

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

"The Farmer's Advocate" wishes all its readers a joyous Christmas and a year of plenty in 1917.

Prevention of waste is essential in high places as well as on the farm.

Party politics, pull, graft, inefficiency—these grow more loathsome daily.

Those who will not farm need grumble little at the high prices of farm produce.

Consumers sometimes forget that hens and cows eat before they lay eggs and let down milk.

It will take a long pull and a strong pull to win this war and none of the kind of "pull" which the politicians exert.

If all the people at home were possessed of the same spirit as is manifested by the boys who return from the front, the war would not last long.

Rest up during these long winter evenings in preparation to do two men's work next summer. When resting read a little to help do the work more easily.

The people of the British Empire will stand behind the leaders ready to prosecute the war more vigorously. Canada is, comparatively speaking, still poorly organized.

Subscribe to your farm paper at once. No one can give any assurance as to the price remaining as low as it is. The early bird may save fifty cents or a dollar.

A subscriber told us the other day that this year's Christmas Number was better than last year's. That is just what we try to do each year—beat all former records.

The people of Canada agreed with John Bright, Canada's Live Stock Commissioner, when he asserted at the Guelph Winter Fair that to let oleomargarine into Canada at this time would be "suicidal."

The city woman who would remove the tariff on foodstuffs alone, doesn't even know that there is a tariff on farm implements and machinery, and that said tariff has any effect on the cost of production.

It is difficult to be "merry" at this time, but sadness should not weigh down those who have lost loved ones in the path of duty. The world honors the man who sees his duty and faces fearful odds to do his bit.

No one but the reporters missed the lectures at the Winter Fair very much, and to them it was a great relief not to be obliged to listen to the same old story from which they were expected to turn out something new and startling.

There are still a few of those irresponsibles roaming around who would send every man and boy, fit or otherwise, from the farms to the war. One of them appeared before a Women's Institute gathering a short time ago, and the wonder is that some hard-worked farmer's wife in the audience did not call some of her bluff. Some of these ladies who rave about what someone else was able to grow in the backyard and what some farm women should do on the land, would look well on the business end of a five-tined fork at the rear of a long line of dairy cows. Fortunately, most city women have more sense than to belittle the efforts of farm women and farmers.

## The Man of the Hour.

Lloyd-George, the man described as having the swiftest mind in politics—the man who stops not to think, but acts, has risen to the premiership of the British Isles when action is the prime necessity. He has accepted the biggest task of his brilliant career, and the nation hopes with confidence that he will do the job. It augurs well that Asquith, whom Lloyd-George succeeds, has asked his party to support the new ministry. It is also worthy of comment that Bonar Law, a man who was big enough to turn down the premiership in favor of Lloyd-George, is to be one of his right-hand men. Asquith and Law are men of tested mettle, but the biggest of all seems to be the man chosen for the task in hand.

Lloyd-George has had a rapid rise to fame and position. He was born of Welsh parents in Manchester in 1863. His father died while the boy was young and the family moved to Wales, where the present premier struggled through many difficulties. It is said that, as a small boy, he divided an egg with his brother on Sundays, the only meat allowance for the week. However, he managed to get education enough to teach school, and with the aid of a shoemaker uncle, who was also a local preacher, he studied law, and at 21 he was a solicitor. It is said that his first case was on the side of the village people in fighting a tyrannic old parson who refused the dying wish of a Dissenter to be buried beside his child in the church graveyard. Lloyd-George, it is alleged, headed the band which dug up the body and placed it beside the child. Litigation followed, but Lloyd-George finally won out in the High Court. He became so popular with the people that they elected him to parliament in 1890 at the age of 27, and he has represented the same constituency ever since. From poor boy to premier, from a penny village school in Wales to first citizen of the British Empire is a long, hard road, but the fighting Welshman has gone through it all and knows from experience many things which those whose positions have been attained with comparative ease could not know or appreciate. It is this perhaps that makes him the friend of the masses—he knows their needs—it is this that calls forth the love and admiration of the British people.

The Hon. David Lloyd-George has a personality which means much in politics. He is witty rather than discreet. He is a man of action with no time for leisurely loafing. He accepts every challenge, and thoroughly enjoys a fight. He was for a time rather unpopular because he objected to the prosecution of the South African war, but he saved the Asquith Ministry in 1909 by his budget which attacked the land monopoly. He came into special prominence in the troublous political times, beginning with 1906. In 1908 he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer. Asquith stood by him in the fight against the land monopoly, and the struggle ended in defeat for the House of Lords. Gardiner says Lloyd-George's speeches have the quality of vision and swift intuition rather than of the slow processes of thought. He has great insight and believes in bold strokes. He is looked upon by some as pragmatic, but he is essentially a man of the people for the people. He is spoken of as the voice of democracy, and democracy to him is loyal.

Small of stature, but a giant from the chin up, he is now in the most important position within the reach of a British subject and at a time when Britain needs great statesmen. His opponents and his admirers see in him "the most formidable figure that has appeared in British politics since Gladstone." He has made himself what he is, through the mill which grinds continuously—school teacher, solicitor, M. P., Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister of Munitions, Secretary for War, Premier. He has organized Britain's factories; he has been the friend of humanity; his task now is for humanity against the threatening Hun. Will he measure up? The people

have faith. The little Welshman may be the fulfilment of Tolstoi's prophecy, that a man of the people would come out of the great north-west and put a final end to war.

## The Milk-Producers' Movement.

Milk producers in close proximity to several of our larger towns and cities are banding themselves into organizations this winter. We are pleased to see this movement, and feel that it augurs well for this branch of Canada's great dairy industry. City dwellers, however, have fears that organization means dearer milk, and these newly formed associations should show the consumers that the organization is in their best interests, as well as good policy for the producers. Milk distributors are banded together in nearly every city, and to safeguard themselves producers, in many cases, were forced to join hands.

Now, what should be done? Obviously organization should mean better milk and more of it. Producers' meetings should be addressed by producers, and the whole should tend to increase the milk production per cow, to improve the quality of the output, and to place it in the hands of distributors or consumers in the best possible condition for consumption. Producers are not banding together to demand exorbitant prices. Milk at present prices is being produced at a loss on many farms, and few are making even fair profits, because feed and labor are almost out of reach. Meetings of producers' organizations should help toward more successful dairying, and discussions at these meetings should always be with a view to increasing the output of first-class milk from a stated number of cows. Producers are deserving of the good will of the consumer this winter, for, even though milk is high, it is cheap in comparison with the cost of cattle feed and with the cost of some other human necessities, and the producers have not sought to unduly raise the price. Organization should first mean a choice product, and then a price corresponding to the quality.

## Get Together.

Some rather amusing incidents occur in connection with discussions on the High Cost of Living and other economic problems. Consumers' leagues and organizations, conscientious in their endeavors, sometimes are also ridiculous. For instance, not long ago a meeting of such nature in Toronto passed a resolution asking the government to remove the duty on foodstuffs, and said nothing about the duty on farm implements and machinery, which is a big factor in the cost of production and, therefore, in the cost of living. One can scarcely conceive how even a consumer could argue in favor of duty-free foodstuffs while this tariff remained on the very things essential to produce foodstuffs in abundance in this country. As we look at the various questions with which both consumers and producers are concerned, we are more and more convinced that what is good for one class is, in the long run, good for both, provided both classes are fair in their judgments and see profit to themselves in whatever brings prosperity to the country as a whole. There are too many twenty-per-cent. profits taken between the producer and the consumer, and to overcome the difficulty consumers must organize and so must producers. Properly accomplished this would mean more money to the producer, and produce at a lower cost to the consumer. Farmers should organize; consumers should organize; and the two organizations should get together for the good of both classes.

It is a big man who, when beaten, turns round and supports his successor. Asquith did it, and Bonar Law is deserving of almost as much credit for the way in which he turned down the premiership to serve under Lloyd-George.