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EDITORIAL

Hail is a natural devastation from which none of us are secure. Insurance is the only means of mitigating the consequences.

The recuperative power of crops affected by drouth or storm is marvellous. Nature is unconquerably resourceful.

Get after the weeds in the unseeded grain stubble. Shallow plowing followed by frequent harrowing and disking, will germinate and destroy weed seeds by the million.

Recent showers have started the growth of weed seeds on the fields which have been cultivated immediately after the harvest was removed. A deeper, later plowing will surely put an end to these.

What a satisfaction centers in good live stock? Watch the expression on an owner's face as the points with pride to "a good heifer." He knows that she is the kind that fills his pocket-book as well as pleases the eye. She is doubly satisfying.

More weed extermination can be accomplished in an hour with the harrow than in a week with the hoe. Of course, the harrowing must be done just at the right time. A hot day after a rain is a first-class time. And the weeds must be small—mere seedlings. Frequent harrowing is thus called for.

Accurate cost accounting on the farm is necessarily a complex process, and where the farmer is his own hired man, as well as his own bookkeeper, an elaborate system is out of the question. But everyone can prepare a yearly statement of his assets and liabilities, and keep track of the proceeds from his several sources of income. Some may do more.

Seldom are people who live in rural districts and enjoy natural surroundings every day of the week, heard to remark about the beauties with which old mother earth is endowed, but listen to the conversation of a party of city dwellers on a trip through a fine country and you will hear no end of praises for the fine trees and the beautiful landscape. It seems that all like best something which is not met with every day.

Notwithstanding a few recent interruptions in the Ontario Hydro Electric service, there is good reason to believe that electricity will yet prove to be the average farmer's most economical and dependable hired help, both on the farm and in the house. Reliable helpers are no longer plentiful. They are in great demand, and command high wages. A few cents worth of electric current will pulp more roots, pump more water, cut more feed, saw more wood, clean more carpets, wash more clothes, and accomplish more of many other such services, than a dollar's worth of human effort. And hydro wants no Sundays off.

Handicapped in Regard to Credit.

"The Canadian farmer suffers the greatest handicap in the world in the matter of facilities for borrowing money." To this effect J. H. Haslam, of Regina, Sask., is quoted in an interview upon his return from Europe as chairman of a commission to investigate agricultural credits. While the Canadian farmer (meaning, presumably, the Western farmer) pays anywhere from eight per cent. up to 50 per cent. for advances, the European farmer with less land and a smaller investment can secure "almost any amount he may ask for" at from two to six per cent.

The report of the Commission will suggest action to secure a credit organization. In France money is at the ready disposal of the farmer at a rate of interest ranging from two and a half to three per cent. In Germany he pays from three and a half to five per cent., in Italy from four to six per cent., in Belgium and Holland from three to four per cent., in Austria-Hungary four and a half per cent., and in Russia from four and a half to six per cent. In nearly every country the farmer obtains money as cheaply as or more cheaply than the banks. The Government of Austria-Hungary recently paid six and a half per cent. on a loan of $50,000 from the United States, and yet farmers in that country can obtain money without difficulty at two per cent. less. In the interview, Mr. Haslam is represented as drawing a significant distinction between banking in Europe and in Canada. In the older continent, he says, the man who owns the land and produces something the country must have is held in the highest respect. The banker acts merely as an agency to provide the farmer with whatever capital is required for him to carry on his operations. The Government has such control of the banks that they are to every purpose Government utilities. In the old countries bank managers never receive such handsome salaries as they do in Canada or United States. The Bank of France is the greatest financial institution in the world, yet th head of it receives only $15,000 per year.

Whether the remarks about the European banks and their service to the agricultural community are intended to apply to the whole banking system is not made clear, but certain it is that the European farmer has the advantage of a system of agricultural credit unknown in Canada outside the recently-organized co-operative credit societies in Quebec.

Pruning Weeds.

A contributor to an English Exchange laments the fact that the quality of the hand-hoeing done nowadays is going down. Particularly in the case of roots, he contends, hoeing is important, and cannot be accomplished by machinery. That is, the singling cannot. The best plants in every bunch ought to be left. The spaces ought to be even when possible, but for gaps two plants should be left, so that one might be pushed to the side and thus fill up the gap to a certain extent.

Dear, dear! Is hoeing becoming a lost art in England also? It is fast getting that way here, but we had hoped it was different there. Even in the mere matter of chopping out thistles we are very slack. Not enough muscle is applied. The weeds are merely pruned off at the surface instead of being cut deep so that it would take them some time to reach daylight again. Think of two dollars a day for pruning weeds! There seems to be nothing for for it but to reduce hoeing to a minimum by cultivation and by cutting down the acreage af roots. The proprietor has little time himself to do hoeing, but for his own sake he should endeavor to keep in practice to some extent. If it keeps on, good hoeing will soon be a curiosity.

No Liability without Warranty.

A law case of universal interest to stockmen is detailed in this issue by H. H. Miller, Ex-M. P., of Grey Co., Ont. A butcher bought four pigs from a farmer without any particular warranty, and, when the pigs were slaughtered, it was discovered that two of them were ridgelings. The butcher notified the farmer, and asked him to take away the carcasses, and refund the money paid for them. Upon the vendor failing to comply, the purchaser took the pigs to his place, left them there, and sued for his money. Several points were raised by the defendant, but the judge found against him on all these claims and based his decision upon the simple and sufficient fact that there was no warranty expressed or implied, and, that, therefore, the defendant was not liable. This accords with British law, and with various Canadian precedents cited in the lengthy written judgment. In Great Britain the National Federation of Meat Traders once took to the courts a case involving a somewhat similar principle, but lost it, the Lord Chief Justice ruling that in the absence of a warranty the vendors were not liable to refund any of the price paid for the meat that might be subsequently condemned as diseased. In the view of the law, when a butcher sells a joint there is an implied warranty that it is fit for the purpose for which it was offered. In the sale of a live animal for slaughter there is no such implied warranty. The buyer takes the risk of the animal not proving wholly or partly fit for food. Such is the law.

Of course, when an express warranty is given by the vendor, the case is different, and, in 1908, the National Federation of Meat Traders in Great Britain undertook to demand some such warranty with all butchers' stock purchased by them. The demand was bitterly resisted by farmers and graziers. Our correspondent appears to think that the law, as it stands, is not in the public interest, and should be amended. We agree with his argument that it would be desirable if possible to penalize a man who sold animals to a butcher knowing them to be diseased or otherwise unfit for food, but to claim that unsuspected risks should be saddled upon the producer, along with the many other burdens he has to bear, is another matter.

And yet it does seem to be working that way. The Toronto abattoirs have decided to buy stock subject to inspection, and, in case of rejection, the loss falls back upon the shipper, who, however, cannot as yet collect from the farmer unless a warranty has been obtained.

It is well to know the statutes on these points, for many a farmer has been "bluffed" into making good all or a large part of loss sustained on animals not turning out sound. Sometimes the drover generously offers to bear half the loss, whereas the law requires him to bear all of it. If, from ethical or business motives, the producer chooses to make good a part, that is his affair, but the matter is optional with him.