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EDITORIAL

It is not too late yet to put in a few mangels.

Don't try too hard to educate the market; its tastes are quite fastidious at present. Give it what it demands in the very best condition possible, and let time work its changes.

Be not discouraged at meeting obstacles in farming. Sir William Thomson (Lord Kelvin), used to say to his students "When you encounter a difficulty you are near a discovery".

An American journal says "One trouble with the country is that so many of our bright young men are more interested in the price of gasoline than in that of seed corn." Are they?

If increasing military expenditure and numerically strengthening the militia would prevent war we would say let us have more of it, but this system could never save Canada from attack.

The world will never be rich enough to justify waste. Plan the farm crops so they will blend into a succulent, well-balanced ration for next winter's feeding, and turn it into money through a judicious finishing of farm animals.

Recently a company in the United States issued their annual report, showing a business transaction of \$400,000,000.00. Live stock was the commodity dealt in. Can there be any doubt that agriculture is the foundation of all prosperity.

It is said that man lives on one-third the food he eats, and that the doctors live on the other two-thirds. If the cost of living is soaring as fast as many agitators seem to believe the doctor may soon be on half rations.

The grass is growing fast but is still young and tender. Keep the stock in the stalls as long as possible and give the pasture an opportunity to get a start, which will stand it in good stead throughout the trying dry months of midsummer.

Many parts of Western Ontario were visited recently by a heavy splash of rain. After such rains as these in the spring it is well to run a light harrow over the newly-sown crop as soon as it will bear the horses in order to prevent it running together and baking badly.

It is not too soon to have the association begin to look for markets that will handle the fruit crop. There are towns and villages in the West that never heard of you or your product. Be content with a fair price, and increase consumption for hold-up prices are in restraint of trade and injurious to the business.

The C. N. R. bond question, recently discussed in the Dominion Parliament, demonstrated how really helpless the people are in the hands of clever financiers. The credit of the country could not be jeopardized so the money had to be advanced, and the people did not want to take over a road in financial difficulties, so the financiers still hold the controlling interest and no doubt will proceed to pluck the goose.

The Farm Gate.

There is a type of gate all too common on the farms of this country which goes by the very significant name of a "farm" gate. It is needless to describe a farm gate. It may be in almost any condition but the feature which gives it class distinction is that it is heavy and drags its feet. Sometimes it hangs by one loose hinge and sometimes it is off its hinges altogether. The man who opens and shuts such a gate three or four times daily recognizes the inconvenience which it gives him but seldom realizes what the loss of time means. Good, solid, strong, neat, trim gates with handy and secure fastenings are time and labor savers and add greatly to appearances. Many farms would be benefitted by a few more gates properly hung. The old heavy bars seven or eight in number so common in days gone by and which were wide enough to allow the old-fashioned binder to go through are passing as they should. The various metal gates manufactured in these days are neat, durable and may be adjusted to give little inconvenience. If a person has the timber he may get some good gate material sawn which if properly put together (work which should be done in winter) and afterwards painted will make fairly durable and satisfactory gates. But the main thing is hang them properly and keep them hung. Put your gates out of the "farm-gate" class.

Necessary Fences and Land Encumbrances.

Of what use is a permanent fence unless it is permanently needed to divide fields for grazing purposes or to divide one holding from another? Line fences are necessary, and under present-day conditions road fences cannot well be dispensed with, but there are thousands of miles of practically useless and altogether unnecessary inside fences on the farms of Eastern Canada, and what is worse is that miles and miles of them are in an unsightly, tumble-down, inefficient condition, detracting from the beauties of the landscape, harboring weeds, insect pests and bushy undergrowth, and depreciating the value of the standing very materially. Rails are growing scarcer and scarcer, and this is causing a good many farmers to do away with some of their fences, but too many are allowing a lot of unstaked snake fences to practically rot down on the strips of good land which they occupy. With first-class outside fences and the necessary lane fence leading to the buildings, it is not essential to have a large number of permanent cross fences dividing the farm into small fields as was once the general rule. A few cross fences are in order and come in handy, and especially on a stock farm it is wise to have a number of paddocks near the barn, and besides these a two or three-acre pasture, and from a two to a four-acre field to run horses in at nights or for the use of brood mares and cows about to freshen (a maternity ward) is very handy and can well be made a permanent feature of the farm fencing.

For the large fields, say of from twenty to thirty acres in extent, if it is desired to put in more than one crop in each, and at certain seasons to pasture part of it a roll of wire may be quickly and easily strung across as a temporary fence to separate that portion necessary for pasturing from the part upon which it is not desired to allow the stock. These portable, temporary fences are, we believe, destined to take the place of many of the old fences which were

considered permanent and which were built when rail timber was so plentiful that it was split up and piled into crooked fences simply to get rid of it. Few are the farms but that could do with fewer fences if the proper rotation of crops were managed, and a few temporary wire fences provided.

Money in Modern Marketing.

Too many farmers compete on the same market with other producers who have a decided advantage through location or proximity to that market. On the open market at London, Ontario, there are producers coming from the suburbs of the city, and some from a distance of twenty miles. If those favored by the short distance are not making too much, and they claim they are not, are the remote producers wise in competing with them? True, it is they are working cheaper land but the distance more than offsets the difference in price, and furthermore the truck gardener near town follows more intensive methods and requires a smaller area.

A well-known financier once said that it was a good plan to put all your eggs in one basket and watch that basket, and in this remark is the germ of a great truth as applied to the agricultural world. Too many farmers grow a little of this, produce a little of that, and are never known by any one particular commodity. A few ordinary cows adorn the stables, from which a few pounds of ordinary butter are made. A small flock of ordinary hens produce a number of ordinary barn-yard eggs; they are not grain-fed hens exclusively, so the eggs have nothing to commend them over other eggs on the market. An ordinary garden produces a quantity of ordinary vegetables, and when Saturday comes all this ordinary farm produce is bundled together into an ordinary wagon, taken to market and sold in the ordinary way at a very ordinary price. The whole routine is a left-over custom of primitive trading days.

Modern system demands specialization. The ambitious farmer forges ahead of the rank and file of average producers. He must have some one commodity upon which to establish a reputation and distinguish him from his competitors. Would it not be wiser and more business-like for the farmer living ten miles from the market and working land worth from sixty to one hundred dollars an acre to maintain a herd of heavy-producing cows, and each week take to market one hundred pounds of choice dairy butter labeled with the name of his farm which should be his trade mark, and distinguishing symbol? In addition to this one hundred hens run in the orchard, and fed clean grain would furnish a quantity of eggs that could be advertised as absolutely wholesome eggs, not barn-yard or manure eggs, as they are known on discriminating markets. Let the consumers know through a small advertisement in the papers what you have for them, and in what way it is superior to the ordinary produce of the ordinary marketer. Then when market-day comes around each week be there with your commodity, up to grade, and the buyers will make a path to your stall. As far as profits are concerned the practice of trading in common-place goods has been relegated to the world's garret as an antiquated and worn-out method of marketing.

There are those, however, who claim that it does not pay them to peddle produce on the town market, and their argument is not without