

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Cows will be needed for a long time yet; don't sacrifice the likely-looking heifer calves.

It is not too late yet to sow a small field of rape if it is likely to be needed by the cattle, sheep or swine.

We read in a daily paper that "very few farmers are now without their automobiles"—would that it were true!

This is an opportune time to get rid of the poor layers. Many of them have already "eaten their heads off" and will never make good.

After the European war Villa cannot get much nearer the front of the daily papers than the sporting page.

The Cost of Living Committee has unearthed considerable information, but what is going to be done about it? This Committee has a splendid opportunity to distinguish itself.

No one seemed surprised when the Germans failed to fulfill the terms of the Armistice by attempting to destroy their vessels in Scapa Flow. Germans will be Germans.

How would it do to appoint one of our high-profit manufacturers as Minister of Agriculture, and have him show farmers how to make more than a meagre four or five per cent. on the capital invested?

We have heard considerable about the inflation of currency being responsible for the high cost of living, but, having in mind a large proportion of the evidence given before the Cost of Living Committee, one cannot help but think that the inflation of profits has more to do with it.

According to official reports, the surplus of clover seed on this continent is practically exhausted. Considerable seed is usually produced in Western Ontario, but the dry weather last season injured the stand so the outlook is none too good there. Anyone with a clean field and a good stand of red clover ought to plan on a crop of seed.

While the labor question and serious unrest may appear like a city problem, it vitally concerns the farmer. Industrial depression will react against the farm just as agricultural failures or depressions will react against the whole of the country. After all, farmers are being affected by the labor situation just about as badly as anyone.

The baker's help ride to their work in a street car. The fares are raised because the operators of the cars must have more pay in order to buy bread for their families. The baker's helpers then must get higher wages because their expenses are greater, so up goes the price of bread. But when the car men asked for their last increase they did not figure on the price of bread advancing, and they are now no better off than before; another increase is in order, but this affects the bakers just as did the last increase to the car men, so they must have still more wages and bread must cost still more. This is not an actual case; it is only a parallel. Increased wages mean increased living costs—the laborer has no avenue of escape. If a united effort were made to reduce the cost of living instead of enhance it, the results would be more satisfactory.

A World Awakening in Live Stock.

The country without an agricultural policy would be like a ship at sea without a compass, and no one will dispute the statement when we say that the agricultural policy for Canada must be built upon and around the live-stock industry. We must have a policy that will give the greatest volume of exportable surplus, and at the same time enhance the fertility of Canadian soil. For years the crop-producing ingredients have been mined from the Western prairie lands and transported eastward in the form of wheat or millfeeds. Ship after ship has been filled to the deck with soil fertility, only to deliver its precious cargo somewhere on the other side of the ocean. While the Prairies were especially adapted to wheat growing, and we would naturally expect settlers to engage in that method of farming, it has its weaknesses and Western Canada is now gradually but surely drifting around to a more stable and permanent agriculture. So it is in the East. In spite of labor shortages and extra demands on the whole farming community, Eastern Canada has gone ahead in regard to the live-stock industry, as shown in an article in the live-stock department of this issue, until now the nine provinces of Canada show a live-stock population far in excess of anything heretofore recorded. We are not alone in this advance, however. We are only getting into the race. We cannot afford to be on-lookers.

From our English correspondent comes the word that at British ports there are being daily enacted scenes of great activity in sending abroad thousands of head of pedigreed cattle, sheep and pigs, which buyers in all parts of the world are gathering together with a view to the expansion of the output of meat. "On the high seas as I write," he says, "over a thousand head of beef cattle chosen from our leading herds of Shorthorns, Aberdeens-Angus, Herefords, Sussex, Devons, and other native breeds, are going either to ranches in Rhodesia, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and other countries south of the equator, or to Canada and U. S. A., to strengthen existing herds there reduced by the call of war conditions. Sheep and pigs likewise have sailed in considerable numbers to Japan, Morocco, Australasia, Canada and the Argentine."

No mean or second-rate sires are being taken by these countries. Their purchases include champion winners at Perth, Birmingham, Penrith, Hereford, Cookstown, Aberdeen, Bristol and other leading exhibitions, and though some of these bulls have cost over £3,000 each, their exporters have no fear but that on the other side of the world they will prove worth their cost when mated with native herds. Argentine buyers have been paying up to £1,000 each for rams, and taking first choice of the English breeders' flocks. In spite of this heavy drain on the British pure-bred herds and flocks, that country is still replete with potential breeding stock, and our correspondent says that an extraordinary development has taken place. New men with fresh ideas are entering this branch of agriculture, and are running it on commercial lines. Despite the enormous development in practically all countries of the world, it is certain that Britain will retain her premier position and still remain the stud farm of the world.

It should be realized by rulers and ruled alike in this Dominion that we must have a progressive agricultural policy which provides every opportunity possible for the development of our live-stock industry, if we are to compete with all the other courageous young countries of the world. No half-way policy will be effective. A ridiculously small amount of our arable lands are now being cultivated or grazed. We have railroad facilities capable of serving ten times the population we have, but which must be maintained by eight and a half million people. Our packing facilities are capable of expansion, and the whole industrial fabric of the country is capable

of looking after a vastly increased live-stock production. We, like other young countries of the world, are entering a new era and we should prepare for the race.

Quantity and quality are the two factors upon which breeders and producers must focus. We have shown that with a diminished agricultural population the live stock of Canada can be increased; now it is up to us to increase the quality of our product so as to compete more successfully with our rivals on the markets of the world. Producers generally should get a firm grasp of the situation, for upon them depends, to a very large extent, the future prosperity of the live-stock industry and the welfare of the whole nation.

Cull The Flock.

While to many farmers the flock of poultry may appear like an insignificant factor, yet one hundred hens are capable of yielding quite as handsome a dividend as any live stock of the same value left on the farm. Some good poultrymen claim that it is just as easy to get winter eggs as it is to get winter milk. Both require extra exertion, extra feed and extra attention. The culling operation of farm flocks has reached its highest development in Prince Edward Island, where experts have assisted farmers in culling out the non-producers and establishing a flock on a productive basis. There are a few fine points which guide experts when separating layers from non-layers, but there are also a few features which are apparent enough to permit almost anyone to make a reasonable selection. As a rule, poor layers are fat, lazy hens which sit on the roost late in the morning and go back early in the evening. They molt late in the season, and, as a rule, are easily distinguishable as slackers. One hundred hens now represent an investment of approximately two hundred dollars. Buildings and equipment would raise this to the neighborhood of three hundred dollars. No farmer can afford to have three hundred dollars tied up in such a form that it will not return a revenue. A rigorous selection of the flock, followed up with the addition of a number of early-hatched, well-developed pullets so as to bring the entire flock up to the neighborhood of one hundred, will, in many cases, change a neglected adjunct of the farm into a revenue-producing investment. Put the flock in the charge of some member of the family, and do not belittle the work they are doing.

Soldiers Settling on the Land.

While soldiers have not rushed headlong into farming upon their return from overseas, the Soldier Settlement Board has been fairly busy in examining applicants and finding suitable locations for them in the various provinces. Up to the middle of June, 17,109 applications for qualification certificates had been received and 12,594 soldiers qualified to participate in the benefits of the Act. The heaviest rush of applicants has been in the Western Provinces. British Columbia has 1,914 soldier settlers; Alberta, 3,385; Saskatchewan, 3,124; Manitoba, 2,349; Ontario, 723; Quebec, 271; New Brunswick, 366; Nova Scotia, 269; Prince Edward Island, 193.

During the same period, \$14,467,974 were dispensed in the operation of the Act for the purchase of land, stock and the making of improvements. The total number of loans granted is 4,262, and the average of loans made is \$3,394. The Act provides that an "approved" returned soldier may secure a loan up to \$7,500, of which \$4,500 is for the purchase of land, \$2,000 for the purchase of stock and implements, and \$1,000 to cover the cost of improvements. A certain amount of these liabilities are retired by the settler annually, by paying interest and a certain amount of the principal. This is known as the amortization plan,