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EDITORIAL

Do not allow flies to worry the calves.

It is not yet too late to breed a good mare if you have one.

What is the use of enriching a piece of land and then turning it over to the production of weeds?

It never proves profitable to buy a poor grade of binder twine. Delays in the harvest field are expensive.

Did you ever notice that when the weatherman predicts "variable" weather he generally hits it exactly?

Ontario has few "bad years" for the progressive agriculturist. Every year is a "good year" on a good farm well tilled.

About as much interest and importance is now attached to international sport as formerly centered in international warfare.

Through the heavy cloud of business depression comes the bright and broadening ray of light—a record crop is expected.

The season for feeding the milk cows is at hand. Now is the time a soiling crop or two, or a little summer silage fills a big gap.

In selecting books for the improvement of the farm home library watch the lists of the modern "Best Sellers" and avoid buying them.

When a man is always grumbling about poor crops there is generally something wrong with the methods employed on the farm.

Do not stop cultivating the corn because it is clean; its growth still requires stimulating by frequent soil-stirring and renewal of soil mulch.

Mr. Farmer, upon your crop depends the prosperity of your country. Growing good crops year by year is a better sign of loyalty than wearing gold lace and bright uniform.

Allow all crops to ripen thoroughly, but be ready to harvest them at the proper time. A few days too late may mean the loss of many bushels of valuable grain as well as a more difficult harvest.

We must once more caution our readers who ask questions through these columns to write their names and addresses plainly, and to give all particulars in connection with legal, veterinary or other queries.

If cattle are required for fattening next winter the man who can secure them early will likely be the gainer. There is not going to be enough good ones to go around, and "first come first served." The early buyer gets the choice.

A well-kept lawn, a shapely hedge, a wind-break and a few fine, big trees around a house do not directly add to or detract from the farm returns, and yet they are often the source of more satisfaction and pleasure than several dollars banked from some branch of the season's operations.

Grain and Cattle as Security.

A leading Western Canada banker recently made a statement which reflects the proper attitude between banker and farmer. He, as bankers should be, was in favor of easier money for the farmer by advancing up to fifty per cent. of the value of the grain in the farmer's hands to the latter thus allowing him to finance his operations, hold his grain, and not be forced to sell on a declining market due to the forced rush of wheat to the elevator. An advance of this kind would mean thousands of dollars to the grain growers of Western Canada. Only last fall, it was pointed out, there was a sharp drop in prices as soon as the crop was threshed and rushed out for sale. Early in September wheat sold at 88c per bushel and one month later the price was down to 78c per bushel. Figure a loss of 10c per bushel on the millions of bushels produced and sold and the aggregate loss to the producer is sufficiently plain to demonstrate the need of ready money for the farmer. If the grower could raise fifty per cent. of the value of his crop on the grain before it is sold he could then hold it and there would be no rush of grain on the market to lower prices which would remain more equable throughout the season.

The same would apply in Eastern Canada only on a somewhat different basis. The stockman could raise money with his cattle for security and could thus buy cattle to feed and hold them until ready to sell on the highest market. Many cattle, pigs and sheep that would otherwise be forced on the market during a period of low prices or before they were properly finished would reach a higher finish, command a higher price, and return greater profits to the feeder. Why should not a farmer's grain, hay or cattle be just as good security as a merchant's dry goods or boots and shoes? The banker helps the merchant and business man and he cannot afford to pass the farmer by. He gets no inconsiderable amount of the deposits in his vaults from the tillers of the soil and he should endeavor to help those who need the money and can give such good security out of the holes into which circumstances often force them. More of our bankers are soon going to see what it means to them and the country at large and are going to fall in with the idea.

A Movement with a Motive.

The business world looks with discredit upon the movement known as "co-operation." They recognize three channels of trade, viz., manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing, and argue that co-operation cannot replace this system which has been in vogue and has stood the test for ages. In this their contentions are well-founded, for there is no desire to replace such system, but there is a brave effort being made to improve it. The movement is not a direct onslaught on the middleman; his name is used, however, to represent the system in its entirety, but it is their multiplicity and antiquated wasteful systems that people are warring against. It is the system of excess and duplication of accommodation, clerks, insurance, rental, delivery service, interest on investment, telephones, and such that the people would have relegated to the world's garret, and the producer realizes that the lack of standardization of products, individual buying and selling, the control of products by traders for ulterior motives, and the whole unfavorable manipulation of the channels of trade are second-hand and antiquated methods of commerce.

Middlemen always have been and always will be; we need them and want them, but where one can do the work there is no necessity of two. It is this duplication of workers that enhances the price of commodities, and although the actual earnings of the middlemen may be small yet their multiplicity makes it so that the buyer must pay a price that is unwarrantable. We doubt if the Cost of Living Commission will be able to hand down a decision deprecating the individual middleman, yet they will do well to look into the system as a whole. They will also be surprised, perhaps, when they learn how little the Farmer can lay by each year as a reward for his hard labor, but the lack of standardization of his products and organized effort will be as much in evidence.

In the organization of co-operative societies there are some who take the veil and sham philanthropy for no good end. A Western rancher once built a large fence around his flock to protect them from the coyotes, but when the fence was completed he found he had fenced some coyotes in. This often occurs in organization of any kind, and coyotes often creep into co-operative associations for their own aggrandizement, but who will condemn the movement on that account? Co-operation will not cure every social and commercial ill, but it has a place in the struggle for economic betterment.

One Man's Experience Not Enough.

We were much amused upon a certain occasion at a remark made by a retired minister regarding a certain farmer sending his son to the agricultural college, and yet there are a great many farmers good, bad and indifferent scattered here and there over this country that hold views very much like the prejudiced old parson who saw very little in farming more than work and worry over big crops and small. Here is his view of an agricultural education. There is a great deal contained in the one sentence—"John, what in the world do you want to send that boy to the agricultural college for, can't you teach him how to farm?"

John had made a very good success of farming and was considerably more of a practical man than a theorist; yet his practical experience and lack of scientific knowledge did not bias his mind or prejudice it against higher agricultural education than that which good fields and good stock afford. His reply was short and to the point. "Yes, I can teach him how to farm, but there is much more to be learned about the occupation than he can ever learn from me. He has a very good practical ground work to keep his head level enough to weigh the merits of the theories expounded by the scientific men, and by picking the good from my teaching and from theirs he should be placed in a fair position to go on and do something at this hard old game of farming. I have worked hard all my life; maybe he will learn to use his head more to help his hands."

The trouble with too many farmers is that they are always looking for something to criticize in the efforts of others, especially of those whose work deals with the scientific end of the business. They have been good, practical, hard-working farmers for years, and, to their credit, have made a financial success of farming. These men are never easy to convince that new methods are more to be depended upon than the old tried ways which have brought them returns, and