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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

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VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MARCH 4, 1915.

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EDITORIAL.

A rush to market is disastrous.

Clean plenty of seed and to spare.

Get good seed and have it ready for the field.

It is a good time now to oil the harness and get the implements ready for the field.

In about a month's time the farmers of Canada will have their innings in the trenches.

This season is to witness the greatest campaign ever conducted upon the soil of Canada.

Plan to have plenty of green feed for the pigs this season. That is the only way to make ends meet.

The orders seem to be to seed just a little better than ever before, and these should be followed.

Why should all this "patriotism" cry be directed at the farmer? Does any one question his patriotic spirit?

If plenty of pasture is assured do not sell any of the breeding stock. They may prove more valuable in a year or two.

"We are not creating great armies to win back a few trenches in Belgium," observes the London Times, "but to restore peace permanently to the world."

The worst "submarine" to war against fall wheat is spring frosts. Every farmer knows it, but like the merchantman, is almost helpless to cope with the situation.

Are there any bolts or nuts missing from the implements? You will not know unless you look, and if you do not look it may prove costly in a few weeks from now.

The pressure of sugar trade prices is going to stimulate the maple industry this season, providing good Dame Nature furnishes suitable weather, and would have still greater effect if the extra farm labor required were forthcoming.

Farmers interested in increasing their production this year would like to read in the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" an outline of the methods of cultivation found to be successful on other farms. Write for our columns a few good, practical suggestions on better cultivation.

Some claim that the "production" end of the campaign of meetings put on for the special benefit of Canadian farmers should have been dropped, and all the emphasis placed on "patriotism." Others take the other view and think that "patriotism" should have been dropped, and judging from the attendance and interest at some of the meetings the whole thing might have been dropped without seriously handicapping the farmer in his 1915 work. Most farmers will try to produce cereals at present prices; none cares to have his patriotism questioned; some would like details as to how production might be increased, but the campaign speakers, competent as they are, rarely go into details, because it is against orders.

A Conference on Cultivation.

The first step in increasing production, so far as 1915 is concerned, must be better seed of heavier yielding varieties, and this placed in a more thoroughly worked seed-bed than ever before. An increased production means more work, and it is time to begin. Get the seed ready. If not satisfied with the varieties on hand or the purity, the plumpness and freedom from noxious weed seeds of the grain now is the time, (if it has not already been attended to), to locate seed of the desired kind, and have it delivered to the granary ready for the field. Clean the seed twice at least, and three or four times if necessary. Plump seed, pure as to variety and free from weeds will produce several bushels per acre more than will shrunken, dirty, cull seed. The fanning mill, the screen and sieve cannot be used too much.

Much of the success of this year's crop depends upon the way the seed is put in this spring. Nothing can be gained by an increased acreage if the seed is only "scratched in." An extra disking, one more cultivating with the spring-tooth cultivator, and an extra stroke or two with the harrow may mean the difference between a heavy and a light harvest next August. We have seen men in their rush to be the first through their seeding go around wet places in the fields with the cultivator and drill for fear of miring their horses, and sow a little seed by hand on these places and scratch it over with the harrows. Early seeding is always advisable, but it is not good cultivation to "mud it in." The cultivation which is given the fields will mean a great deal toward the "Increased Production" of which we hear so much. There are many little things in cultivation which our readers—practical farmers—have learned by experience. It is the duty and opportunity of these men to give others the benefit of this experience, and our columns are open. Let us have an interesting and valuable discussion on tillage methods. In this issue there appears an article on soils and one opening the discussion on cultivation. Read them, and whether you agree or disagree give us your opinions.

The Manure Question.

At a meeting of farmers the other day the question of handling barnyard manure came up for discussion, and as is usually the case, brought out much difference of opinion. As we see it the chief advantage in winter application is the saving of labor. Of course, where a man has no suitable place to keep manure he will lose less by applying it directly to the soil as made in winter, provided his soil is not too rolling and too much inclined to wash. If a man has plenty of labor available and has a large covered manure shed in which to store the manure, and prevent leaching or seepage, and keeps that manure well tramped by allowing his cattle the run of the shed part of the time, and if necessary adds a little water, we believe he can get the best results possible with manure by handling it in this manner, and applying when needed and working into the soil immediately. However, few farmers are so situated. Few have the labor and the time to haul manure in spring and summer. Few have a suitable covered and floored shed, and most have only a barnyard, and this very often situated so that water runs away from it all the time, carrying off the valuable liquid manure

and leachings from the solid excrement. True, many are careless and take no pains to pile their manure in neat piles and keep it packed solid. Many leave it under the eaves or spread all over the yard. Many neglect to mix the manure from the different classes of stock, something which should always be done. So that under average conditions it is considered good practice to spread the manure on the fields in winter as made. This will not apply to all conditions. A practical farmer at the meeting in question stated that for five or six years he had tried it out on his soil with potatoes and found the winter application unsatisfactory. Another man said that on heavy plowed land spreading in winter seemed to keep the land cold, sad, damp and backward in the spring, and he did not favor it. There are exceptions to any farm rule; but as a general thing, all phases of the subject considered, winter application seems advisable where a proper shed and plenty of labor are not available and where the land is comparatively level. Where the land seems to be injured by winter application, of course, it would not be wise to continue its practice. As manure rots it loses in bulk. This must not be forgotten.

Too Much Education?

According to our last "Scottish Letter" some farmers in Great Britain complain that too much education spoils boys and girls for farm life. We have heard the same thing many times in this country. In reply to the common question, "Where is your son now?" The answer almost invariably is, "oh, he took an education and is in the city doing well!" The idea of education seems to be built on city life. We do not believe that too much education is possible if the education is what it should be. Our young men and young women cannot get too broad a knowledge of things in general to aid them in life, and all education should lead to a knowledge of these things. Is it then our education which is at fault or is it that the young man from the farm when he gets that education sees how the bigger interests, located in large cities, are masters of the situation, and decided to take his chance at making good with these interests rather than staying at home on the farm and working hard for the enrichment of the others who have been "educated" to the ways of the world, and know what the farmer's chances are compared with those of the men who really rule the roost? There must be something wrong with the education, or there is something amiss with farming and farm life. We believe there is a little just not right in each, but the big reason why educated farm boys and farm girls in this country leave the farm, and those who stay on the farm think that too much education is bad, is because the educated boy or girl sees a little more of how the organized interests get the best of every great national deal. Some day it should be the business of some of these educated farm boys and girls, who are not afraid to go back to the farm and use their knowledge, to expose some of the workings of dominating influences in this country. We want education that will fit our farm boys and girls not only to farm but to take their places in the affairs of the nation, especially in so far as these affect agriculture. We care nothing for the education that turns a farm boy's heart against farming.

When these educated farmers are available, and when their education has taught them that the