

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLVII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 14, 1912.

No. 1051

EDITORIAL.

Let every agricultural society pass a resolution in favor of having ditching machines placed on the free list.

Many are the calves slaughtered each year for veal, which if they were properly reared and fed would make profitable baby beef.

The beauty of the first snow-storm was hardly appreciated by the farmer with a quantity of apples, roots or potatoes ungarnered and not a furrow of fall-plowing turned.

This is a good time to "take stock" on the farm. Think over the successes and failures of the past season, and plan to improve all disappointing conditions for next year by a more judicious selection of crops and methods.

Too much importance cannot be attached to having the farm tools, implements and machinery in order when the necessity for using them arises. Much time is lost on many farms because small defects or breakages are not repaired at the time the implements or machines are stored for the winter. No better advice can be given than to go carefully over each implement and machine stored now if it has not already been done, and make a note of requirements with the firm intention of having them attended to immediately rather than leaving them until the machine is needed, and delays are costly.

Each farm should be more or less of an experimental farm. True, large amounts of money are spent annually by our Government in the maintenance of large experiment stations which are doing a great work, but even with all this to actually measure up conditions on the individual farms of the country a limited amount of experimental work should be done on each. The expense involved demands that the work be limited, but each farm has its own peculiarities, and even each field on a farm is different from the other fields. Many of these things are found out by experiment.

Many crops are well grown, but not well marketed. Marketing the products is one of the neglected phases of farm management. Why not place them on the market in the attractive manner in which the retailer displays them? Most any customer will pay more for an evenly assorted basket of potatoes or apples than for one containing all sizes from the smallest "peeler" to the very large over-grown specimen. These might just as well be assorted on the farm, and the grower receive the benefit accruing therefrom.

Do as much of the farm work as possible with horses. A United States Bulletin on farm management says: "Any system of farming that limits the worker largely to what he can do with his hands, without the aid of horse or mechanical power of some kind, will as a rule bring small returns, and those who follow it will have incomes little if any larger than ordinary wages." This means one of two methods must be practiced, either intensive agriculture on small holdings in close proximity to large markets or increased acres and larger holdings in districts far remote from these markets, and where intensive methods are not so practicable.

Invest Farm Profits in the Farm.

Successful business men reap a profit from their undertakings no matter whether the business is large or small, whether it is a manufacturing business or wholesale or retail dry goods or grocery business, or that of operating a farm. Profit means increased capital and increased capital in most business ventures means increased business, because a good manager uses his profits to enlarge his stock, and thus the volume of the business grows accordingly. Many agriculturists are loathe to invest money earned by their farms from year to year in increasing their holdings or in better equipping the plant already in their possession. The money is placed in the bank or let at a comparatively small interest on mortgages. Oftentimes the borrower uses the money for the very purpose the lender should have used it, viz., to, by better equipment, place his farm or his business in a position to earn greater returns.

"Profit in farming depends not only on the intrinsic profitableness of the enterprises adopted, but also to a great extent on the amount of power employed and the amount of capital invested. If there is profit in an enterprise conducted on a small scale there ought to be more profit in it when conducted on a larger scale."

Large farms cannot be operated without a comparatively large amount of capital, so it is necessary that the beginner commence on a small scale. We learn by experience, and, as knowledge of the business grows, larger undertakings are warranted, and with the growth of knowledge comes the increase of capital, each working to warrant an increase of investment in the farming business.

Few indeed are the farms which could not be made yield larger returns on capital invested by a judicious use of more money in enlarging the holding, or in putting the farm implements, buildings, stock and other equipment in a better condition through increased purchases or repairs. Labor-saving devices mean much in the reckoning of cash returns from the farm. Labor is one of the most important limiting factors in farm profits. Horses and machinery have been found in connection with a majority of farm operations to be far more economical than hand labor. For instance, many of our larger farms are being operated almost entirely by four-horse teams, instead of as formerly by two-horse teams. In the change from the smaller size of implement to the larger there is need of a capital outlay, but who would question the advisability of making this outlay? Is capital thus invested not much more potent as a factor in increasing itself than were it locked in a bank vault at three per cent. interest? Where such a change is made many do it gradually. Carefulness is advisable in most things, but a number of two-horse and a number of four-horse implements on the one farm is not as a general rule profitable. Uniformity of equipment is most economical. Four-horse implements save the time of one man, and, as is now very often the case, where one man only is available, the constant use of four-horse implements greatly increases his efficiency.

This is simply one point. There are many others. How many of our farms are carrying the largest number of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs that they could possibly carry at a profit to their owners? Very few. Some there are who may have reached the limit in this direction, but they are indeed a small minority. We

hear much of the scarcity of beef cattle; milk and its products sell on a ready market at a high price; hogs bring good returns; and the draft horse finds plenty of buyers. Could not some of the profits from this year's operations be profitably invested in the right kind of live stock? More live stock means that more feed would be fed on the land, increased fertility and larger crops would follow. Reaching the limit in the number of animals fed on the farm also brings out better methods. Crops will be more carefully rotated, more soiling crops will be grown, leguminous crops worked into the rotation, and better all around farming will result.

More live stock also necessitates more machinery, for the increased labor makes this imperative. Good implements and machines, provided there is work for them, are always profitable. It is, however, a loss to have too many expensive machines on small farms or on farms where they are needed only a few days in a year. Increased stock or increased acreage will mean that many of these implements or machines will be used to better advantage, because there is much more for them to do, and they are idle at shorter and less frequent intervals.

The whole problem properly managed means that when the capital made from the farm is judiciously increased therein increased returns are sure, for each branch properly managed works so well into the other branches that they all make for good. Think it over carefully before investing the profits made this year. Go over the farm stock, implements, buildings, and other equipment and carefully size them up and see whether some or all of these profits could not be put to good use right at home, use which cannot but increase interest in the farm as well as returns from it.

Canadian Cereals Win.

The great strength shown by Canadian grain exhibits at the International Dry-Farming Exposition, Lethbridge, Alberta, is a matter over which Western Canada can feel justly jubilant. It is scarcely a year ago when, at the New York Land Show, Seager Wheeler, the Saskatchewan farmer, on his exhibit of Marquis wheat won the \$1,000 in gold that was offered for the best bushel of wheat grown anywhere in the world.

Now at Lethbridge, where the competition is open to practically the whole of North America, in very nearly all grain classes in which Canadians can compete, state or provincial, the awards are coming to Canada, and to Canadian farmers not only comes the highest award in wheat, but in oats, barley, and flax as well, the staple crops upon which Western Canada has built her reputation. One notable feature in connection with the award for best bushel wheat is that the prize goes to a Marquis sample, the new Canadian-bred variety that won for Seager Wheeler last year. Not only did the premier prizes come to Canadian-grown cereals, but the great bulk of all the premiums was won by Canadians.

Gratulating in these facts, our Winnipeg contemporary very prudently warns its readers not to rest with the spirit of jubilation, for to do so would be yet to fall. While not forgetting to give credit for the cultural methods employed to produce this prize-winning grain, the main credit is properly ascribed to soil and climatic conditions, and a timely hint thrown out that cultural