

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

There is a lot of "fixing" needed besides price fixing.

The hen is worth good care summer as well as winter

Conscription, properly carried out, will put all on a fair basis.

A summer-fallow for wheat may mean a real crop next year.

France is deserving of all the help her Allies can give, and that immediately.

May 1917, though cool, was a big improvement on the same month in 1916.

Canada is being defended on the fields of Flanders and France. All must help

The pride of the owner is never in the cull; neither is the profit which accrues to him.

Watch our new market reports carefully. They contain valuable information for every farmer.

When the speculator gets a hold of the food up go prices, and the producer and consumer both suffer.

There will now be system in raising the army. Let us hope that system is not found wanting in other national things.

Choose brood sows from large litters and from sows which produce such litters regularly. Pay attention also to uniformity.

Up to the present the German socialists have been "German" first and socialists afterwards. They surely will not always be thus.

The National Service cards evidently revealed the fact that few "eligibles" remain in the rural districts. Rural Canada has done well.

A few women seem to think they can save food for the nation by refusing to eat veal and lamb. They may save more veal and lamb for someone else to eat.

The handiwork of the oleo-margarine interests is plainly seen in most of the turns taken in an effort to secure right of entry of the product into Canada.

Some people seem to think that eggs are a natural product of hens whether they are fed or not. They should keep a few for a year on grain at present prices.

Canada's national debt is growing very rapidly. This means a heavier tax on every home in this country. There will be need of further consideration of methods of raising money to pay the interest on our national indebtedness. Something fair and equitable is needed. With such accomplished the rural problem would soon begin to solve itself.

Many a pasture field has this spring shown the results of the too close cropping it got in 1916 because of the late summer drouth. Eating down too closely has an effect over more than one year. Good pastures are generally found where the old, dry grass from the previous year is long and thick. It protects the new grass in the spring and gives it a great start. Where possible change pasture fields this summer, resting them before they get too bare.

The Oleo Interests Still Busy.

Considerable publicity has recently been given to a meeting, purporting to be of consumers, held in Toronto a short time ago, and at which a resolution was passed asking the Government to allow oleo-margarine entry into Canada. Last fall and early winter there was considerable agitation on the part of those interested in the manufacture and sale of oleo-margarine to gain admittance for the material into this country. There was such strong opposition to such a proposition that the Government did not listen to the appeals from the oleo interests, but all winter and even up to the present time the latter have been working and scarcely a week passes but some announcement is made which shows that they are still agitating. At the meeting previously referred to we understand that eight women actually voted, and that an oleo manufacturer's representative was present with samples of his goods for them to taste and try. His presence rather gave the meeting away. The intelligent Canadian consumer is beginning to understand the situation, and is not asking for something which will give untold trouble to the authorities and little, if any, relief from the high prices to the common folk. Oleo can be manufactured for around 15 cents per pound. If it were allowed into Canada at the present time, colored to look like butter, it would doubtless be sold at a price very slightly under that of good Canadian dairy butter. The manufacturer would like to get this market at a big price and a correspondingly big profit. He is not anxious that our people get real cheap food. We have gone into the question fully on previous occasions, have shown the difficulty of regulating the trade, have proven that the consumer in the end would gain nothing, and that the dairy industry would be called upon to face unfair competition, and we feel sure that unless a different situation presents itself our Government will not let down the bars which keep oleo out. We might just state that at the present time in the Old Land oleo has gone so high in price that housewives who had formerly used it are returning to butter. The dairy industry does not fear any product sold on a fair basis, but it does not propose to stand idly by while its trade mark is stolen.

The Poultry and Egg Situation.

Some people are wondering why eggs should be so high in price at the present time. A few days ago a representative of one of the biggest egg-handling concerns in Canada called at this office, and, among other things, we discussed the poultry and egg situation. At that time his firm was paying 42 cents per dozen for fresh eggs in the country, having them transported to the city and put in storage. He pointed out that it costs more than double to store eggs at upwards of 40 cents per dozen than it did when they sold in the summer for about half that figure. Every egg lost in storage means a double loss, and the expenses all the way around are just about twice what they formerly were. The public can rest assured that eggs out of storage will not sell at a very low price next winter. At the time of his visit his firm had only forty per cent. as many eggs stored as they had at the same time one year ago, and he says conditions are the same practically all over Canada and the United States. Eggs were quoted in our last week's Montreal market report at 50 cents per dozen. The reason the prices are so high and eggs so scarce is that a great deal of the laying stock was sent to market last fall and more is still going. Farmers were short of feed and are still short of feed, and they could not see their way clear to feed high-priced grain to hens. Others kept their hens but fed them sparingly. The result has been a falling-off in egg production, which is having an effect on the market. Predictions

are that eggs will range from 15 cents to 20 cents per dozen higher next winter than they did the past winter, and prices were high during the winter which has gone. It would seem advisable for farmers to keep their good laying hens and to rush pullets to maturity as soon as possible that eggs may be produced during the coming winter. There is no danger of overstocking the market. Eggs can be produced profitably at present prices if early-hatched pullets of a laying strain are kept and well fed. They will pay a good profit on feed at present prices, but it is no use to half starve them.

Compulsory Military Service.

For almost three years Canada, a young, democratic and peace-loving country has been engaged in the worst war the world has ever known. During that time voluntary enlistments have totalled considerably in excess of 400,000 men, and taking in reservists and naval forces over 360,000 have left our shores for the scene of conflict. These figures represent an effort which will ever be remembered with pride in this country. Canada responded nobly to the call to voluntary service. It is said that volunteering is in harmony with the popular temper in young and sparsely-settled countries like our own. The New York Tribune says that is why Canada stuck to the voluntary system so long. There may be something in it, but the real reason compulsion did not come sooner was probably largely because Canadians came forward in goodly numbers fast enough to build up and maintain the fighting forces of the Maple Leaf at the front. But there is a limit, and voluntary service had about reached that limit in the Dominion. Premier Borden immediately upon his return from Britain took the matter in hand and announced a form of selective conscription, details of which will probably be out before this is read. We said Canada responded nobly to the voluntary call; her men will respond just as readily to the State's demand. Slackers there may be and are in this country, but the rank and file of the people are not shirkers. It is a mistake to call all men, who have not offered their services, by such a name. The State has called and they will go forward with willing hearts to help their comrades, who have gone on before, finish the task set for democratic peoples. Mobilization of the country's man power is now possible. System will, if conscription is properly carried out, replace muddling. Men will find themselves doing that which they can do best for the nation. The farmer or his son will not be exhorted to produce one day and called a slacker if he doesn't enlist the next. Men working at munitions and other necessary industries will be encouraged to do their best at their jobs for it all helps, and the men will be sent forward to fight in their proper order of economic sequence. Conscription is no disgrace to the men who go forward under its system. Selective conscription, provided it is administered justly, fairly and without favor, is the only democratic method of fighting such a war. Necessary industry must go on. Food, fuel, munitions, transportation and certain allied industries must not lag. Some other things can wait. The task in hand is the winning of the war and a start at proper organization is about to be made in this country. A prominent Frenchman has said that conscription does not militarize democracy, but democratizes the military system. Conscription need not mean militarism and will not after the war is over.

The farmer who hasn't a hired man and doesn't want one should not grumble about the shortage of labor, but he who needs and desires a man who knows how to farm and cannot get such a man has reason to complain.