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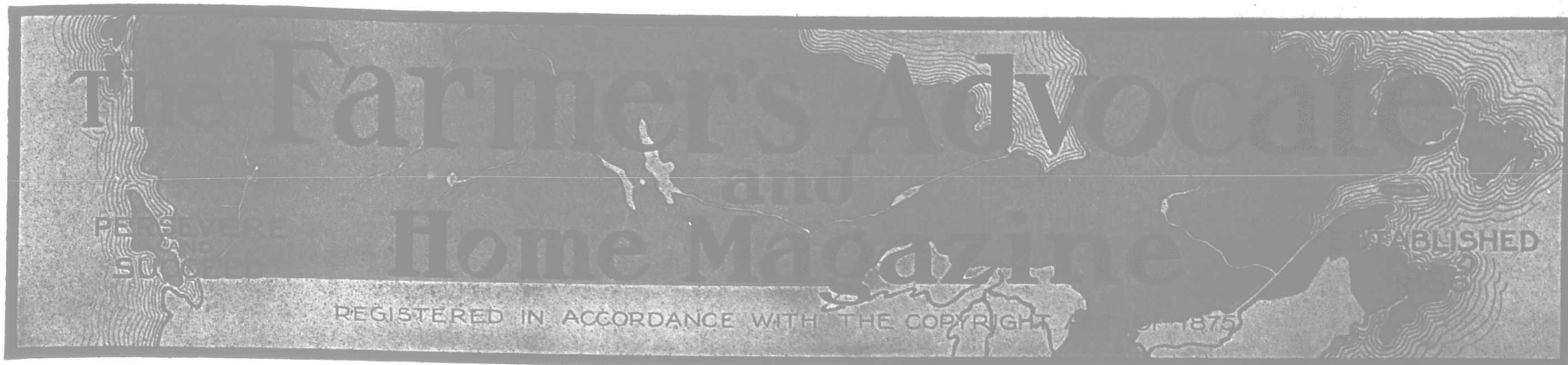
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EDITORIAL.

The luxuriant growth of grass and corn will help to off-set to some extent the depreciated oat crop.

The tendency of the larger exhibitions is to fall into the management of those who naturally promote city rather than rural interests.

While it could hardly be described as a silver lining to the pouring clouds, we have at least been relieved this season of worrying about the conservation of moisture.

In providing prize lists and facilities for exhibition of live stock, fair managers should afford every possible encouragement to the small breeder and home-bred animals of merit.

One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the tendency of labor organizations to throw their influence resolutely against militarism. The masses of the people and the homes are the chief sufferers always from war.

It is a glaring commentary on the efficiency of Provincial and Dominion Health Departments, which are particularly active in looking after outside municipalities, that Ottawa, the capital city, should have been again hopelessly under the grip of typhoid fever.

With the price of coal going up, and wood for fuel out of the question, hundreds of Toronto and Hamilton poor would appreciate in a couple of months the great piles of ties that the railway people burn along the track every summer, just to get them out of the way.

People who wonder at the demoralized condition of cans used in delivering milk to the city trade, would understand it more clearly if they could see a pile of 50 lying promiscuously on a dirty coal cinder heap by the railway tracks between Toronto and Hamilton, where they had apparently been thrown helter skelter from the cars.

When Frank Yeigh told in our 1908 Christmas number how the Norwegian farmer cured his hay by hanging it between hurdles on fences and his grain by binding it to upright poles in the field, we pitied the poor Norwegians. This year, however, with oats rotting in the shock and second growth alfalfa and clover either standing uncut, bleaching in the swath or spoiling in the coil, many of us might have been glad to avail ourselves of the Norwegian's laborious method had we realized the necessity in time.

Stock watering (not live stock) is at the very root of the extortion practiced by Big Business. When, through privileges enjoyed, the earnings of a corporation furnish dividends of excessive proportions, a familiar dodge is to issue a few millions of new stock, distributing it, or some of it, as a bonus among the holders of existing stock. By dividing the dividends into a larger number of portions the nominal profits are kept down to something like ordinary interest rates, but the real dividends upon capital actually invested may run up to extravagant percentages. These, however, are cleverly concealed and vested interests established to protect against a too radical public regulation of rates.

Canada's Industrial Needs.

A farmer at the Directors' Luncheon on Manufacturers' Day of the recent National Exhibition in Toronto, might seem unusual, though not out of place, for in some respects his operations convert raw materials into finished food products, and the first speaker on this occasion urged that the three great business branches of the country should not isolate themselves. Agriculture, manufacture and transportation were interdependent. The maximum of prosperity would attend the country when one did not take a position that would work to the detriment of the others. Each, as Hon. Geo. E. Foster very properly pointed out, should bear its fair share of the burden which goes to make up the cost to the consumer. It is desirable that the participants should view the situation not wholly from their own standpoint but from that of the others as well, and to be able to lay the finger upon the proportion that each factor adds to the cost, determining the price paid by the consumer. If too much has been added by the manufacturer, cut down the manufacturer; if too much in transport, then cut down the transport; if too much by the commission man, then cut him down by co-operation or in some other way. To take this broad and mutually tolerant view of things is entirely commendable, but it is ever to be borne in mind that the man on the farm is by the nature of things usually an individual unit and not an organized unit like the manufacturer or a giant corporation like a railway directed from ocean to ocean by one head. Unhappily, humanity has not yet reached the stage where a group of capitalists may be left to say just how much they will assess the public for their own enrichment. Hence the State has had to step in through such agencies as the Canadian Railway Commission or actual ownership as a regulating factor to protect the unorganized public. And it is incumbent upon the Government in its fiscal adjustments to see that the burdens are equitably distributed and not try to "even things up" by an occasional "hand out."

Passing on, the Minister of Trade and Commerce told the manufacturers that under the protective tariff they were partners in a compact not only to fully supply the needs of the country but to prepare to extend their trade into foreign fields. The latter proposition he did not establish beyond claiming that expansion was inevitable and when the time came that they wanted to enter foreign fields they would find them occupied by others. The Government had undertaken by means of steamship and railway subsidies and the employment of trade commissioners to prepare channels which the manufacturer should prepare to use. For these the public are paying, but the addresses of several of the largest and best informed manufacturers of the country who followed the Minister made it clear that every nerve was now being strained to keep pace with present demands and they were extending just as fast as the supply of capital and labor would permit. President Nathaniel Currie, of the Manufacturers' Association, stated that to-day Canada had a greater output of manufactured goods per head of population than any other country. It. S. Gourlay, Vice-President of the Association, also directed attention to the shortage of labor which at certain seasons, because of the eternal drain to the West, so disorganized the staffs of factories that orders could not be filled, and he frankly expressed a note of caution in relation to

amalgamations of smaller businesses, watered stock and borrowed capital, because of which individual control would pass into other hands, who did not exercise the same interest as did the former owner. Mr. Gourlay was confident that the advent of electric power would prove a turning point in enabling the farmer to convert economically the products of the farm into marketable commodities.

That the protective tariff is regarded as an indispensable buttress, at all events for a young country, was the view expressed by several speakers, but in the remarks of Hon. A. E. Kemp there was a hopeful hint of the need for adequate supplies of properly educated and technically trained workers. This, we are satisfied, is the real crux of the future security of Canadian industrialism. The working hosts of Germany and other aggressive countries are being thoroughly prepared in artizanship and in business by systems of public education, to the need for which, as also for a more enlightened system of rural public schools, Canada is not yet half awake. If the newspaper press of the country would but devote half the energy to arousing the public on these issues that is done to promote less worthy objects the outlook for peace and prosperity would be brighter.

Mining Fertility.

"We have mined much of our fertility and sold it at the cost of mining. We have fed the nations of the Old World and the cities of the New with grain at half the cost of production. We were 'land poor' for twenty-five years, and now that there is no 'farther west' we are becoming rich not by harvesting fields of clover or grain or corn, but by harvesting the unearned increment, or the advance in the price due to the increase in population."

In this trenchant style our highly-valued contemporary, Wallace's Farmer, discusses agricultural methods in the prairie regions of the Central-Western States. Mined fertility and sold it at the cost of mining. That is exactly what was done. It is precisely what they are to-day doing in Western Canada. It is what our ancestors did in Eastern Canada, and what some of us are still doing to-day. It is what will continue to be done so long as men fail to value as capital the plant food in their farms.

The Reality of War.

The devotees of militarism clothe war with a halo of untruthfulness. An English writer has lately described the reality like this: "Bullet-wounds, bayonet-wounds, sabre-wounds, shell-wounds; men writhing all night on the ground with their bowels protruding; others with half their face shot off; others dismembered but alive; some stretched on red-hot decks, their mutilated stumps frizzling; some staining the sea as they drown; some dropping in fragments from the sky; dysentery, enteric, typhoid, cholera, plague; farms burnt, harvests destroyed, factories stopped, mills closed; grain, flour, cotton, wool, all that men need for life, sunk at sea, or wasting useless at the ports; credit ruined, employers bankrupt, workmen starving; riot and arson; crowds bludgeoned by the police or cut down by the troops; debt piled up, progress arrested, a few speculators enriched and the rest of the world impoverished; none of the professed objects of the war accomplished, and no one knowing or car-