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EDITORIAL.

Plans should be made soon for the farm garden

The ice crop is good; let the harvest be a plentiful one!

There are some prospects of the ill-fated "Dairy Standards Act" being salvaged.

How does this winter compare with the old-fashioned kind which veterans declare we do not experience now?

Daylight-saving bugs are becoming active again. The scheme proved a fiasco and a serious nuisance—why perpetuate it?

There is an epidemic of shows and conventions at this season of the year; if you cannot attend them, read the reports in "The Farmer's Advocate."

Too many brood sows were sacrificed last autumn, and now a shortage exists. Whatever befall it is always a good plan to hold on to the breeding stock.

Payment for milk by test is right in principle, and dairymen should be able to agree as to the details of an Act governing the marketing of milk on a quality basis.

Clean up the fallen timber in the woodlot, but spare the growing stuff. The country is becoming denuded of trees, and high winds, such as we experienced recently, exact a heavy toll.

Township trustee boards are not a new thing altogether, and are worthy of your consideration. Township or county boards would be an improvement on the old system. Talk them over in your club!

Have you ever tried to find out what your farm is particularly suited for? On too many farms not enough attention is given to finding out what crops the fields will grow most profitably. A closer study of one's particular farm might result in changes being made in the system of cropping that would greatly increase the returns.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, if correctly reported, says he does not care for the position, "unless he can use it for the functions for which it was created." The situation is unique. We have a Government pledged to economy and efficiency and elected by popular vote on that platform, while the Lieutenant-Governor openly declares himself as belonging to the old school of pomp and extravagance. If there is any doubt as to which is desirable, let the people choose.

A Chicago grain man of wide experience who has recently returned from Europe to the United States says that before a great many months have passed the farmers on this continent are going to be up against the stiffest kind of competition from Russia, South America and other countries, and further that there will soon be over-production. On the other hand, H. B. Thomson, the former Food Controller, who has been acting in an advisory capacity to the Canadian Mission in London for the last eight months, is reported to have said in an interview in Toronto recently that, "Everything points to a meat shortage in Europe next year, and I don't think the Canadian farmer should take the short view of the live-stock situation, but go on increasing his breeding animals and grading up for a good class export trade on a permanent basis. He will be sure of a reward greater than he ever looked for." Everything points to the wisdom and safety and expansion in the live-stock industry.

Holding Up the Civil Service.

Readers will remember that references were made in our reports of parliamentary proceedings in 1919 to a re-classification of the Dominion Civil Service. This re-classification was being made by a firm of New York "efficiency experts," so-called, who were entrusted with the task of arranging the salaries and status of the 60,000 Government employees in some kind of marching order. They have already completed their task twice, but the first time the Government did not even dare submit the printed re-classification for discussion in the House. A revised classification has been made that in some respects at least, is even worse than the first, and the fear is that this will get past the House at the coming session which begins February 26. The fact that the Civil Service Commission and the Government want to spend a lot of money for a ready-made classification need not be considered as anything more than extravagant, were it not for the disastrous effect upon the various branches of the service. We refer particularly to the Department of Agriculture, regarding which we have kept closely informed. At present conditions are nothing less than appalling in this Department, in as much as work for the improvement and development of agriculture has practically stopped altogether, while everybody is engaged in a free-for-all with the Civil Service Commission. No executive officer can do justice to his real work if at the same time he must be continually struggling to stave off some legislative injustice to the service, which he knows will crush initiative and permanently cripple opportunity for the splendid work that can be done in this Department.

Only one or two divisions of the Agricultural Service appear satisfied, and for these there appear to have been specially favorable opportunities for favoritism to be shown by the Commission. The Commission seem helpless to understand conditions; the New York firm has proven that "expert" service can be inordinately expensive; and the Government seems bound to justify a helpless solution of a large problem by cramming it down the throats of legislators who know little about it.

Why is it that the Civil Service Commission has fallen down so badly on its job? Is it that a Commission of this kind is not the proper method to adopt? Or is it—as has been hinted—that one member of the Commission is purely hostile to agricultural work and is blocking the progress of Federal assistance to the most important of Canada's primary industries?

Does Canada Want Compulsory Military Training?

"Prepare for war and you get war," says General Sir Frederic Maurice, former Director of Military Operations for Britain, and Germany's experience substantiates that statement. Militarists are now busy and the question for Canada to decide is whether we, as a nation, will emphasize preparation for war, or focus on physical and mental training for the battles of life.

Brigadier-General Griesbach, a member of the House of Commons, has sent broadcast a scheme or outline of a compulsory military training for Canada, and he is, no doubt, working for the adoption of this or a similar plan to saddle on the people of this Dominion a military despotism such as has made Europe a battle ground for centuries.

In brief, the plan is this: Boys from twelve to fourteen will be Junior Cadets to receive physical drill, military training, and medical care under the supervision of the schools. From fifteen to eighteen years of age they will be senior Cadets, to receive military training and medical care in the schools under the direction and with the assistance of the military authorities of Canada. At the age of nineteen the cadet shall join a military depot and receive three months' intensive military

training. From this he goes to active army; at the age of twenty the recruit will do a month's training with the unit to which he belongs, and will train with the same unit at the age of twenty-one and twenty-two. At the age of twenty-three he passes to the First Reserve; at thirty-one he passes to the Second Reserve; and from forty-six to sixty he is classed in the Third Reserve.

In its entirety, General Griesbach's prospectus looks very commendable from a military point of view. It takes the child at an impressionistic age and instills into the young mind a false sense of patriotism, and a love for show and bombast, but it does not help him to appreciate the seriousness of war or the glories of the struggles of peace. Twenty-five years of such training will build up a military background in Canada that will ensure war and bring it about.

The part to which we most strenuously object is the introduction of military training into the schools. Let us have physical drill; let us have medical inspection and care, but it is just as much a crime to teach militarism in the schools as it is to teach arson, robbery and murder.

Rural School Management.

Trustee boards and ratepayers at large should consider it a privilege as well as a duty to give some consideration to the rural school, as it affects them locally and to its place in the whole educational scheme of the Province. There has been considerable discussion of late about the local management of schools in rural districts. Some educationalists are in favor of one trustee board for the whole county, while others consider this unit too large, and would give a board of trustees only a township to administer. Either one of these recommendations might at first sight appear somewhat radical, since for a long time an exceedingly local board has managed one little school, while other boards in neighboring sections have done likewise, all being largely controlled in thought and actions by the Department at Toronto. The rural school has served this Province well, and some of the most modest and poorly-equipped among them have started many a bright country youth on the road to fame and prosperity. However, the facilities for education require improvement to meet the demands of modern citizenship just as do implements and farm machinery need to be improved, from time to time, that the demands of modern agriculture may be met. It is in this light that the whole rural school problem should be faced, and all country folk should give the matter their attention for they and their children are the ones most affected.

Henry Conn, School Inspector in District No. 1, has prepared two articles dealing with township boards for "The Farmer's Advocate," and in them has advanced strong arguments for the kind of local management which he recommends. The first of these articles appeared in the issue of January 15, and the second will be found in this number. We commend these articles to the attention of ratepayers generally, for after all the rural school is a problem for country people to solve. The Department of Education can advise and make regulations, but those who have to live up to these rules might as well have something to say about the matter before they become school law.

When the school inspectors are called into conference with the Premier and Minister of Education, as they probably will be in the near future, they will, no doubt, be asked for an interpretation of the ratepayers' attitude to the whole matter, as well as for an expression of their own opinions. It would conduce to good results if country folk would become interested in the rural school question, and go into caucus with the inspector and others who are fully informed about schools as they are at present, and entertain ideas as to how they should be. The time has come when we as farmers must give the education of our children the