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1875

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OF 1875

VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 27, 1915.

No. 1183

EDITORIAL.

Provide pasture for the pigs.

Harrow the corn and potatoes.

Have you begun the war on weeds?

What about the garden? Hoe it often.

Do not forget the salt in the pasture field.

Not more acres, but better methods on smaller farms!

Keep the watering troughs clean and full of fresh water.

Build a silo this summer and save expensive feed next winter.

Get the cultivator going early in the roots and hoed crops. It saves hoeing.

Do not forget the strip of corn for fall feed besides the regular acreage for silo purposes.

In planting late potatoes try ploughing them down every third furrow and about four or five inches deep.

A little clover cut and fed to the bull will help to keep him in good condition. It is a first-class tonic.

The probabilities are that the citizen at home and the citizen in uniform will hereafter wear better boots.

Is the calf paddock ready for the calves? Calves do best outside nights and stabled during the day in fly time.

If you would build up a good herd do not use too young a sire. An old, tried bull will prove safer than a yearling.

Old-time dairymen recall the days when cheese sold from pioneer Canadian factories at about six cents per pound.

Your wife has the house cleaning done; have you cleaned up the yard and the general surroundings of the farm buildings?

One of the little ironies of the season is reading garden hose display advertisements when the plot is under a deluge of rain water.

Road-work time is approaching. Do it more thoroughly than formerly. There is no economy in attempting to cheat the municipality.

The sinking of the Lusitania, celebrated in Germany by holiday making, may yet be one of the bitterest pills that Germany has to swallow.

If Germany keeps up her tactics against neutrals there will soon be no neutrals, and the neutrals with the Allies will soon mean no Germany.

Three years approximately will grow a horse, but it requires seven times three years to restore the manhood offered as a sacrifice upon the altar of the country.

The Kaiser's Profit and Loss Account.

What shall it profit a nation to gain the whole world and lose its own soul? What shall it profit Germany to have declared war upon Russia and hacked its way through little Belgium to strike a swift blow at France? What can ever reburnish the national honor, blackened when sacred obligations were repudiated, named and nameless atrocities perpetrated, whole communities robbed, and the mothers and babes on the Lusitania destroyed with malice aforethought? Remembering her partnership with the cruel and degraded Turk, are there any greater depths of infamy to which a once revered and triumphant people can be sunk by the envy and ambition of a malevolent militarism? Millions of her brightest and sturdiest sons gone down to fertilize blood-sodden earth—what Kaiser can ever resurrect them, and what harvest can he hope to garner? What recompense can ever be gained for the deluge of wasted resources? What Von Tripitz will refloat the commerce swept off the seven seas? Or what Berlin statesman revive the vanished colonies of Tsingtau and South-west Africa? Suppose the impossible, that she could overcome the forces gathering against her, the German people would still be incalculable losers.

Proud Germany once had a place in the sun. Her technical schools were upheld as models. Foreign students crowded her universities and her schools of music. Pictures painted by her artists were found in the public collections of other nations. She was a clearing house for fertilizers, fertilizing lore and seed culture. Without let or hindrance her traders and travellers were everywhere. Civic students from abroad went to copy her municipal systems and her superbly managed cities. In lands like Canada, to be of German extraction, was a synonym for thrift and solid progress in commerce or in agriculture. On ten thousand counters "made in Germany" was a magic phrase. One can yet hear the German harmonica and the memory lingers still of toys made by the deft fingers of German boys and girls and women. Germany was going ahead in the sun on a march of real world conquest and great prosperity. She sacrificed all upon a throw of loaded dice in the game of war!

In an evil hour she had listened to the voices of false teachers who have betrayed her to ruin and the detestation of the world. Abandoning old faiths she has destroyed faith in herself and lacerated the heart of humanity. The greed that seized a Chinese province has been rebuked by the Japanese, whom she once defrauded! The Kaiser in Kruger's day sent a cable message to inflame South Africa against the British. To-day the former rebel, General Botha, inspired by the genius of British justice and freedom, is ousting German legions. France, surprised and astounded after the first stunning shock, abandoned all her frivolities and non-essentials for a conflict to the death that seems destined to revoke the bloody Bismarckian forgery of forty-eight years ago. When the ruthless march across Belgium began, out of the gray mists north of the English Channel, arose an opposing spirit accusing and unconquerable. When the Lusitania went down, a cry of murder on the high seas went up in America, and the soul of Lincoln, appearing in Woodrow Wilson, called a halt to the insane marauder of the twentieth century. Learning nothing from the fate of the Corsican, Bonapart, she harkens her soul for greed. A nation may be despoiled of

her purse and count her loss as trash, but filched of her once good name she is left poor indeed—the prince becomes a pauper.

The Educational Problem of Ontario.

The annual report of the Minister of Education for Ontario, covering the year 1914, calls attention with satisfaction to the progress of special instruction in "technical and industrial subjects and in agricultural courses." The increase and prosperity of Continuation Schools, which provide in many cases secondary education for the sons and daughters of farmers close to their homes, is regarded by the Minister as encouraging. An improvement in salaries of teachers is recorded in the following table:

	1908		1913	
	male	female	male	female
Rural schools	\$462	\$382	\$591	\$524
Urban schools	995	516	1,225	647
All schools	624	432	838	575

The higher average of remuneration received by city and town teachers as a class is probably brought up by the much larger salaries paid the increasing number of principals and others in the large and crowded urban schools. The increased cost of primary education in the five-year period above tabulated amounted to 43 per cent., or an advance from \$7,943, 826 in 1908 to \$12,325,907 in 1913. Advances have been made for accommodation and equipment as well as salaries. As might be expected with the greater growth of cities and towns compared with rural communities, the enrolment of urban schools shows an increase of 15,218, while rural schools declined by 2,027. The falling off is attributed by the Minister to laxity in enforcing compulsory attendance rather than to displacement of population. Distributed over 6,000 odd rural schools, the drop of 2,000 in attendance may not seem to some alarming, but when one considers the naturally splendid agricultural and horticultural conditions and opportunities of a province like Ontario, there would seem to be something more radically astray than the non-enforcement of truancy laws to bring rural scholars to the schools. Many factors have doubtless been operating to divert the rural-grown people to the towns, but a speaker at the last meeting of the Ontario Educational Association was probably near the mark in saying that "the big problem of Ontario is to conserve her rural population, and the present school system will never do that." As readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" are aware, many rural schools within the reach of the District Representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture have been quickened and wonderfully improved in their activities and relation to rural life by plans which these capable men have carried out. That things have not been right, however, in the regular educational machinery, text books, etc., of the over-praised Ontario system is plainly evident from the many supplemental and optional plans designed as remedies. If all were well the educational authorities would not need to be resorting to such measures, which are virtually a confession of the weakness of the old order, and that something yet more thoroughgoing is needed to relate the work of the schools more closely and helpfully to the great, fundamental occupation of this country and to rural life in the preservation and influence of which the future well-being of the nation so largely lies.