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LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 17, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

If you can do so, grow more live stock.

Buy your seed corn, grass seeds, and all seeds early.

It seems about time warnings were heeded in Canada.

The man who buys seed corn, shelled, is taking too big a risk.

Wilson is the U. S. President, but Roosevelt appears to set the pace.

A badly-managed convention or public meeting detracts greatly from the value of the good things accomplished.

If there is any unemployment among able-bodied men in Canada this year, there is something wrong with the men.

Men who have risen from the ranks are becoming increasingly popular the world over, and generally they are most efficient.

The feeder must always remember when measuring out his feed at this season of the year that it is a long way to June grass.

Good seed corn is worth \$3 per bushel; ordinary corn is worth 60 cents per bushel. So says Prof. Moore, the corn man of Wisconsin.

Not only did Canada produce a magnificent crop in 1915, but this country's live-stock men had a prosperous year, as indicated by the reports of the various breed society annual meetings in last week's issue.

Perhaps a few indications of Hun frightfulness will awaken Canada's authorities to the fact that Canada is at war with a clever, crafty and "cultured" foe, and that it is necessary to guard certain property in this country a little more closely.

It was one of the ironies of fate that Canada's Senate, after the Parliament Buildings' fire, was called upon to meet in a room in Victoria Museum, set apart for fossils and extinct levithans, and that the House of Commons met in the theatre of the same building with curtains and footlights.

A practical farmer recently said to us: "I like the old Farmer's Advocate because its publishers never attempt to induce us to subscribe by giving us a fountain pen that will not write, or a razor that will not cut. We get good value in the paper itself, and have no time for trashy premiums."

We would advise everyone who can do so to save a few good roots—mangels and turnips—to plant for the production of their own seed this year. A young farmer recently told us of his experience last year, when from 100 mangels he produced 15 lbs. of cleaned seed. He found no trouble in growing the seed which germinates nearly 100 per cent.

The Best Use of Fertilizers.

Every farmer is interested in fertilizers. It is essential to his prosperity that he grow big crops. We have heard men say that they did not believe in growing twice as much and getting half the price per unit for it, totalling them no more than if they grew half the amount and sold it at double the price, and no one can blame the producer in ordinary times, for considering such a question. All producers should carefully consider cost of production and profits made from the sale price. There is a point in increasing production beyond which it is impossible to go and still make a profit, but our best farmers believe in getting a big crop from a smaller acreage rather than a lighter yield from a larger area. To get this big crop, fertilizer of some kind is necessary. As a basis of fertilization, Prof. Harcourt, in an excellent article on fertilizers in this issue, places farmyard manure in its proper place. Artificial fertilizers are often necessary, but generally as a supplement to farmyard manure. Most farms have manure, and the more of it the better. On every farm some green manure should be plowed down. After this, commercial fertilizers may be and often are necessary, but the farmer must be sure that he is applying the proper materials. There is nothing to gain by adding expensive nitrogen to a soil in which there is plenty to ensure rapid and rank growth of the crop placed upon it. Likewise it would be wasted money to add phosphoric acid or potash to a soil in which these are abundant and in an available form. Sometimes it is necessary to add something to aid in rendering these available. Lime is a substance used for this purpose. It must be remembered that artificial fertilizers are not used to take the place of farmyard manure but to supplement it; they are not used to enrich the soil but to feed the plant; and that it is necessary to experiment in order to find out what the soil needs, keeping in mind the crops to be grown on it, for different crops require different kinds and amounts of plant food. The soil should be well drained. Read Prof. Harcourt's article.

No More Pooling System.

For nearly twenty years professors, dairy instructors and farmers have been agitating for some method of paying for milk at cheese factories that would be more just than the antique method known as the "pooling system." But, after all these years of talk, the farmer who has built up a high-testing herd, still receives at many factories, less than the actual value of the milk for cheese purposes, while the man with the low-testing herd receives more than he is entitled to. Surely no dairyman wishes to profit at his neighbor's expense. Authorities, who have conducted experiments in order to determine a just method of payment, have come to the conclusion that there are several methods more accurate than the old system of considering that all milk is of equal value for making cheese. By manufacturing milk from individual herds into cheese, Geo. H. Barr, Chief of the Dairy Division, Ottawa, found that with cheese at 15 cents per pound 100 lbs. of milk testing 3.4 per cent. fat and 2.3 per cent. casein made cheese valued at 91.34, while 100 lbs. of milk testing 4.1 per cent. fat and 2.1 per cent. casein was worth \$1.52, when made into cheese, or a difference of 18 cents per hundred pounds. On the pooling basis, with cheese figured at the same price, both samples of milk

would be paid for at the rate of \$1.30 per 100 lbs. It is impossible for a cheese-maker to manufacture the milk delivered by each man separately, and pay according to the amount and value of cheese made, but experiments have proven that "2" represents fairly accurately the amount of casein in the milk, and by taking the "per cent. fat plus "2" method of dividing money among patrons of cheese factories, Mr. Barr found it to correspond very closely with the value of cheese actually made. This system could be worked at every factory, the cheese-maker testing the milk each man delivers, and adding "2" to the test to represent the casein. True, it will mean more work for the cheese-maker, but the patrons can afford to pay for the extra work. Every dairyman will then receive what he is entitled to, and it will be an encouragement to improve the quality of the milk by building up a high-testing herd.

Market Only The Best Apples.

Co-operation will not solve the problem which apple growers have to face if they attempt to use a good organization through which to market bad fruit. There are two factors which may be considered paramount—organization and quality. Poor quality and good organization, will make a very difficult team to handle, they cannot be harnessed together. Members who belong to associations having unimpeachable reputations are those who will best survive the adjustment of the fruit industry, which we hear from optimists is about to take place. What that adjustment signifies need not be discussed here, but if the record crop, which is expected both in Canada and the United States in 1916, materializes, the adjustment will receive a great impetus we are sure. To be brief, it seems necessary for all co-operative associations and marketing societies to advise the members against the practice of supplying the trade with anything inferior to a No. 1 or a No. 2. The standards for these two grades are at present low enough to suit any grower who seriously considers the competition he must meet, and is mindful for the future. Apples which would not class as No. 1 or No. 2 have been marketed in the past, and usually after expenses have been deducted the grower has become aware that he has accomplished little more than to destroy, to a considerable extent, the demand for the graded product out of which he must make profits.

A word of explanation may be opportune here. We do not wish to imply that Ontario growers are producing and marketing a poor quality of apples, but in every crop there is a percentage of inferior stuff, and too many ambitious packers have been loath to see it wasted. Through various channels this fruit of No. 3 quality, or whatever one wishes to term it, reaches the retail trade. In a parsimonious moment the consumer buys it. The demand for that quantity of standard fruit is destroyed, the purchaser is dissatisfied in the end, and the prospects for future sales are impaired. It is poor business; it reflects upon the grower most seriously, and upon the good and bad alike. Canadians are not the only ones guilty of misdemeanor in this regard. Shippers from the Northwestern States annually dump approximately 1,000 carloads of apples into the Prairie markets, and 85 per cent. of those apples are "C" grade. The effect is well explained in the words of R. M. Winslow, Horticulturist for British Columbia. He says, "The American