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EDITORIAL.

If the milk supply is rapidly falling off, try some soilage feeding, or, if you have it, silage.

A hot August, and a still hotter general election ought to make grand growing weather for the corn crop.

One of the greatest labor-saving devices with which any farmer can present his wife or daughter is a constant supply of good soft and hard water in the kitchen.

Far better than "knocking" the fall fairs would be to go to them, see where they can be improved, and do something toward putting them right.

Young men with pride enough in their work to prepare some prizewinning exhibits of live stock or farm products for the autumn exhibitions are not the type who hanker to leave the farm to manipulate a street-car brake.

Few of us have the weed problem as nearly solved as the Middlesex farmer who was showing the rural minister through his fields. Crossing an unfrequented spot near the head of the lane, he suddenly stooped to pull a plant intruder. "Ah," said he, "I missed that one."

"Can't afford it," is the answer made by some when asked why they are not using the up-to-date labor-saving devices and machinery on their farms. Machinery will do the work cheaper than labor, and the real truth of the matter is that they can ill afford to do without that which they imagine too costly an investment for their farm.

It is said that, "Of all man's social creations, his buildings are the best display of his crooked thinking." Buildings need not be expensive to be neat. Even if means are not at hand to build just what is desired, the condition of the buildings now up or in process of construction is always a good indication of what would be done were means more plentiful.

A farmer, in order to be prosperous, must possess a greater variety of knowledge than is required in most any other industry. This is not generally understood, yet it is true, and to get this required knowledge involves years of education, training and practical experience. School and agricultural college training, backed up by practical work on the farm, should be the aim of the young man of to-day.

Were the truth known, it is probable that the worst leaks of dairy farming occur in the feeding end of the business. Hence the value of this week's instalment of "The Farmer's Advocate" inquiry into the production of milk for the supply of cities and towns. The article records the actual methods of twenty-one dairy farmers. We would be glad to supplement these experiences by those of other readers, with special attention to economy and results.

Reorganising the Department of Agriculture.

The patronage system has been a curse to Governments in Canada, and a nuisance, rather than a source of strength, to members of Parliament. The distribution of offices and contracts distracts a large share of attention from constructive legislation, and dissipates energies that otherwise would be directed to more efficient administration. It becomes in this way a barrier to statesmanship in national affairs, and undoubtedly a prolific parent of graft. Happily, the Canadian Civil Service Commission, under Prof. Adam Shortt, in connection with the Department of the Secretary of State, has become a real factor in taking out of politics at Ottawa appointments in what is known as the "Inside Service," and as its working becomes perfected, will be extended more and more, putting an end to many improper appointments and promotions by enforcing impartial standards of qualification, and efficiency.

In a representative form of government like ours, with a Cabinet comprising a dozen ministers presiding over important departments, they will no doubt continue to exercise their prerogative in the selection of deputies or other important officers who share to a greater or less extent responsibilities in matters of administrative policy. In order to continuity and unity in the government on all larger issues, the different ministers require time to acquaint themselves with the plans of their Cabinet associates. Obviously, then, there should be a fair distribution of the business of government among the different departments, so that some will not be overloaded, and ministers find themselves more or less swamped at times.

A well-known case in point is that of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, which, like Topsy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," has "grewed up" during the past twenty-five or thirty years, until now it has become an antiquated piece of patchwork. It embraces some nine different branches, such as Archives, Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks, Census and Statistics, Public Health, Health of Animals and Live Stock, Experimental Farms, Dairy and Cold Storage (including three divisions), Seeds and Exhibitions. To keep minutely in mind even the more important lines of work in all these is clearly beyond the power of any minister, and the time is evidently ripe for a thorough reorganization. This being census year, the situation of affairs is naturally aggravated. A great deal of the time of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture is occupied with his duties as Commissioner of Patents, involving out-of-town trips. As the reader will see at a glance, much of the work in the list of branches enumerated has absolutely nothing to do with agriculture; and such work as Public Health, Archives, Trade Marks and Copyrights should be turned over to, say, the Secretary of State, a comparatively small Department. An exchange that might possibly be made with advantage would be to transfer Census and Statistics to the Department of Trade and Commerce, and bring Grain Inspection under the Department of Agriculture, where it would seem more naturally to belong. According to the plan we are suggesting, the Department of Agriculture would then consist of Experimental Farms, Live Stock, Veterinary, Dairy and Cold Storage, Grain and Seed Inspection, Fruit, and possibly Poultry. With a common sense re-arrangement of the Department like this, placed under a Deputy Min-

ister possessing the practical qualifications and experience of an administrator like C. C. James or Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, the minister would himself be immensely relieved and fortified.

Time was when the heads of the different branches were enabled to lay direct before the minister important plans which they had worked out for the development of agriculture, but during the past year all this has been changed, and by the time their proposals filter through a maze of deputy-red-tapeism, the cake becomes dough, and good men are disheartened and disgusted. That such a system should longer continue, is out of the question, and it is little wonder that a species of "Sleeping Sickness" should creep over the Department, bringing apathy and inaction in its train. The situation is one that imperatively demands attention. As one of the greatest agricultural countries in the world, Canada is in its growing, formative time. Effort and money expended now for the purpose of right development will give far greater results than would be possible five or ten years hence. There are enormous opportunities ahead for constructive work, and all that capable men in the agricultural public service require is reasonable encouragement and latitude in its undertaking.

Get the Sunflower Habit.

There is a majesty and inspiration in the ways of Nature on the farm not to be found in man-made processes. The threshing-engine and separator are cold and silent, like a town foundry or grimy mill, till the stoker "fires up." When the fuel burns low, the wheels cease to revolve, and the machinery becomes dead again. But day-break follows dark, and harvest, spring, in unerring and endless succession. Whether we sleep or wake, the grass keeps growing. The bare, brown earth of ninety days ago is now covered with the glory of ten thousand corn fields, piling up nutriment faster than any other field crop. The sun has been the great transformer. It does not have to be wound up for every period like a clock, but is there doing business, day in and day out. And how the plants look for its rising over the orchard trees. The Portulaca bed lies demure and plain till the morning rays kindle its flat, green face into a bright glow of orange, pink, crimson, buff and white. That Mammoth Russian sunflower plantation, that had been running up by the yard lately, is a study these days. The rows stand like a regiment of stalwart soldiers, every gold-rimmed face turning methodically to the sun and following its circuit around, morning, noon, night. How comes the axis of the flower to make that rhythmic circle every day, from left to right, its face always inclining upward, until well weighted down with maturing seeds? Who will explain the mystery of it? At night every plant stood looking westward; in the morning, before the sun appeared, every one was right-about-face, watching for the eastern dawn. Having once secured a good foothold in the ground, the sturdy plant fairly revels in the sun. Its leaves grow big like wash-tub bottoms, and the flowers look up candidly into the sun's face, without ever blinking. It does no nervous hurrying, but moves along as stately as a queen. The more sun it gets, the better it grows, forming a safe, rich feeding-ground for the bees now, and a bag-filler for the chickens next winter. We do well to follow the plan of the giant Helianthus. Look up and ahead, not down. Get the sunflower habit.