

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Canada should have no idle men in 1918.

When stockmen get together they get results.

There is no use making a peace that cannot be maintained.

You cannot plow or cultivate now, but you can plan and repair.

The surest method of hastening peace is to prepare to go on with the war.

The big outfit with one man will be the rule this year, instead of two outfits and two men.

All organization for greater production in 1918 should be under way now. An early start is half the battle.

Lloyd-George says, "if the Allies are short of food it is because the farmer is handling a rifle to defend his country, instead of the plough."

It is possible for one seed of oats to produce 100 bushels in the third year. The careful farmer is sure that his seed is of the best variety.

Short tests do not mean as much to the experienced dairyman as long-term tests. Long-distance producers are the cows which make the herd valuable.

The task of a Food Controller is more or less a thankless one. It is not without difficulty that producers and consumers are pleased at one and the same time.

The man in the country feels the thing called the high cost of living too and perhaps just a little more than his brother in the city, because he has more to buy.

Threshing gangs would allow the farmer two weeks to work on his own farm in the fall, instead of his having to "go threshing" for those two weeks, leaving his team idle.

The successful feeder studies his animals individually and in his barn there never is any feed left in manger or troughs and yet the stock are all fed to the satisfied stage.

When feed is high cull flocks and herds closely. Heavy producers pay better now than ever before while the boarder cows and hens are more costly than ever.

Sheep breeders should be careful to watch their interests and not allow textile manufacturers to gain an undue advantage through the embargo route or other means.

Increased freight rates would mean an extra burden on the people of Canada of about forty million dollars, about twenty-five millions of which would go into the coffers of corporations now making good returns and paying satisfactory dividends.

In some Canadian cities drastic action has been taken to prevent farmers from getting coal and in some places farmers have been refused coal tickets. Some people do not seem to realize that thousands of farms have no wood on them and that the people living on them are just as dependent upon coal for fuel as are those living in cities. Moreover, on many farms labor is not available to cut a supply of wood on short notice. City Fuel Commissions should take these points into consideration.

Farm Labor Must be Had.

We have grown so accustomed to reading headlines after the following style: "Food Will Win The War," and "The Farmer Holds the Second Line of Trenches," that many of us pass over them without a second thought much as we do the hundreds of war headlines which we read from day to day and forget just as regularly when the next "extra" comes off the press. But we should not forget. The year 1918 will be more than ever a testing time for the farms and farmers of North America. It becomes more apparent daily that food will win this war and, this being true, it bears out the statement that the man honestly working on the land holds the second line of defence, and to his lot falls the duty of producing that which will send the first line over the top and on to glorious victory. Food is necessary to maintain the strength and morale of the army. It is also necessary to maintain the morale of the people at home. A nation insufficiently fed cannot fight its best, nay it cannot even fight well. America, closer to Britain, France, Belgium and Italy than other food-producing nations such as Argentina, Australia and India must, because of scarcity of transport space, do its utmost in 1918. More food for the shortest haul should be the motto. Canada, per capita the heaviest producing country in the world, must do better than ever before. The new United States army of over a million men will make great calls upon the food supplies of that country. Canada must put forth the greatest possible effort. The land is everywhere abundant in this country but laborers are few. The time is short in which to act. If food will win the war, then the man who conscientiously works his best to produce food is doing his country's work. Millions of men on the firing line without rations would be just as helpless as millions without arms and ammunition. Food is also absolutely essential for the people who carry on industry in the countries of the Allies. Men, women and children comprising the civilian population of the Allied countries must be fed. The farmer is in the fight. The farm laborer is in it too, whether on the farm or at the front. True, a large number have left the plow for the rifle, perhaps too many, but that is not for us to say. The thing to be done now is to organize for a big effort this year. The extremity of the nations demanded that Canada conscript men to fight the battle of Democracy. Has it reached the stage where it is found necessary to change the occupations of other men? If so let it be done. If not, let us give up the dream of greater production in Canada for it cannot be reasonably expected that with an average year the crops of this country can be very greatly increased unless more farm labor is available. There should be no idle men in 1918. There should be no men working at unnecessary industry if we are on the verge of starvation. Recruit for the farms if it will result in supplying the necessary labor. If not, then there is only one road open, conscript for food production. Remember Canada is peculiarly situated. One man on the land here is worth, in actual production, from six to ten men in the older countries because we have the acreage to grow cereals, and cereals are needed. The cry is for food. Farmers, as a class, are doing all they can with the help available. The few who slink under the circumstances do not matter. It is obvious then that greater production, if it is to be accomplished, requires more men, women, boys and girls on the farm. It is the Government's duty to secure the supply before it asks for increased production. It is then the duty of farmers, once the supply is available, to use it to the best advantage, to be fair and considerate and do all possible to make the new arrangements a success. This country is in a war which must be won. We are told that food will win it. The boys at the front have never shirked their responsibility. The Government and the people at home are surely not going to flunk now. A fair, square deal is all farmers and those who might be taken as farm laborers ask. Those at home

work on a little different basis from the men at the front. There are many industries here. "Out there," there is only one job. Here each industry will expect fair treatment according to its value to the nation in the war. Industry must not be too badly upset, but neither must our brave boys, our Allies with their women and children, and our own people starve. What action will be taken? The time grows short. Canada's duty is plain. The help must be had to produce food.

Canada's Billion-dollar Live-stock Industry.

The crisis in the Great War is turning thought toward food production, and Canada's part is this end of the game. Canada is a country of fertile acres. In a pinch cereals and other farm crops are more essential than meats to save people from starvation. But our live-stock industry must be preserved and pushed forward to meet after-the-war demands as well as to supply meat and necessary fats while the war is still in progress. No sane man would say kill off all live stock and grow only wheat and oats. On the other hand, he would advise the growing of all wheat and oats possible, while our live-stock breeders "carry on" in live stock and endeavor by breeding the best and culling out the inferior to keep the industry to the front and in a state to emerge from the war in a position to be a real force in the reconstruction to follow. At present there is an urgent call for more pork. The meat and fat supply can be increased through pigs more quickly than through any other class of stock, and that is why they were chosen for the special call. More cattle and more sheep are needed also, and not only more, but higher quality stock.

The breeders of pure-bred stock have worked untold good for this country, but there task is only begun. There are too many grade and scrub sires still in use. There are too many inferior breeding females which do not pay their way still on the farms, and yet we have not enough stock—enough of the right kind. World depletion of live stock is in daily progress. Since 1915 there has been a decrease of over 115,000,000 head, of which over 50,000,000 head have been cattle and the remainder almost equally divided between sheep and swine. Canada, since 1914, has shown a decrease of 31,000 milk cows, 38,000 other cattle, 49,000 sheep and 921,000 hogs. The Canadian live-stock breeders have a big task ahead, but they are big men and, when big men get together as they are doing this week in Toronto, no problem is unsolvable. Now is the time for Canada's live-stock breeders to get together, to further organization, to improve their own herds and flocks through the use of the best available sires and to induce those using grades and scrubs to discard them for the better. Never was a choice sire so valuable as he is to-day, and never was a scrub at the head of a herd or flock such a curse. Community breeding should be promoted now so that the influence of the few choice sires might be more widespread. A recent dairy investigation revealed the fact that nearly 50 per cent. of the sires in use in a good dairy district were grades, and one-third the remainder scrub pure-breds. A similar state of affairs likely exists with other classes of stock. Now is the time for members of a community to decide on a breed, buy a good sire and a few foundation females and get a start on the right road. A world shortage of live stock is imminent. Will Canadian breeders be ready? Working together will help.

Canada's live stock to-day is worth over one billion dollars. Roughly, we have three million horses worth 420 million dollars; six million cattle worth over 480 million dollars; two million sheep worth 40 million dollars; three million hogs worth 45 million dollars, and twenty-eight million hens worth 28 million dollars. A total of 1,013 millions of dollars. Truly the live-stock industry is a great industry. It is a billion-dollar in-