

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

It is not too late to plant a tree.

The good grey earth enjoys a shower bath.

Every stock farm should have a flock of sheep.

As soon as seeding is finished prepare the mangel ground.

After the mangels are in lose no time in getting on the corn land.

The first spring rain washes the face of nature and opens her breathing pores.

And still we say do not sow wheat on land which will grow a better crop of oats.

In the eyes of some buyers the horse as well as man must enjoy a second period of youth.

If you cannot sell your surplus horses work them to best advantage in better and more cultivation than usual.

Help in the campaign for fewer varieties of potatoes by planting only one or two of the older standard kinds.

It would be rather an expensive means of disposing of old horses to take them to the front for the purpose of getting them shot.

How many have remembered to treat their seed grain for smut? And how many are planning to treat their seed potatoes for scab?

Opinion seems to be divided as to which war contract grafters need most, a six weeks course with Billy Sunday, or six years on a prison farm.

Who is the backbone of this country anyhow? The farmer, and he does not need to put on a pair of red, white and blue overalls to prove it either.

Unless some people who have been in the searchlight at Ottawa mend their ways speedily the "Made in Canada" program may prove more of a boomerang than a benefit.

It is too early yet to allow the cattle out on grass, even in the earliest districts. Nothing so damages summer pasture as pasturing off before it has had a chance in the spring.

It is a good plan to study farm fencing, and work out a system which leaves the fields the best size for the crop rotation followed. Ontario has too many fences, and far too many of the tumble-down kind.

The man who sells his live stock to take up grain growing more extensively, because of the abnormal market conditions at the present time, is sacrificing his most valuable asset just when it is most needed and will prove most valuable.

Partizan newspapers would have their readers imagine that virtue and capacity are found on one side the fence, and that all the undesirables are in the other political fold by themselves. With sensible people this attitude has become absurd and nauseating.

## Make the Fairs Worthy of the Grant.

Readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" were pleased to note in the review of agricultural legislation passed by the Ontario legislature during the session which has just been brought to a close, that the amount of the grant to fall fairs has been left at the usual \$75,000 mark and not reduced one-half as announced by the Minister of Agriculture at the time the Fairs and Exhibitions Association was in annual convention in Toronto last February. Fall fairs are one of the educative institutions which should be aided in every way possible. They are doing a great work in interesting the younger people of the country in better stock and better seeds. Many of the young folks, and older people too, have not the opportunity of visiting the larger exhibitions, and if they do go very often have only time to see the big exhibits in the buildings and to enjoy the "special attractions." Outside of the needless and often harmful miniature midway the county or township fair is purely an agricultural show, and as such should be fostered. Only last fall we noticed at a very successful fair of this kind more than one small boy in knee trousers proudly leading off a prize calf, a winning colt, or holding a red-ribbon sheep. Who can estimate the value of such an opportunity? The young attendant never forgets. It instals in him a love for stock and for the farm, and winning is not devoid of the same results for the older men. It makes one feel good to fit, show and win. There is also some inspiration even in defeat. To be met on common ground and fairly beaten is no disgrace; it should prove an incentive to do better next year, and the loser should always go home determined but not discouraged. The grant has been given "as usual." Now it behooves every fair board and all exhibitors to do their best to make the fall fairs of 1915 a "more-than-usual" success.

## More Corn and More Roots.

It is not yet too late to plan more corn and more roots for this season's crop—not only more acres but a larger yield per acre. Many seem to forget that the call for "Increased Production" should perhaps apply in greater measure to corn and roots than to any other branch of Canadian agriculture. Canada must produce more wheat and milk if she is to go on increasing production, and these products must be produced at the lowest possible cost. Three feeds stand out prominently in economical feeding in Canada, viz., clover or alfalfa hay, corn and roots. It is too late now to do much to increase the hay crop more than to roll the meadow, but corn and roots should receive the best attention. An acre or two more mangels or turnips, and from two to five acres more corn than usual, will, provided the season is right, mean more cheap feed than usual, and this cheap feed will save grain which may be needed elsewhere, and will at the same time carry more live stock than usual over winter, and the foundations of our agriculture rest on the live-stock industry, which must not be undermined at this time. Plan also to prepare the land for corn and roots just a little better than it has ever been done in the past. Plow once more if necessary, disk, cultivate and harrow until the land is in the best possible condition. After the crop is up cultivate more frequently and go after a larger yield. It will surely pay.

## Not Looking for Government Aid.

"We might say that the farmers of Western Canada are beginning to take it into their own hands to settle affairs in so far as they can through co-operation, and are looking for as little aid as possible from the governments."

The foregoing paragraph from a Western Canada reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" may be seriously taken as one of the signs of the times. Co-operation is gaining ground rapidly in the West, and with it is coming power. Organized farmers may yet be just as strong as if not stronger than any other organized industry or set of industries in this country. The Western farmer was driven to it. He had to organize, and he has done it so well that organization has become the key-note of his success, and has developed to such an extent that confidence is now felt in the ability of the farmer of the West to look after himself, or rather the farmers of the West to look after themselves, for it is co-operative effort that has made the movement a success. There was a time when these farmers looked for direct aid from the governments, but they looked in vain, so they tried the better plan of "self help," and it has succeeded until it seems that they have stopped looking for help and have built up an organization, which, by mutual assistance, can get what its members need most.

Ontario and Eastern provinces are beginning to awaken. It is a much more difficult proposition to organize so well in older-settled provinces where many farmers have reached the "independent" stage and where agricultural interests are so diversified in character, but a start has been made and if rightly followed up Ontario may soon present that formidable front which "looks for as little aid as possible from governments." One thing is sure, at the present time the Canadian farmer, East as well as West, has no use for "pap." He has no time for uncalled for and unnecessary special government campaigns instituted by city financiers in his behalf. Letters to the press during the past six months have proven this. He expects fair treatment, and there is no surer sign that he is going to get it than what is revealed in the paragraph from our correspondent's letter. The indicator begins to swing toward better things for agriculture, but the men engaged in farming must be given the credit for the change, and as the West grows and grows and the organization of farmers passes on from one successful stage to another and is followed by farmers in the other provinces of Canada, governments, unless we miss our guess, will be a little more careful about the methods by which they hope to pull the wool over the eyes of the agricultural community. The first great sign of strength comes in the words "are looking for as little aid as possible from governments." Politicians would like to ignore the organization which has made this statement possible, but they dare not. They are hushing up its importance as much as possible, but organization works on. The man with his ear to the ground already hears the rumble of the approach of this, the mightiest force which Canadian agriculture has seen, and the Canadian farmer is destined to reap a rich reward from his efforts on his own behalf, if he will but put his own business first, help himself and help his neighbor by organizing, and we hope when once organized party politics will get second place to the interests of the farmer's organization in the minds of all farmers composing the organization. Then agriculture would be



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