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## EDITORIAL.

It is said to have been a distinguishing attitude of Gen. Robt. E. Lee in the American Civil conflict between the North and the South that he was ever "breathing loving kindness into the intolerable hell of war."

What's the matter with the American farmer? President B. F. Yoakum, of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway, says paying an undue burden of interest on an indebtedness of mortgages and loans aggregating \$6,046,000,000, on which the rate is about 8½ per cent., or an interest bill, nearly double what it ought to be. The reformation of farm finance after the German model is Mr. Yoakum's panacea for the interest-burdened farmer.

A great deal of stress is laid by exhibition managers on the concluding parade of prize live stock as a valuable educational feature. As a grand-stand attraction it has some merit, but no more. Breeders regard it as somewhat of a nuisance, and it is no substitute for a proper judging arena and better all-round facilities for seeing the live-stock features every day of the fair. As an excuse for not doing the real thing it is played out.

According to the last bulletin of the Ontario Bureau of Industry, in the reports on farm labor, a variety of things is happening, some of them decidedly serious. Here are a few examples: Farmers exchanging work; everyone roots for himself; do what they can and let the rest go; using more machinery; land lying idle; land being laid down to grass; children helping in farm work; only half the tillable area of farms sown; where two hands should be employed there are none; land not being half worked; using wider implements.

Referring to Alpha's letter in our issue of September 12th, scoring the Toronto exhibition officials for lack of attention to the rights of live-stock exhibitors, might well have been added a protest against the mixing of the breeds in the stable ranges, instead of stabling the breeds separately, with the name of the breed posted at the entrance at each end of the sheds, so that visitors might readily find what they are looking for, or be informed if unacquainted with the various breeds. Exhibitors ought also be permitted to post their name and address over their own stock, but not to display prize cards of other or previous exhibitions.

The average hundred-acre farm, with a lane through the middle, if parcelled off into ten-acre fields, will have over two acres in fence bottoms, not counting those around the boundary line. Where the farm is of good shape, the fences straight and built of wire, and care taken to plow close, the waste land may not be much over two acres. Under other circumstances it may be much more. These fence bottoms are a nuisance to mow and a harboring place for mice and insects, as well as a seeding ground for weeds. Every superfluous 40-rod cross fence takes 20 square rods of good land, more or less. Cut out superfluous fences, save interest and maintenance charges, expedite cultivation, and increase revenue-producing area.

### The Wholesomeness of Corn.

After all the proverbial injunctions against "burning stock out with corn," it came with no little surprise to learn a year or two ago that in a certain Wisconsin experiment then in progress with breeding animals, a ration of corn and its by-products was proving superior to one of oats and its by-products, and very much superior to one composed wholly of wheat. In each case a balanced ration was obtained by utilizing by-products of the various grains, such as gluten meal with corn, bran with wheat, and so on. The experiment has now been conducted by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture for four years with sixteen two-year-old heifers, divided into four groups. Group No. 1, was fed for four years a balanced ration composed entirely of wheat products; No. 2, a balanced ration made up of oats and its by-products; No. 3 corn and its by-products, and No. 4, a mixture of wheat, oats and corn. Each lot received the same amount of protein, the same amount of carbohydrates, and the same amount of fat; only the source was different. The experiment would seem therefore to resolve itself into a comparison of the wholesomeness of these three grains. The following extract is taken from the twenty-eighth annual report of the Wisconsin Station:

"The animals so fed reached physiological maturity and underwent the strains of reproduction, and the results obtained leave no question as to the striking physiological effect, especially with reference to milk secretion and vigor of the progeny. Mothers fed solely with wheat nutrients produced weak, undersized calves and maintained a low milk production, while those receiving rations made from corn produced large vigorous calves and maintained a high milk flow.

"Rations from oats have not proved so effective in maintaining the vigor of the young as those from corn, but were more satisfactory than those from wheat. A mixture of all three types of nutrients gave results nearer those obtained with wheat, contrary to the usual opinion that a varied ration produces better results."

"It proved to be impossible to change an animal matured in the exclusive corn ration to the wheat ration without death ultimately occurring. On the other hand, a mature wheat-fed animal can be changed to the corn ration with marked improvement."

"The explanation of the disastrous effect of wheat has not yet been found, and these studies will be continued with other types of farm animals."

We regard this experiment as one of the most important in animal nutrition that has come to our attention in recent years. Granting that much further work is necessary before the conclusions may be confidently accepted, it seems already plain that corn is to be regarded, when properly combined in a balanced ration, as one of the most wholesome feeds in the stockman's dietary if not the most wholesome of all. The wholesomeness of corn, whether as grain, fodder or silage receives fresh corroboration from this test. There was a great difference in the calves of the corn-fed group over those from all the other groups. The more complex question occurs, also, as to the relative wholesomeness of these three grains as human food. Dietetic authorities have been wont to call oats and corn coarse foods, not nearly so suitable for human beings. Are they right? The physical stature of the oatmeal-nourished Scot and the corn-consuming American casts doubt up-

on the claim. We should like to see some experimenter in eugenics try this out. Questions occur, guesses are easy, but knowledge is scanty. We wonder.

### Will It Come.

The Canadian National Exhibition has come and gone, and while the crowds were greater than ever before, the million mark was not quite reached. Of the upwards of 903,000 people who thronged through the gates during the exhibition, there was a very noticeable preponderance of urban dwellers. The rural population were not out in numbers anywhere to be compared with those of the city and town people. Two reasons may be given for this, viz: the backward season with much of the grain still in the fields, and secondly the apparent lack of interest on the part of the fair management in live stock and agriculture generally. It is the latter point on which we wish to again voice our sentiments. The same old cattle barns still stand as accommodated the stock years ago.

The stabling of the stock is not the worst feature from the spectator's standpoint. The live-stock sections of the exhibition should be made just as educative as the exhibits in "The Process Building," "The Art Building," "The Transportation Building," or any other of the many immense structures in the grounds. In these, each and every exhibit is placed so as to attract the undivided attention, at least for a short time, of every passing spectator. Not so the cattle and horses. In their stalls they must be blanketed to shield them from the flies and keep their coats sleek. This being so and coupled with the fact that the judging of the stock by experts, is the most educative feature of all in the live-stock exhibits, is it not then of sufficient importance to warrant the erection of a covered judging arena, in which all this may be accomplished in full view of all interested? The management made a step forward this year, when they had a separate day for the judging of each breed of horses, but very few saw them judged even then. A few interested stood on tired legs along the fence in the paddock in front of the grand stand, but from seats in the stand very little close scrutiny is possible. Then a grand-stand crowd is not often a live-stock crowd. They come to see the special attractions. "Thrillers" appeal to them. Speaking on this point, one of the Toronto dailies said: "The entertainments were of a better class than heretofore, but could easily yet be vastly improved. The greatest attraction was the nightly tattoo of the cadet contingents from the corners of the empire, but one of their best attractions was passed up by the authorities, who on only two occasions allowed the calvary cadets from Saskatchewan to go through with their musical ride. The space was occupied by horses in process of being judged, and while this feature has many friends it might easily be put through in a special or smaller ring, for during its progress the majority of those hardy enough to face an afternoon show before the grand stand, yawned in the deepest recesses of boredom."

The writer hits the point when he says a "special" ring should be provided, but in belittling the importance of the judging as it should apply to fair goers, he is very wide of the mark.