

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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1866

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LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 22, 1920

1452

## EDITORIAL.

The frequent use of the cultivator helps insure a good corn crop.

Learn to think for yourself and not be merely an echo of other people's sentiments and ideas.

That pile of manure in the yard will be used to advantage if spread on the meadow to boost next year's hay crop.

In a hurry to arrive at one's destination, excessive speed oftentimes causes undue delay. Safety first is good advice.

While wet weather is not conducive to good hay-making, it is fine for roots, corn, pasture and the rapidly heading oats.

A new Party, a new Premier and a rebuilt Cabinet at Ottawa without a general election, and it is an election that people have been asking for most of all!

Grain intended for seed purposes should be ripe when cut, but that for feed may be cut on the green side, especially if the straw is used for feeding stock.

Bugs are enemies of the potato plant, and arsenate of lead or Paris green are death to bugs. You cannot feed potato bugs and have a good yield of potatoes.

The sound of the binder will soon be heard in the fields. Is the machine in repair, or must a trip be made to town for parts after it has been taken to the field?

After planting high-priced seed the potato patch should receive special attention. After hilling the potatoes, keep the cultivator going to conserve moisture.

There are plenty of young men and women anxious to get on to the movie stage, but very few willing to get on to the farm and help replenish the world's granary.

Fall Fair time is again approaching, and it is not too early to make preparations. Give the boy some encouragement to show, and help him to get the entries ready.

A little extra attention the end of this month and the beginning of next will aid in keeping up the milk flow at the most critical time of the season. In six weeks' time the second growth clover will furnish appetizing feed.

It has been one of the worst haying seasons in years, but one can derive some consolation from the old maxim: "It's a bad wind that does not blow somebody good." The loss may be made up in the increased growth in other crops.

The number of accidents on public highways is appalling. In the majority of cases they are due to gross carelessness on someone's part. If every driver would realize that others have rights on the road and would drive sanely, there would be fewer lives lost. When people take advantage of privileges, restrictions must be enforced.

The recent Hydro-radial controversy has provided the occasion for the rural people of Ontario to again ask: When are the farmers going to get Hydro, and when are some of the back sections going to be opened up by radials? They will be putting this question to Premier Drury more emphatically as time goes by, and it is that question that he is probably preparing himself to answer.

### Scrub Bull Legislation.

Everyone interested in the live stock industry are in agreement on one point, and it is that the scrub bull should be banished. However, when we set about to fill out the extradition papers a slight difference of opinion arises. At the recent conference of Agricultural Representatives, convened at Guelph, a resolution was carried asking for the elimination of the scrub bull by legislative enactment. This means coercion, which is distasteful to many, and it is a question whether by compulsion the most satisfactory success can be attained. At the best, we can expect to see the scrub sire eliminated only after a long, tedious struggle, and when Ontario can boast of that crowning achievement the Province is still only part way on its upward course. It required thirteen long, troublesome years to blot out the grade stallion in Ontario, even with the aid of legislation, and in view of the great numbers involved, one can hardly expect the scrub bull to accept a more abrupt dismissal. The complete elimination of the scrub bull alone will not bring the quality of our cattle stocks up to the high standard required. Those breeding cattle destined for the block must become obsessed with the spirit of improvement and advocates of first-class quality. Improvement is not bred by compulsion, and we can never expect to build a stable live stock industry by force and coercion.

The best results will be brought about by appealing to the conscience and honor of producers. The time is coming when the agricultural fraternity will look with contempt on the man who uses a scrub bull, just as society now looks upon the ordinary "drunk" on the street. Let us hasten the day when all and sundry will be ashamed to use a scrub sire and, with concealed pride in their herds, strive to surpass their neighbors in the excellence of their breeding stock.

Stock raisers need to be shown the difference between good and poorly-bred stuff, and this should be carried to the logical conclusion and the difference in market values revealed to them. They must be told how the surplus of thin, scrubby, poorly-bred cattle impairs Canada's opportunity of competing in the world's markets, and this does injury to every farmer, whether he rears good or bad stock. We have implicit confidence in the Canadian farmer, and sincerely believe that more far-reaching and beneficial results will accrue from an energetic policy of education and persuasion than from legislation and compulsion.

### Breeding in Grain.

The finite mind, be it ever so technical, cannot analyze in full detail the modest little kernel of wheat. Analysts can determine the actual chemical contents of the grain and the amount of such definite and known substances as proteins, starches, fats and ash; but in the germ of every kernel of grain we sow there are wrapped up inherent possibilities that influence to a very appreciable extent the quality and quantity of the harvest. These hidden and invisible characteristics cannot be discerned but they exist in the smallest of seeds and gain expression in the crop, just as the characteristics of a direct line of ancestry reveal themselves in the progeny of pure-bred horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

In days gone by farmers listened with contempt to the exhortations of cerealists, who advised selection and improvement of grain with the same care as exercised in the choice and selection of live stock mated on the farm. It has always been conceded that the best calf crop could only be produced from approved sires and dams, but granting that, farmers have too often sown their grain in the spring-time altogether unmindful of the quality of the seed and the possibilities inherent in it. On the experimental grounds at Macdonald College are standing plots of winter wheat seeded with a strain selected from the Kharkov variety. Inter-

persed among these healthy stands of a selected strain are plots seeded with the original Kharkov and other varieties, but the wheat-plants have succumbed to the cruelties inflicted by a severe winter. The selected Kharkov baffled the elements, while the less hardy varieties fell a victim to them. The difference in all these wheats existed, no doubt, in the tiny germ from which the plant took life.

Hardiness is not the only virtue that is present or absent in the seed we sow. There is or is not the ability to yield well; the power or not the power to resist drought and disease; the tendency or not the tendency to throw up a stout, rigid straw and carry the grain through to a clean harvest. All the virtues we seek in a farm crop are housed, in varying proportions, in the seed sown. Nature is capricious, that is true, and may disconcert the careless or indifferent farmer, but the man who can appreciate the fact that there is "breeding" in grain just as there is "breeding" in live stock, will pay attention to the seed he sows, and reap in proportion to the respect he pays to nature's laws.

### The Wool Market.

Anyone who has wool to sell knows well enough that there is no satisfactory market for it. On the other hand, when we purchase goods alleged to contain wool the price is staggering, and the report is that prices on woollen goods are due for a raise this fall, and, if nothing unforeseen occurs, they will soar still higher next spring. After taking everything into consideration, there seems to be no more powerful factor governing the whole wool market than the determination of manufacturers, at home and abroad, to get wool at a low initial cost and then tax consumers every cent the traffic will bear. The sheep industry is threatened in this country by the existing situation, and producers would like to have those entrusted with the enforcement of law and the administration of justice dig the Ethiopian out of the wool-pile.

It has been said that if the textile people got wool for nothing the price of goods would not come down, because wool constitutes such an insignificant item in the total cost of the finished product. Through what door do the enormous costs enter? It was shown during the Budget debate in the House of Commons that Canadian textile firms do not maintain a high wage standard. If the price of raw material and labor costs are not the factors governing the value of the finished product, what is? There is, we are told, a huge foreign demand that is now creating and maintaining a remunerative market for worsted goods. This being so, one would expect to see it reflected in the price of raw materials, as it is in the case of wheat, beef, lumber or minerals. The impression is abroad, and it seems to have foundation in facts, that producers and consumers alike are caught in the grip of a few so powerful that even the Government recoils when they approach.

In an article published in the Live Stock Department of this issue, J. D. Brien points out that the sheep industry is in peril, and he asks for a commission to investigate. It is an easy matter to investigate the producer's end of the business, and it has been done time and time again, but if a provincial commission attempted to get at the root of the trouble they would run up against a formidable stone wall. Honorable Mr. Raney explained in detail, during the last session of the Legislature, that the power to investigate unfair prices, etc., was relegated to the Board of Commerce, but the people of Canada have now lost what confidence they imposed in that institution, for sovereign voters were inclined to pay some attention to the glaring charges of James Murdock, even if the Government did not. In the letter accompanying his resignation from the Board of Commerce, Mr. Murdock writes:

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