

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Horses clipped in the fall should be well blanketed when forced to stand in the open.

Conserve the hay, as it is likely to be the scarcest kind of roughage and most in demand.

Regularity in feeding keeps down the cost, and regularity can be had for the asking—watch the clock!

This is the season of the year when the harness needs oiling badly. Neatsfoot oil with a little lamp black in it makes a good dressing.

The big item on the program now is fall plowing. A heavy crop of corn to handle in many districts has retarded this important branch of work.

Employers of labor find that they can get as much production from fewer hands if they insist on it; and they are beginning to insist. A change is coming.

The United States should breathe a long sigh of relief now that the election is over. A presidential contest is more upsetting than an old-fashioned house-cleaning.

Roots and vegetables in the pit should not be covered very deeply until cold weather sets in. A good deal of waste in the pit is caused by too much covering early in the fall.

It is reported that Lloyd George will visit Canada next year. Canadians will be glad to welcome the great Britisher who "goes to the mat" so frequently and always comes up smiling.

Milk producers need no further justification for perfecting a strong, co-operative selling organization than the fact that although the price of milk rose slowly it began to drop very quickly.

Work up a little community spirit and keep the split-log drag busy on the roads. The concessions and side-lines will be better roads this fall and next spring if they are kept rounded up and water allowed to escape.

The Farmers' National Congress of the United States, which meets soon in Chicago, has for its motto the following: "United We Stick—Divided We're Stuck." This is somewhat slangy but true, nevertheless.

The value and convenience of concrete walks around the buildings is appreciated at this season of the year. Cement is expensive and hard to obtain now, but if the material can be procured a little pavement will prove a good investment on the farm.

It is to be hoped that the committee of live stock men appointed to oppose the increase in freight rates, which is putting such a handicap upon the industry, will spare no effort to have their case well prepared. Time is not too plentiful, and the question is a momentous one.

There are a good many industries in Canada that should have been weaned long ago. These infant industries, fostered and suckled for forty years, resent having a little skim-milk mixed with their ration even though it be good for them. Moderate protection, to the manufacturers, looks too much like milk with the butter-fat removed. We need the industries, but they ought to thrive on a little plainer ration.

The United States Election.

Canadians have viewed with considerable indifference the election campaign in the United States, which has now come to a close. Naturally, British subjects were anxious to see the Covenant of the League of Nations endorsed, and to feel that the great human and natural resources of the Republic would be thrown into the cause to prevent future wars. Whether a Democrat or a Republican should become President, it mattered little to the great mass of Canadian people. However, there is some uncertainty regarding the market for commercial live stock, which has been freely going to United States stock yards and abattoirs. It has been intimated that a Republican President will be inclined to raise a barrier against the incoming of our agricultural and live stock products, and move farther from our reach that great market opened up to us at the beginning of President Wilson's regime.

The United States is fast becoming a consuming and importing nation, so far as foodstuffs are concerned, and it is just possible that the great industrial centres of the United States will view with alarm any attempt on the part of their administrators to make living more expensive. An election causes no small amount of controversy, turmoil and uncertainty in the neighboring Republic, but after the dust is cleared away the Anglo-Saxon temperament again asserts itself, business steadies down, and policies are more definitely announced. With a shortage in animal products staring the new administration in the face and labor somewhat belligerent, the new President will, no doubt, be very cautious about tinkering with the dinner pail. The receipts of cattle this year at all markets in the United States will be in the vicinity of one million head less than in 1919. This factor will have to be considered at Washington, and it seems probable, with this in mind, that further obstacles to easy living will not be raised by a Republican administration.

No Cause for Apprehension in Live Stock Circles.

From one end of Canada to the other breeders of pure-bred live stock are anxious to know just what the prospects are in regard to their respective classes of live stock. The money stringency of late has caused some disturbance, which has been noticed particularly at the sales. A slight decline in values of commercial stock has also created a little suspicion, and the whole trend of events has tended to bring about a little apprehension on the part of live stock producers when, judging from conditions as they are and probably will be, there is no cause for it.

It is no time for speculation. Transactions should be based on actual values. Fictitious prices are never any great help to the industry. Sometimes they help to boost a breed, but the great mass of business incident to the live stock industry should and must be conducted in accordance with true business standards.

There are times when business becomes a little shaky, simply because those deeply involved get panicky and lose their grip. There is no cause whatever at the present time for any unsteadiness in the market, so far as pure-breds are concerned, and if any slump should occur during the coming months or within the next year, it will be caused by a panicky feeling among those who are heavily stocked and burdened with outstanding obligations.

We are just touching the fringe of the possibilities in pure-bred live stock production. There are no accurate figures to show just what percentage of the live stock bred on this continent is pure-bred. By some it has been placed at one per cent., but let us be liberal in our estimate and say five per cent. of the cattle on this continent are pure-bred. It has, furthermore been stated that only seven per cent. of producers on

the continent use pure-bred sires. This leaves a vast field still unexploited. In this enlightened age we should make more rapid progress, improve our breeding stocks and produce better animals for the stock yards and the abattoirs. There should be a very much increased demand for pure-bred cattle, for pure-bred sheep and for pure-bred swine. They are the key to the whole situation, and improvement can only be brought about by better blood and more feed.

There is a growing shortage of animal products which all wide-awake producers will endeavor to offset with more and better stock. When we increase and improve our commercial stocks we create a demand for pure-breds and Canada, which is undoubtedly on the threshold of a great development, requires more pure blood.

Too much of the business during the last five years in pure-bred circles has been done on paper. A stop is being put to this, and it is well that it should be discontinued. The banks, too, are reluctant about making loans that are likely to be of long standing, and this has tended to make business a little more quiet. However, if breeders keep their heads, breed good live stock, develop it well, and sell it right, business will be good in pure-bred live stock circles. Young men would be well advised to get into the business now.

A Campaign Needed for Better Feeding.

Along with the campaign to eliminate the scrub bull should go a movement to encourage the better feeding of live stock. We have never seen it worked down to a percentage basis just how far breeding and feeding are separately responsible for the quality of finished cattle, sheep and swine, but we entertain the opinion that feeding has never been given the prominence it deserves. Breeding provides that desirable form and conformation which will carry the right kind of flesh in the right place. Inheritance also has a direct influence on the ability of an animal to transform fodder into flesh with the minimum of waste, but the best animal in the world must still have feed in reasonable quantities or it will come far short of measuring up to market requirements. The lack of feed places many well-bred cattle in the common class, while abundant grain or pasture will promote a mediocre individual to a high place in the market classification. Feeding and breeding are the two all important factors in animal husbandry, and Canadian producers generally are as weak on feeding as they are on breeding.

We in Canada have no occasion to be proud of the quality of our market cattle. We turn off too many thin or warmed-up cattle which supply a second-class trade. Our situation would not be so bad if we had some assurance that the United States market would remain open to us, or if there was some probability that Britain would open her ports to store cattle from Canada. We should be ready for any emergency that would throw all Canadian cattle into the abattoirs of this country and make a considerable export trade in meat products a necessity. Such a contingency would demand better bred, and better fed cattle than we now have to offer, and this is simply an admission of a plain fact, however regretfully we acknowledge it. We are only playing with this great cattle-producing enterprise, when our climate and conditions are suitable for the production of the best. We have good foundation stock, and breeders of pure-bred cattle are selling their produce to buyers who know and appreciate quality. Our commercial stocks, however, plainly reveal the need of better feeding as well as better breeding, and it is time a forward step was taken in regard to the quality of our commercial offerings.

Farmers will have to put their plows into high in order to catch up with the plowing.

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