

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Feed regularly and save feed.

Have you secured your seed for 1917?

Regular exercise for the stock prevents losses.

Winter is here but the farmer who farms well is still busy.

Sinking hospital ships is getting to be a favorite pastime of the Huns.

By attempting to enslave the Belgians the Germans can never win the war.

Do not eliminate the bacon hog because of one year of high-priced concentrates.

We agree with the correspondent who says that the heavy horse is the horse for the farmer.

An organization or firm which does not make use of the proper channels of publicity never accomplishes what it might.

Next week readers will be treated to a change, in the form of our annual Christmas Number. We hope it will please.

Interest in Farmers' Club meetings can only be maintained by large attendance and keen discussion. Do your part.

People are reading our automobile and farm machinery department. Help it, along by suggestions and articles on engines and farm machinery.

The political parties in Canada are squaring away for an election. Each voter should remember that he is an independent Canadian citizen.

The grower of sugar beets in Canada has not reaped much benefit in enhanced prices compared with that of the sugar manufacturers who have manufactured their beets.

Keep the stock off the meadow late this fall and early next spring. Fields have been eaten very bare and the grass may not start as well as it otherwise would next spring. Give it a chance.

Many farmers could not get their fall work completed with the help available. This will have an effect upon production next year. A campaign for more men for the farms might help.

A few of Canada's young farmers tell how they have profited from the lessons of the season in this issue. They are setting a good example for some of the older men by telling others of their work through these columns.

The week following our Christmas Number we hope to be able to publish some interesting accounts of the value of a Literary Society in a community. Tell others about the one in which you work and from which you get so much good.

The Dominion chemist says re spontaneous combustion in fires which break out in barns: "The initial and essential cause is the storage of the hay in a damp or moist condition." Very little hay that was not bone dry was stored this year.

The Price of Your Paper.

During the past few months the increased cost of producing papers and periodicals has been the subject of much comment. The Dominion Government put on a campaign asking the people to save old papers. The price of paper to the consumer has gone up to such a high level that many papers have been forced to increase their subscription rates considerably. Over in England the situation is even more acute, and the London Times, which formerly sold for two cents, we are told is now seven cents. Papers in the United States are contemplating raising the subscription price, some of them one hundred per cent., at the beginning of 1917. A large number of country weeklies in Canada have been forced to raise their subscription rates from \$1.00 to \$1.50, and still there is no assurance that a further advance may not be absolutely necessary. At the present time, extended contracts for paper cannot be made and prices to the publishers may go still higher. It looks as if it would cost at least twice as much for many papers to publish in 1917 as it has done in the past year and no one knows how much more. We are just drawing attention to the situation that our readers may take advantage of the opportunity of getting in their subscriptions to this paper early. For the present the subscription rate to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" will not be increased, but the paper situation and conditions in other branches of the publishing business are such that we cannot promise to maintain the low price of \$1.50 per annum many months ahead. Every endeavor will be put forth to keep the price as it is and no advance will be made unless it is absolutely necessary. We are prepared to maintain the quality of our publication at the old subscription rate as long as we possibly can, but we, at the same time, advise all our subscribers to renew at once and thus be sure that they get their paper for another year, at least, at the present rate of \$1.50. Yesterday we received \$6.00 from one subscriber who is paying four years in advance. The day before a subscriber sent in \$4.50 for the paper three years. Subscribers paying for more than one year in advance will get the paper at the rate of \$1.50 per year for the amount of money sent in. One thing is certain, the subscription price will not be lower. We hope that we may be able to maintain it at the present rate, but can make no promises. Hundreds of publications are increasing their subscription prices. It would be good policy for Farmer's Advocate subscribers to make sure of their farm paper at the present rate. We are always desirous of helping our subscribers and we hope that many of them will be benefited by this little hint. Those who subscribe early will be safe, whether or not we are forced to raise the price. We say again that we hope to be able to avoid an increase in subscription rates, but as we are unable to get a definite quotation from the paper manufacturers we can give no assurance. At any rate readers will know that we shall not increase the price unless it is absolutely necessary. In the meantime safeguard yourselves by sending in your subscriptions.

The Sugar Beet Question.

The price of sugar has given cause for concern in many a Canadian household during the past few months, and judging from a letter from a correspondent which appears in the Farm Department of this issue the price of sugar beets in comparison to the price of sugar has aroused farmers who grow these roots to action. Wholesale grocers in London and other cities have pointed out the fact that at present prices of sugar, farmers who grow sugar beets in Western Ontario should be getting ten dollars per ton for their beets, provided they carry an average degree of sugar. Ten years ago, as pointed out by our correspondent, the price which the grower got for sugar beets was \$3.50 or more per ton. The price this year is \$5.00 per ton with a fifty-

cent bonus. Our correspondent shows that it costs in the neighborhood of \$41.00 per acre to produce beets. Investigation in certain counties in Western Ontario reveals the fact that the average crop of sugar beets during the past few years has been eight tons (certainly not more than 9 tons) per acre. Our correspondent figures his profits on a ten-ton crop, but at \$5.50 per ton for the beets, which includes the bonus, an eight-ton crop, or an average crop, would return only \$44 per acre, just \$3.00 more than our correspondent claims after ten years' experience, that it costs him to produce an acre of beets. Even if the farmer should succeed in producing the heavier crop and did make a profit of from \$14.50 to \$19.50 per acre, as outlined by our correspondent, only a comparatively small acreage of the crop can be handled on one farm and the aggregate of profits from the crop to each farmer would not be large. On the other hand the sugar company, according to our correspondent's figures, is able to make \$23.80 from each ton of raw beets, or \$238 per acre from a ten-ton crop of beets testing 17.4. Even from a lower test of 12 to 15 per cent. there would seem to be room for more than living profits. We are not sure as to the exact cost of manufacture. Our correspondent states that it is understood that the by-products are almost if not quite sufficient to meet the cost. Other writers on the subject have stated that the maximum cost would certainly not be over one cent per pound, and some of these have figured out that the actual cost of granulated beet sugar for market would not be more than 3½ cents per pound, even if only 12 per cent. sugar can be saved from the beet. It would look as if the sugar company operating in Western Ontario was making a rather high profit, and some have suggested that an Inland Revenue tax should be placed on sugar, that the Government might get a part, at least, of these profits and still not affect the price of sugar to the consumer, nor lower the price of beets to the farmer.

When the beet-sugar industry was started in Western Ontario the retail price of sugar was around 4 cents per pound, and the promoters thought well enough of the project at that time to go into it on rather an extensive scale. If there was profit in buying beets at from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per ton and manufacturing them into sugar to retail at 4 cents per pound, surely there must be more profit in manufacturing the article when beets are bought from \$5.50 to a little over \$6.00 per ton, and sugar is more than twice the price. Our correspondent points out that when beets advanced one dollar per ton the sugar company got an advance of \$9.00 on the sugar made from one ton of raw beets. The price of sugar is regulated not by what can be produced in Western Ontario, but by the cost of foreign raw sugar plus the cost of manufacturing. A scarcity of foreign raw sugar since the war has forced the price up, and the Dominion Sugar Company has had advantage of the increased price while the producer of the beets got very little extra, although each year it costs more to produce an acre of the crop. In fact, this year the producer would have received far greater profits had he grown turnips, which have been selling as high as 50 cents per bushel or \$20 per ton and which may be grown with far less labor and at smaller expense.

In 1914, factories at Berlin and Wallaceburg produced 29,000,000 pounds of refined sugar, and in 1915, 37,000,000 pounds. The crop was smaller this year, but if we place it at 25,000,000 pounds, the Government could collect a substantial revenue by a tax on the output and at the same time the Company would make profits large enough to pay the higher price for beets which the farmers think they should get. One thing is certain, compared with the price of sugar the producer of the beets has not been receiving the price which he should have been paid, and no one will blame growers for organizing.