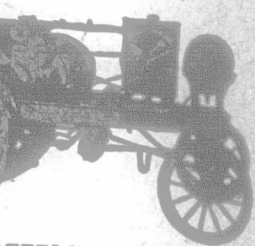


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LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 20, 1919.

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EDITORIAL.

Winter is just around the corner; be ready!

Do not leave the cattle out too late and lose the summer gains.

It is significant that certain of the old political parties desire a change of name.

Judging by the way the Senate wrestled with the Prohibition measure and passed it in quick order, there is some life in the Upper House yet.

Colds and catarrh in fowls is very common at this season of the year, and should be prevented by providing against drafts and keeping the house dry.

The Horticultural Show held in Toronto last week should mark the beginning of a new era in fruit growing, which has been more or less dormant in Ontario for the last five years.

When politics is discussed in the home by both parents, who are entitled to vote, the youth of this country ought to grow up with a clear understanding of what voting means.

Many level-headed farmers are picking up young sows with the intention of having them farrow next autumn. A good harvest in 1920 is all that is needed to reveal a hog shortage.

The Health of Animals Branch has provided the machinery for the maintenance of tuberculous-free accredited herds, and the regulations ought to be thoroughly understood by all stockmen.

The coming U. F. O. Convention promises to be a rousing one, and the people of Toronto will soon begin to realize the importance of agriculture when they find the Parliament Buildings and Massey Hall in the possession of farmers.

Dairymen should understand the methods whereby the National Dairy Council is to be financed. Producers are only asked for a paltry amount, but the aggregate will make it possible for the organization to do a great deal of good for the industry.

The Board of Commerce was appointed in response to the demand of the public for a reduction in the cost of living. The Government, knowing that it was being blamed by the fickle public for the high cost of living, appointed the Board of Commerce, stood safely behind it, and said to the people of Canada: "Here is our instrument for reducing the high cost of living. It is now working, and your troubles are practically at an end. Don't say that we haven't done our best to curb the profiteer."

It is all a silly game. The Board of Commerce, we suppose, will do some good. It will use its authority here and there, and it will tend to restrain the profiteer a little. But the Board is not prosecuting the profiteers, nor does it intend to do anything of the kind. It is investigating the conduct of industries, it is finding ample evidences of profiteering every day, but it merely shoves its findings into the pages of the daily press. This little scheme is intended to make the superficial public believe that the Government is really doing wonders to reduce the cost of living. It seems that modern Governments are able to mold public opinion by working through the daily press. It seems, too, that the public is always ready to take another bite of political bait.

National Thrift.

Now that Canada's 1919 Victory Loan has been successfully secured, the Canadian people have made themselves liable for the principal and interest of a national debt surpassing \$2,000,000,000. This means about \$250 for every man, woman and child in the Dominion, and it is now necessary that every able-bodied person in the Dominion turn the full force of their joint endeavors to repay this somewhat staggering obligation. It is true that all the natural, financial and moral resources of Canada are behind the Government's promise to pay, but the Government would be powerless to avoid the peril of extravagance on the part of the people.

It is all right enough to say that the Canadian people have increased their cash balances in banks and post offices by \$650,000,000 during the past five years, and that our trade as a country has reached the surprising sum of two and a half billion dollars annually. The fact remains that for this debt of \$250 per capita we have only \$2,000 in natural resources with which to pay it and keep on working as a nation. But the Canadian people owe roughly another billion dollars that must be met by provincial and municipal taxation, and with the further inevitable expenditure that must accompany additional growth and expansion, there is evident the greatest need for national and individual thrift. Individual thrift is the keynote of national saving, and without it the liquidation of our three billion dollar debt is an impossibility. There is always a tendency to enjoy prosperity while it is going, and to pay our debts under the most difficult circumstances. It is easy to go into debt when prices are high and when our incomes are at high water. It would be far better to get out of debt at this time so that, should hard times come, as many thinking men believe they must, we will have a smaller load to carry, and so can bear it easier.

Let us institute among ourselves a campaign for individual thrift. Let us not spend that dollar unless we can get full value for it. Let us take care of our working capital, save where we did not save before, and where perhaps we need not save to pay our personal obligations. Each of us now is liable for a share of a big national obligation that will require our very best endeavors. Collectively and in co-operation with each other we can keep Canada's face to the front and wipe out this heavy burden.

Profligate Governments would render abortive any effort on the part of the people to retrench and discharge these obligations. Economy, so far as it is consistent with efficient administration, must be practiced devoutly, and any endeavor to maintain the present artificial prosperity by reckless spending will lead ultimately, and perhaps suddenly, to national bankruptcy and despair. The people have shown themselves willing to lend; now all Governments, with particular emphasis on the Federal Administration, must set the example of thrift and economy which are absolutely essential to the future prosperity of Canada.

Why Not Start a Flock?

Anyone who has had in mind laying the foundation for a flock of sheep will, perhaps, wait a long time for more favorable conditions under which to begin. Ewes of all ages are now selling far below their actual value, and the same is still more true of rams. Flockmasters are surprised at the lack of interest in sheep since flocks have yielded such a handsome return during the last few years. The demand for ranch rams is, no doubt, being affected by the production of breeding stock on the range or in neighboring provinces and states. However, this is a matter that affects the pure-bred breeder more than the average producer of wool and mutton. The industry, as it concerns farmers with commercial

flocks, is sound, and there is no just reason for the quietness of the market for good female breeding stuff now prevailing.

Owing to the feeling that sheep require additional fencing and that dogs may become a nuisance, there is no danger of the sheep industry being over patronized, and a beginner need have no fear of a serious glut on the market due to over-production. In this regard sheep are one of the safest branches of live stock to keep on the farm. Many are going light on hogs just at present because they are a grain proposition, but sheep will do well on hay and roots with a little grain added at and around lambing time. A flock is not a serious menace to the grain bin, and they are a valuable asset to any farm. Anyone considering a start or wishing to enlarge on present holdings ought to take advantage of the situation now existing and lay the foundation for a high-grade flock.

Something Better Than Resolutions

The time has come when farmers will be obliged to pass fewer resolutions; a substitute has been found. The agriculturist has accomplished little by memorializing the powers that be, and another method has been sought and discovered.

The resolution idea is a by-product of so-called democracy. In a thoroughly democratic organization, every man has his say, and under these circumstances a luxuriant crop of theorists is produced. Such individuals have a passion for framing imperative resolutions. They "whereas" and "therefore be it resolved" till the welkins ring, and sensible folk, because they must be democratic, are forced to listen to their strident demands.

The resolution idea is productive of good results in direct ratio to the calibre of those who father resolutions. A resolution in itself means nothing. If fathered by an incompetent, high-strung individual, it will cause only a slight ripple on the surface of public opinion. If it is the crystallized conviction of a sane, progressive and insistent individual, it will result in contributing something to society.

But "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good." The resolution idea has its compensating aspects. Just as erupting volcanoes are said to be the safety valves of the world, so a bristling resolution is the safety valve which prevents a lot of excitable folk from bursting with the strain of pent-up grievances and emotions. There will be less need, however, for efficiency in framing resolutions, and the fear is that this inspiring accomplishment may become a lost art.

Political Prophecy.

There was a time, we are told, when prophets could look into the future and discern, with some measure of accuracy, the probable turn of events. Prophecy is now a lost art, particularly when it has to do with elections, and the cleverest of politicians give up in abandonment because old axioms are no longer reliable, and they are without any known quantities upon which to base their deductions. Political equations were easy of solution in days gone by, for a certain amount of tradition plus a known quantity of campaign funds in a constituency equalled so many party votes, which meant a certain result. With tradition swept aside and men and women going to the polls determined to express their wishes without regard for political leanings or the promises of any party, there is only one way to be sure of the results, and that is to open the box and count the ballots. We have only met one man who actually knew what was going to happen in the recent Ontario elections, and his declaration was made subsequent to October 20, after the returns were in. A new era is dawning, and the surprises incident to elections will, no doubt, be duplicated in the conduct of future govern-