

FEBRUARY 11, 1915

Do More in 1915.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

rather they have helped corporations and big business in our cities. Why should we not say to each other, "be steady." We must run this thing and not do things, which, while they might please some and fatten our purses for the present, yet in the near future might cause our soils to become impoverished, and full of filth of all kinds. Let us be more thorough in our work, have more quality in our product, handle our lands as if we wanted them to be yielding double in ten years and this will lead to lasting prosperity which is what our nation needs.

Dufferin Co., Ont.

FRANKLIN E. C. BETTSCHEN.

Adopt Business Principles.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

From my point of view profitable and successful marketing of the products of the farm is the most difficult problem we have to deal with. Under present conditions farming is reduced to the level of the day laborer, or even below that. Nearly all workingmen have certain standards for wages and hours over which they have control. The farmer has none of these privileges; he produces a good article and is not able to set his prices in order to make a small margin of profit over cost of production. Good business principles in farming as well as in any other business require remuneration for the time and energy spent as well as interest on the capital invested. Co-operation and organization are the only remedies, but as the evil conditions have come on gradually the people must be educated to new conditions which will make relief rather slow and will need much perseverance. Co-operation and organization have enabled other lines of business to gain control of our markets and also enact legislation detrimental to our welfare. Farmers in different districts should specialize in growing or producing articles most suited to each district, always endeavoring to have them as uniform as possible. Co-operation should be practiced in selling in order to procure uniform prices and reach the markets of the world. If co-operative stores could be operated in each town by farmers I think it would help to keep their goods within easy reach of the consumer, which I think would help to reduce the high cost of living by buying directly from the farmer. To sum up the situation, the greatest drawback farmers have to-day is lack of organization, which leaves them to the mercy and honesty of people in other lines of business who are entrusted with the marketing of his produce. Much educational work is being done to help remedy the situation and we cannot deny that it is bearing good fruit, but it is still a long long way from perfection. When good business principles are adopted by the farmer and he gets a square deal I think the cry of finance will gradually disappear.

Lambton Co., Ont.

BOB. WHITE.

The Handling of Manure on the Central Experimental Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

All crops produced are fed on the farm, and barnyard manure is the leading source of fertility for all fields and crops. The main rotation is one of three years duration, consisting of hoed, grain and hay crops, which follow each other in the order named. The manure is applied on the sod for the hoed area, at the rate of 18 tons per acre, which provides 6 tons of manure for each year of the rotation. Where corn is the hoed crop used, the manure is taken direct from the stables to the field and spread. By this means of application, the loss of fertilizing constituents is minimized, and much time is saved, as only one handling of the manure is necessary. For roots and potatoes, the manure is applied and incorporated with the soil during the previous autumn by ploughing and frequent cultivation.

With two exceptions, the method of applying manure outlined above is adopted for every rotation that is under experiment. In these two rotations, which are of five years' duration, two applications are made instead of one during the cycle. The first dressing of 15 tons per acre is made for the hoed crop, and a second 15 tons is applied for the forage or hay crop. This dressing for the hay, especially, where it is applied for the new seeding of grass and clovers, has been beneficial not only as a fertilizer, but also as a protection to the young plants during winters of severe cold and scant snow fall. Under no circumstances has manure been applied direct to the hoed crop, and the heavy yields of grain have justified the ignoring of this method which is too commonly followed by our Ontario farmers.

C. E. F. Ottawa.

J. H. GRISDALE.

In answer to your question—Greater crops with fewer men for 1915—I think we should have more men available this year as there are a great number of unemployed all over the country, and I think many will accept farm work next summer. In order to accomplish greater production, let each farmer work a little harder this year, especially with his head. Let him employ more and better labor than he has heretofore. With additional labor he will be able to give more thorough tillage, which will be more productive than to unduly increased acreage. I would advise that farmers next spring plant larger root crops than formerly, more potatoes, more beans, more turnips and mangels. This will make work for the partly-skilled labor floating about and produce food for both people and live stock. Next summer should also be a good year to make some improvements, such as clearing waste spots, and tile draining, which will increase crops for the following summer as well as quickly return money thus spent.

It is the plain duty of every farmer this year to put his shoulder to the wheel and give production a boost.

Carleton Co., Ont.

E. H. HONEYWELL.

The Fall of the Woodlot.

A correspondent some time ago sent us the accompanying illustration of the slaughter which was being done to a twenty-acre woodlot, all of which was being cleared up and not a tree left standing. The trees, as shown, were being cut into cordwood. Many another woodlot has gone the same way, and it does seem a pity, especially where the trees were vigorous, thick, and the lot



What Happened to a 20-acre Woodlot in Middlesex Co., Ont.

growing into money. The man who cuts the wood off good land worth \$100 or more per acre has, however, in many cases, something to back up his action. His land cleared would be worth money to him. With the wood on it, especially where many of the trees are dying owing to pasturing or to the fact that many of the trees, particularly beech trees, have had the tops blown off are decaying, it is of no particular ready value and decay and wind destruction are causing loss each year. There is a good reason for cutting such. But the fact remains that much land is cleared that should not be, and many woodlots slashed down which should be left standing. In preserving forest, and in replanting, the greatest benefit will surely come from confining tree areas to rough land or poor land which cannot profitably be brought under cultivation, and in keeping the newly-planted areas off land which would be of far more value under cultivation. There is another point in the illustration. Cut wood now, and more than this cut the down timber and dead trees to save waste.

More "Patriotism and Production".

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Jan. 28th there is an article by R. J. Messenger, re Agricultural Conferences and the Unemployed, the basic facts of which are too obvious to be denied. Mr. Messenger, however, smacks a little of cynicism when he speaks of 90 per cent. of the farmers of the Dominion being men who know all that is necessary to know about patriotism, war conditions, and crop necessities. Surely, that is a statement which the wisest of men would make with hesitancy. Personally, I have farmed a little, perhaps not so much as Mr. Messenger, but could scarcely make so strong a statement conscientiously.

From Mr. Messenger's letter I am sure that he is just as independent and ready to fight as he

says he is, which is a splendid quality; but the sentiment of the letter would lead one to believe that he is carrying a chip on his shoulder, for he is assuming the role of prophet when he says, "The meetings will probably be held by a number of platform orators who are after easy money; they will be attended by a few farmers who need neither information nor aid." This is surely a strong statement, is it not, for a man assuming the role of a prophet? In the first place I understand this campaign to be a series of conferences, and a conference in my estimation is a meeting where all interested confer with one another. Then, as to orators, I may say that I have been approached to act as one of the speakers, and I do not think I have ever been accused of being an orator; and as to "easy" money, I may say that I am perfectly willing to give over my place to Mr. Messenger.

Mr. Messenger's prophecy regarding results may prove true; I hope not. It lies with those responsible for the campaign to see that it does not. Certainly there is much that a well-directed campaign could do towards enlightening the farmer regarding present conditions and prospects, which being unprecedented have created new problems which are puzzling to the farmer. For instance, wheat, oats, practically all feeding grains, and beans, peas, etc., are high in price, and we can all understand the reason and readily believe that they will remain so throughout the duration of the war. We can understand the depressing effect on the fruit trade also, but it is difficult to understand the low prices prevailing in some other staple food products, such for instance, as potatoes, and we would like to know what current conditions will affect prices in this commodity next year. The same may be said regarding meat animals, etc., etc. We cannot avoid the truth that production and market

conditions and requirements will be sadly unbalanced next year, and it surely behooves us as intelligent people to anticipate the changed conditions in the full knowledge of the best information we can obtain regarding the same. Will the forthcoming conferences give us this information? I hope so, and I will be sadly disappointed if they do not.

Still, having obtained this information, and after careful judgment decided what and how much produce he should grow, the farmer finds himself in the position of being advised to go two opposite ways at the same time. He is advised, (and perhaps convinced that the advice is correct), that he should produce more of certain commodities than usual. This, however, means more labor. At the same time much of the ordinary supply of labor has gone a-marching off to war, and most of our newspapers and some of our prominent parliamentarians, and other worthy advisors of the farmer are exhorting more of the rural youth to enlist, and almost shaming them for their lack of patriotism, as shown by the tardiness of recruiting in rural districts as compared with urban communities. We certainly need recruits and many of them, and I do not think that any rural community wishes to shirk its duty in this respect, and I am sure that rural people would be delighted if they could possess a dual personality and thus be able to do all that is asked of them. Unfortunately, they are just the same kind of people as their complacent advisors in the cities, and I am certain that not even these men could labor in the harvest field in Canada and at the same time fight at the front in France. Whence, then, will come the supply of labor to produce the extra crop? I concur heartily with Mr. Messenger that the unemployed from the cities are of little use in solving the problem. It is a problem, however, that must be solved, and one regarding which the farmers will very likely expect some light from these conferences, and it seems to me inconceivable that they should not get it.

To refer again to Mr. Messenger's letter, the prices he quotes for apples potatoes, particularly beef and butter, seem to me to be exceptionally low, they are certainly lower than Ontario prices; still we cannot get away from the fact that increased yield does not necessarily mean more profit and prosperity to the farmer, and that any campaign to assist the farmer and agriculture must include economic questions and seek to solve the rural problems, affecting profit, which every farmer realizes are his and which he