

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

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G. H. GREENE
Editor and Publisher
Member C. W. N. A.

THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 1921

FARM MANAGEMENT

A Brief Study of Some of Its Leading Problems.

Systematic Method Important — A Question of Quantity, Quality, Cost, and Proceeds — Inefficiency and Carelessness to Be Barred — Good Care Will Save Many Fools.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

We speak of uncontrollable factors. Nevertheless farm management means control. The word "uncontrollable" is used loosely, and some measure of control is possible or hoped for in every farmer's undertakings. Farm management as a science, as a study, or a planned system, is a study of the methods of control. Farm practice is the corresponding art. A farmer was invited to attend a meeting to discuss improved methods of farming. "Nothing doing," was his reply; "I know a lot more now than I can get done." A very natural point of view, for the limitations of time, the scarcity of labor, adverse weather, diseases and pests, prevent him from getting all those results which his plans and his labor deserve. Yet he must plan, and to plan intelligently he must be possessed of the best knowledge available. He must plan to produce the greatest possible quantity, the best quality, at the lowest possible cost, and then he must plan to sell his produce at prices which will bring to him sufficient encouragement and reward.

Problems of Farm Management.

These are the problems of farm management: Quantity, quality, cost, and proceeds; and since they are closely inter-related, they cannot be studied separately, but must be considered all together. For example, European farming and Canadian farming are often compared to the disadvantage of the latter. It is asserted, and it is doubtless true, that the European farmer produces more per acre than the Canadian farmer does, and that the European acre is increasing in yield, while the Canadian acre is diminishing in yield. On the other hand, the Canadian farmer produces from three to ten times as much per man as does the European farmer. In Europe, because of the dense population and the relative scarcity of land, production per acre is the measure of efficiency. In Canada, because of the scarcity of men on the land and the relative abundance of land, production per man is the measure of efficiency. In Canada the farmer has the option of applying more labor to the same acres, and producing more per acre, or applying his labor to more acres. The law of diminishing returns speedily induces him to choose his option by working more acres. A low production per acre is the inevitable result of this choice.

Management Influenced by Returns.

The farmer's interest is served by adopting such a system of farm management as will give him the greatest returns for labor and capital expended. Unfortunately, that system invariably results, in a country where there is unoccupied land, in wasting soil fertility and diminishing yields. The nation, as distinct from the individual farmer, is concerned in conserving its natural resources and in producing the greatest possible amount of wealth; that is, in maintaining the soil fertility unimpaired and producing the maximum per acre. Thus the interest of the individual farmer and the interests of the nation are opposed, so long as the farmer can spread his available labor over more acres than he can work at maximum productiveness. Those interests will not be reconciled so long as economic conditions furnish the farmer with inefficient and costly labor, and costly fertilizers.

No Excuse for Slovenly Farming.

All this, however, does not excuse the careless and inefficient farmer. Two farmers live and work side by side. Both have the same number of acres, and the same amount of capital invested. To both the same knowledge of good methods is available. One of them directs his labor, arranges his crops, selects his stock, keeps them healthy and thrifty, keeps his land clean, maintains his soil fertility, sells his produce to advantage, and succeeds. The other is haphazard. He has no plans, or wrong plans. His stock are poor in quality, and ill-fed. His fences are broken down, and his land overrun with weeds. He is going behind year by year. We all know men of both types. The difference is a difference in farm management. — President Reynolds, O. A. College, Guelph.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mildred Emma Blachford, of the City of Hamilton, in the County of Wentworth, in the Province of Ontario, will apply to the Parliament of Canada at the next Session thereof for a Bill of Divorce from her husband, Albert Charles Blachford, of the City of Detroit, Michigan, in the United States of America, Editor, on the ground of adultery.

Dated at Hamilton, Province of Ontario, the 22nd day of August, 1921.
SNIDER, MORGAN & WALSH,
Solicitors for Applicant.
ANDREW T. THOMPSON, K. C.,
Ottawa Agent.

Notice of Application For Divorce

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Allan Richard Morgan of Hamilton Beach in the County of Wentworth and Province of Ontario, Time Clerk, will apply to the Parliament of Canada at the next Session thereof for a Bill of Divorce from his wife Christina Fraser Morgan of the City of Aberdeen, Scotland, on the grounds of adultery and desertion.

Dated at Hamilton, Province of Ontario, the 5th day of October, 1921.
ORVILLE M. WALSH,
Solicitor for Applicant.
ANDREW T. THOMPSON, K. C.,
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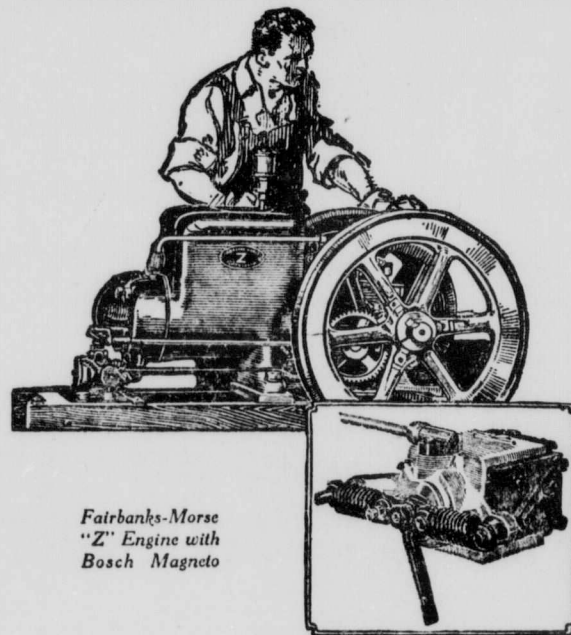
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