary setback during the war, because it has always been true that cheese production is the backbone of the dairy industry. Nevertheless, circumstances did bring about a decline in production and in 1918, as is shown by an article in this issue, which is the first of a series dealing with the problem of marketing milk, our production of cheese decreased by more than 20,000,000 pounds from a total of 194,000,000 pounds in 1917. Ontario, which produced 60 per cent. of Canadian cheese in 1917, dropped from 121,000,000 pounds to 107,000,000 pounds in the same period. Statistics will probably show that production for 1919 was still lower, and so far as we have gone in the season of 1920, a still further decrease has occurred, as evidenced by the fact that for the first three weeks of May, receipts of cheese at Montreal were 2,322 boxes behind last year. Of course, not all of this can be traced to food control in Britain. This year's deficit is practically all due to late pasture and feed scarcity. For the last few years, too, cheese factories have been experiencing rather severe competition from condenseries and milk-powder factories, a goodly number of which were not dependent upon the export market and for this reason, as well as because they were making a bid for an adequate supply of milk, they paid prices that injured some factories, while others were put out of business as cheese-producing centres. These new markets for milk which have been developing rapidly during the last five years will continue to compete with the old-established cheese industry, but whether the competition will prove too severe for the cheesemen is difficult to forecast. Certain it is that cheese will continue to be manufactured in very large quantities for the British market and for home consumption, and there seems no real reason why the cheese industry should not continue to flourish as it did for fifty years prior to the war. There could be and should be greatly increased consumption of cheese in Canada, and those who are interested in the cheese industry have a duty to perform in trying to bring this about. The level of prices now is little, if anything, above the cost of production to the average producer, but even before the war prices were steadily rising, and it is a long time since cheese was sold for eight and nine cents per pound. Consumers of cheese should not be willing to pay a fair price for it, and this will always be lost sight of in the maze of circumstances which has brought about the recent decline in production. It very probably will transpire that the methods in vogue on many farms and in many factories will need to be modernized. Such modernization is rapidly taking place even now, but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

There is need for a much better acquaintance with world market conditions. Last year much sentiment was aroused against our own Government at Ottawa and the British Government for the slump in cheese prices. Most of this agitation was misdirected and was

directly due to the irresponsibility of the large dealers and exporters, who created a purely artificial high-level price which was not warranted. This was repeated in the fall of 1919 and again this spring, and a review of the situation easily shows that the world's market for Canadian cheese was little more than 25 cents per pound all the time.

The profit in cheese-making does not depend only on the price of cheese. The real profit comes from the complete utilization of all by-products and the manufacture of a high-quality product from first-class milk. The fact that cheese-making is essentially a community business makes it a little more difficult to get the most out of it without determined co-operative organization, but the market is a large one and the business should continue to be satisfactory to enterprising factories and patrons who will realize their responsibility to the industry.

Farmers as Legislators.

The first Legislature in Canada to be guided through the political labyrinth of a session by a purely farmer and labor group has recently been prorogued, and the people of this and other provinces can now look back and form their own conclusions as to the results. Nothing sensational transpired during the session, but a fair amount of legislation was enacted. The outstanding feature of the term was the frank and open manner adopted by the Government, and the attempt made to get away from political bickering or sparring for position. This cannot fail to have its influence on the Opposition, and the whole demeanor of the House, because it always takes two to play the game, and when the Government is not always endeavoring to place the Opposition in an unfavorable position there is less politics indulged in and more business transacted. The verdict cannot be other than favorable when we consider that a green manager, in the person of the Premier, selected a green team and without preliminary training jumped at once into the game and began the series. We have never been enamored of group government or class representation, but where agriculture is the dominant industry in any riding it is undoubtedly right that the member from that constituency should come from the occupation predominating. The same is true of labor and other branches of society and industry. The recent session has demonstrated beyond a doubt the ability of farmers to represent rural constituencies and still possess the broader outlook which embraces a whole province and its people.

The Outlook for a Fruit Crop.

The fruit industry of Canada was terribly handicapped throughout the war on account of the frantic appeal sent out for cereals and meat products, and now when conditions should be normal the industry is threatened by a shortage of materials which are utilized in the absorption of a crop. It is generally considered that those who derive their revenue from the soil are more or less unaffected by labor troubles, in so far as they influence materials needed by agriculture. Such is not the case. The fruit crop of North America this year is likely to be affected to a considerable extent by the difficulties under which canning factories must operate, and these obstacles will have a marked effect on the marketing of the crop. A large portion of the fruit crop goes to market through the ordinary channels of trade. Nevertheless, the price is influenced to a large extent by the amount of fruit the canning factories can absorb. Sugar has risen to what some operators consider a prohibitive price; coal is high and scarce, and there is a shortage of cans. Only recently representatives of fourteen large canning industries met in New York and decided not to operate until cheaper sugar could be obtained. Michigan is one of the largest