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EDITORIAL

A great many people are looking for a job with the work left out.

Uncle Bijé says the trouble with a lot of folks is that they do not like to sweat.

Recent army worm outbreaks again emphasize the necessity for farmers to stand together against all foes.

The hay crop was light, but in most sections the weather was dry and we never saw better hay made in so short a time.

Never did we see better prospects for mangels. This crop seems to enjoy heat, and stands drouth well if frequently cultivated.

Unless all signs fail cattle for beefing purposes will be scarcer this fall than for many years, and the finished beef next spring will be correspondingly hard to pick up.

From experience last year and for some years previously it would seem that early spring sowing of fall wheat produced the best yields. Now is the time to be getting the land ready.

If the government has a few millions of dollars lying idle, as in prospect, why not invest them in schools for industrial and technical education, including agriculture, rather than in institutions for the promotion of militarism?

The deep significance of a hundred years of peace between Great Britain and the United States is long in reaching the consciousness of some of our military statesmen. One might suppose they were preparing for a hundred years of war.

A hostile army has invaded several portions of our country in the form of the army worm. Such as these are the real enemies of the land, and all the military paraphernalia is helpless to drive out the invaders. Knowledge and reason must be appealed to.

Some of the old meadows produced a very light crop this year, which was mostly Canadian blue grass. These are not likely to be good fields of hay next year if left, but if plowed right away and the top kept well cultivated they may be turned into after-haying summer-fallows to good advantage.

The recent serious outbreaks of the army worm in several sections of Ontario only serve to drive home the necessity of keeping a watchful eye on all parts of the farm. And watching is not all that is necessary; quick action is imperative. It is the man who sees a thing and does it that succeeds.

When one sees the hayloader loading hay and the fork or slings unloading it, and turns in another direction and sees the self-binder cutting and tying the crop and carrying it into rows, and looking in another direction beholds the two-row corn cultivator cleaning the corn by strokes in both directions, made possible by the corn being planted in rows each way by the check-row planter, he is forced to conclude the farmer's up-to-date implements and machinery are his best friends in these days of few hired men.

Corn, The Crop of Crops

In travelling over the country from year to year many changes are noted in crops and cropping. Perhaps most conspicuous of all to the casual observer is the rapid increase in the acreage of corn and mangels, and the gradual, almost rapid, decrease in Swede turnips. Corn is now the main feed crop on hundreds of farms in Ontario where the Swede turnip formerly was relied upon to bring the cattle through the winter in a healthy and thriving state, and the mangel crop is fast crowding the remnant of the turnip acreage off the farms. It is no uncommon occurrence to see fields of anywhere from six to fifteen acres of corn with a strip of from two to five acres of mangels at one side, where, under former conditions, the large acreage would have been turnips and Swedes with only a small strip, possibly an acre and a half, mangels. There are two good reasons for the change. Corn has demonstrated that it is the crop that produces feed in greatest abundance and not only in largest quantity but at less expense than roots, therefore, the far-seeing farmer has erected a silo and grows corn. He gets good feed, plenty of it, and his labor bill for his hoed crop is cut in half. Why shouldn't he grow corn? Mangels, as a general thing, outyield turnips, are sown and hoed earlier and are generally preferred for feeding milk cows and young stock, and so, too, they have rightfully shoved the good old turnip crop down into a smaller corner. On your next trip over a long or short distance just recall the crops of a few years ago and compare them with those of to-day, and note how the live-stock farmer is keeping abreast of the times and changed conditions which demand changes on the farm.

The Six-o'Clock Man.

Did you ever notice that the man who sits on the fence for ten minutes waiting for the hands on his watch to get around to seven o'clock before he starts the day's work on the farm, and the man who would unhitch his horses at the far end of the field when the bell or whistle announced the hour of six p.m., are usually the poorest men in the field between the hours of seven and twelve and one and six? No man who is taking the interest he should in his farmer employer's work is so particular to a few minutes morning or evening. Do not think for one moment we are advocating long days. Not at all. As a general practice they are a detriment to progress; but at this season of the year conditions may arise which make it necessary for the best interests of the farmer and his men in getting the crop harvested to work a few days a little early or an hour late. Only a few such days may or should arise on a well-managed farm. It is not often necessary to draw in longer than ten hours, and reaping is a short work on most Eastern farms, but it may be that a certain field is in fine condition to go in the barn, and in fact may be all harvested but a load or two at six o'clock. The wind may be blowing damp from the southeast with an overcast sky threatening a heavy rainfall. The six-o'clock-under-all-conditions man lays down his fork and quits. Unless other willing workers are plentiful the remaining two loads gets soaked, possibly partially spoiled. Here is where a good system which should show in some cases a little more elasticity is overstretched. On the other hand no one can blame men for not wanting to

work from daylight until dark. Just be reasonable. Quit at six as a general rule, but do not object to an hour or two later if conditions demand it.

Too Much Farm and Too Few Men.

You have read time and again that the labor question and the falling off in rural population is fast becoming a very serious matter in this country, and yet while you have had help within your family or were able to hire efficient labor to do the work, the real serious side did not present itself. Nevertheless it is serious, far more so than many believe and unless a remedy is found agriculture must suffer, and if agriculture suffers in a country like this everybody feels the result. It is simply a question of too much farm with too little help on a large percentage of Ontario farms to-day. One-hundred-acre farms are being operated by the owner with the help perhaps of a little boy and an odd day's work. Two hundred and two-hundred-and-fifty-acre farms are only half worked in many cases by the owner with one hired man engaged for a few months in the summer. This cannot go on without injuring the yearly returns. True, labor-saving implements and machinery are doing much to get over the scarcity of hired help, but they cannot do it all.

There seems to be two wrongs, and it is an old saying that two wrongs never make a right. First, the hiring system on many farms is wrong, and second, the men available are not always the kind that the farmer could put up with for long. There are many good and worthy men to be hired, but not nearly enough to go around, and of the few of the out-of-work class in the cities who do drift out to the farms, too many would rather be summer boarders and walking bosses than farm laborers getting a fair wage with good bed and board. The man who has to be coaxed to go on a farm or driven to it by sheer privation and want is not often a first-class man. He wants about five big meals a day, a long sleep, a short working day, and all the nicest jobs on the ranch, while the boss does the dirty and heavy work. This class of man is no use to the farming community. The problem is to get the good men to do farm work, and here is where the farmer must do his part. Give yearly employment, and plan operations so that the hired man is a profitable investment winter and summer, and besides provide a comfortable little cottage for the man, and encourage him in his work on the farm. Do this and it will induce good men to take up farm work, and nothing but the good men are profitable. Let the soup kitchens feed the loafers, and the farm provide steady employment for the industrious. More men must be had or smaller farms must result.

Big Tasks for Big Men.

It has been computed that by the end of the year over 200,000 men in Canada will be needing employment, with the grim outlook before them of starvation or deportation to the overcrowded and hopeless lands from whence they came. This, if a correct forecast, is surely an astounding condition of affairs. The country has been spending vast sums in the development of a system to promote immigration of a supposedly good class of people. We have untold millions of acres of fertile land, some timbered, others prairie needing settlement. Thousands upon thousands of acres of farm land in old Can-