

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Swat the rooster.

It is not too late to sow rape for pasture.

Keep the cultivator going in the corn field.

Killing a weed before it matures saves a good deal of hoeing later on.

Break up the broody hen; she is only wasting time remaining idly on the nest.

There is some fairness in the proposed changes in the new luxury tax, but the people like a Government that is able to make up its mind and then stick to it.

Senator Harding, of Ohio, is described by the Republican party leaders as a "safe" man. We wonder if he will endeavor to make the world safe for democracy.

Canada produced \$251,000,000 worth of dairy products in 1919. Included in this amount were 101,000,000 pounds of creamery butter and 137,000,000 pounds of cheese.

Save this issue. It is the semi-annual index number, and will often come in handy when you desire to refer back to the many valuable articles that have appeared in these columns.

It is stated by dairy experts that milk and its products should form 44 per cent. of our food. How many of us eat enough of butter, cheese, or ice cream, and how many of us drink enough milk?

Eternal vigilance is the price of clean crops of potatoes. The sprayer should be used frequently in the vines and the tubers are to be kept free from the ravages of blight and other serious potato diseases.

After the twenty-fifth of October it should be possible to know just how strongly the people of Ontario do feel on the question of prohibition. It will be a good thing to give the Government a mandate that they will know what to do with.

Butter grading is being very favorably received throughout Ontario this year. Had the produce men been able to get together in support of a premium for the best butter, much necessary improvement might have been made earlier.

Machine politics have secured another very decisive triumph in the Republican nomination of Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, for the next President of the United States. No darker horse ever strode out of a semi-obscure at a people's convention.

Do not neglect to have your flock of hens culled sometime during the months of June, July and August. The Provincial Department of Agriculture is willing to assist you, and it will pay many times over next winter to have only those hens in the flock that will lay. It is possible now to cull out the hens that will be unprofitable next winter.

Those who are so fortunate as to have a supply of summer silage will be very glad of it before the summer is over. As a supplement to the dry pastures of late summer it will be invaluable, and those who have not had the advantage of it in the past will be wise if they have made provision for summer silage in 1921.

Cream-Buying Stations.

A recent development of the creamery butter industry in Canada is the cream-buying station. These stations for the collection and testing of cream are being established as feeders for the large centralizer creameries, the annual output of which is much greater than can be provided by cream gathered in the usual way by wagon or motor truck. The cream-buying station is a means of increasing the business of the creamery as well as a method of keeping more closely in touch with the patron than can be done where the latter ships his cream to the creamery and lives perhaps a hundred miles away. There is no doubt that from the standpoint of butter manufacture and sale, increased volume of business carries with it distinct advantages both in making and selling. Nor is there any doubt that cream-buying stations can be made useful, as they have been in the prairie province for instance, in providing a market for considerable quantities of cream available from sparsely-settled or non-dairy districts which could not themselves support a manufacturing establishment. It is thus evident that the cream-buying station is coming to be regarded as a necessary factor in the success of a centralizer creamery, and also that the centralizer is, to some extent justified by the advantages accruing from increased size of business.

Observation, however, will easily bring out certain abuses within the creamery industry to-day that are concerned primarily with cream-buying stations. So far as the creamerymen of Ontario are concerned, cream-buying stations were practically forced upon them by competition from Detroit and other United States firms. This practice gradually spread from Southwestern Ontario over all of the western part of the Province, and although the creamerymen had the option of uniting in favor of direct shipment they refused to do so. The result has been a keen competition unrivalled in the history of Ontario's butter industry. An article in this issue makes reference to the effects of keen competition among creameries and the methods, not always honest, that are occasionally employed in order to get business. Butter-fat is paid for by the pound, and the common practice of most creamery patrons is to rely on the creamery for a fair and accurate test. It would not be fair to reflect in any degree on the honesty of most creamerymen, but the excessive amount of dissatisfaction with cream tests throughout the country indicates that there are some whose consciences can acquire a certain numbness on occasion. Very keen competition has encouraged creameries to reach out into territory that is already well served, and one may find among the 250 or more cream-buying stations in Ontario, as many as three or four located in one small village, which was previously well served by a good creamery located within a reasonable distance. A high price per pound for butter-fat is the bait held out to prospective patrons, but sometimes a price higher than competitors were paying has not meant any more money to the patron, because of low tests. There is the danger also that cream-buying stations in certain communities where prices are raised to meet competition may be maintained at the expense of other localities where competition cannot provide patrons with a ready check on either price or test.

Whether cream-buying stations as they are now conducted will prove economical in the end cannot be foretold at present. It is a question as to whether the advantage accruing from a larger volume of business will offset the added expense of several stations where one could serve the purpose. The logical remedy is the operation of these stations by farmers' clubs on a co-operative basis, and the sale of the cream to the creamery offering the highest price. Thus the members of a farmers' club might secure their best market a hundred miles away, but if the tests were supervised by someone appointed by themselves the present dissatisfaction

would be largely eliminated. The legislation now about to be put into force by the Department of Agriculture in Ontario will certainly provide means for checking up complaints, but it cannot eliminate dishonesty. In any event the farmer cannot lose by collective sale of cream, since volume is as advantageous to him as it is to the creamery man.

A Village in Distress.

Now that we have nearly reached the second anniversary of the last great drive that culminated in the Armistice and the end of the war, we are perhaps inclined to believe that many of the war town centres of France and Belgium are regaining their normal appearance, and that conditions have vastly improved. No doubt they have in many respects, but a letter appearing in this issue makes clear the fact that many of the small villages in which the industrious French peasants formerly had their homes have been completely demolished, and that the conditions under which the sturdy villagers are endeavoring to till the surrounding land are, in many instances, pitiful in the extreme. To think of 3,900 villages needing rebuilding is to think of such scenes of devastation and ruthless destruction as can only command the most heartfelt sympathy from Canadians whose homes have not felt the destruction of war and whose prosperity has not been lessened by the great catastrophe.

Our correspondent embodies in his letter a strong plea for assistance to, if not for "adoption" of the destroyed village of Hesbe'court by some individual or body of farmers in Canada. Whether some sympathetic individual or some strong farmers' club will hear the appeal is a matter for each individual and each club to decide. "The Farmer's Advocate" does not present this matter in the light of a request, but it was felt that such force of commendation as this page carries should be freely bestowed on behalf of a people so unfortunate. What duty each one owes to the badly-shattered districts of Europe no one else can determine, but one's sympathies must always be aroused by conditions of distress. Moreover, appeals for any form of benevolence are seldom made in vain to those who till Canada's fertile soil and are so free to assist a more unfortunate neighbor. If country life barely brings riches it at least brings neighborliness and a sympathy that is never found in the crowded life of the city.

A Packer's Viewpoint.

Business enterprise, shrewdness in finance and the ability to make money are coveted by all. None of us are altogether opposed to the making of money though some may be content with less than others. Profit is synonymous with success in business, and it is not dealing harshly with the truth to say that the accumulation of any considerable profit from farming requires a business acumen equal to that required for any occupation. The successful farmer requires a knowledge that is very diverse since he must deal with every problem from the life-history of an injurious pest to the operation of costly machinery and the condition of the markets. Regarding this latter part of the farming business one of the large packing firms in the United States has made the following statement with which we heartily agree: "As co-operative activities are extended among producers, it may be found advisable for livestock associations to employ expert buyers at the various markets whose duty shall be the filling of orders for association members, for the choice of feeders cannot be safely based on personal fancy. The only true guide is unbiased judgment as to what the market demands in the finished product and what type of feeding cattle will yield the result. An experienced buyer of keen judgment, constantly in touch with the market, should prove as valuable to producers as the expert