

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 25, 1918.

1335

EDITORIAL.

Canadians must get back to the land—not keep their backs to it.

Price control downward increases consumption and decreases production.

Most of March was lamb-like, but some of April has not been so gentle.

On goes the clock, regardless of what the change means to farm production.

The only possible solution of the food problem is not price but to get more food.

Petty differences must be submerged in the glory of doing something for the cause.

Poor horses move slowly on the road, in the field, and on the market. Breeding counts.

Some people seem to forget that farming to-day is a different proposition to what it was fifty years ago.

The calf crop, lamb crop and pig crop was never so valuable as is the case this spring. Save all possible.

Acreage counts on the Canadian farm. A little farm is not so profitable to the owner as a larger place would be.

Heavy production may not necessarily mean big profits, but big profits will always tend towards heavy production.

Food production can only come from the fertile fields, and platform hot air doesn't warm up the seed-bed very much.

Canada's soldiers of the soil will be deserving of the honor of their country if they hold the line they are expected to hold this year.

The boy and girl are real factors in the fight. We are just beginning to properly appreciate what the young folks mean to a country.

When the would-be rioters understand that all obstructions are to be taken into the ranks of the overseas forces there will be no riots.

Any embargoes that would place more burdens on the farmers' shoulders should not be considered by the Government of this country.

The best Canadian papers are favorable to the idea of publicity of the names of owners and management of all the papers in the country.

Now is the time to make arrangements to have plenty of green feed for the calves this summer. Remember the first year is the most important one in the calf's life.

Were the roads in your district good this spring because of the unusually dry condition of the ground, or because they have been well built and judiciously maintained?

Agricultural production can never be very much increased by treating the farmer as a school boy. The farmer's years of practical experience are generally a great deal more valuable than the theories of greater production advanced by men in other business.

The New Live Stock Council.

Agricultural organization is making rapid strides in Canada at present. There is no great flocking of untrained recruits to the banner, but the organizations we already have are consolidating themselves into a strong and effective force for the execution of their aims. In February last the sheep raisers of Canada organized a Dominion-wide association for the purpose of handling their wool so the manufacturers could be supplied with the product in proper form, and the growers in turn could demand market value. Nothing could be more equitable and since the Canadian Wool Growers' Ltd. is in good hands and is being supported by every province, it will be disappointing indeed if the sheep raisers of this Dominion do not profit very substantially through its existence.

Early in the present month a representative body of stockmen assembled in Toronto and cemented the various live-stock organizations into one powerful structure now known as the Canadian National Live-Stock Council. Heretofore we have had our record associations which exerted a considerable influence because they were financially self-supporting; the Western Canada Live Stock Union, operating west of the Great Lakes, has made itself felt because in it all the provincial organizations had vested power to act in their behalf. The Eastern Canada Live Stock Union, still a younger factor of similar make-up, has been forging ahead, so up to the present time both Eastern and Western Canada have gone as far as they could go separately in the great work of live-stock organizations. The Canadian National Live Stock Council, which is now the duly appointed cabinet of the Live Stock Parliament of Canada, is retained by nearly 14,000 breeders of pure-bred live stock; it is empowered to speak for the animal stocks owned by nearly 800,000 farmers, and in effect it represents an industry capitalized at one billion and fifteen millions of dollars, with no watered stock as we generally understand such. Surely this Council of eleven representative men should be heard, and farmers from ocean to ocean should render them moral and financial support.

Tell the People Who Own the Press.

In the 1917 session of the Federal Parliament, Col. Currie proposed that full publicity should be given to the power behind the press in Canada—that is that periodic publication of the names of shareholders, managers and editors of the various publications in this country be made law. The step was not taken. At the present session the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux has brought up the same question. The plain people are talking about it on every hand. Many seem to think that we have a muzzled press in this country. Hints are sometimes made that influential papers are "bought up" or controlled by men of money for their own ends. In order to dispel such a fear and to clear up the whole situation, it would be better to have full publicity in regard to the powers operating the press. Some of our best dailies are coming out editorially in favor of the suggestion. The Canadian press, we believe, has nothing to cover up. If there is any paper or group of papers in such a predicament the people have a right to know about it. The press exists only for the good of the people. If they are asking about the ownership and control they should be given what they desire to know at once. Such a law would safeguard free speech if it requires any safeguarding in this democratic country. The Farmer's Advocate has long stood for full publicity in regard to ownership and management of the press. Surely no paper in Canada is so tied up with any "interests" as to object to the people having the fullest knowledge of its control. If the people want to know, let them.

Should Exhibitions be Abandoned?

In the Dominion Government Estimates for 1918-19 the appropriation for exhibitions is reduced from \$50,000 to \$25,000, and recently a member of parliament announced that he would introduce a resolution providing for the abandonment of all fairs in 1918. If such an idea should meet with any favor in the House, we should be inclined to believe that production is not very important after all, and that Parliament treats agricultural affairs in a manner altogether too flippant. Agriculture and production are now subjected to that unnecessary obstacle, "Daylight Saving," which means the waste of the best hour of the day on the farm, and the ridiculousness of this ruling will become more apparent as the season progresses. Any action which may lead to the discouragement of fairs will meet with universal disfavor, for they have become a tradition in the agricultural life of this country, as well as a remarkably effective medium for the dissemination of advanced or modern ideas. Any move to abolish them will strike at the very foundation of agriculture and take away from it a propelling force that makes for improved quality and increased quantity.

For nearly a century rural Ontario has had its "Fair Day" once a year, and this, in many cases, was the only holiday enjoyed during the busy summer and autumn. In the case of larger exhibitions, it requires almost a quarter century to put them on their feet and get them running smoothly. Any disturbance such as has been suggested will affect them unfavorably for years. Anyone with experience knows that an exhibitor of live stock must start one year or more ahead to prepare his entries so as to have the cows freshening at the most favorable date and the calves dropped so they can be entered in the classes where they may be shown to the best advantage. This is only one example to intimate what preparations must be made. Farmers will make any sacrifice that may help to bring victory to the Entente Allies, but they will object strenuously to legislation that will inflict hardships without resulting in a gain to anybody. The saving in feed would be negligible, for show animals come from pure-bred herds which are usually kept in moderately good condition all the time. Herdsmen say that the fitting of entries will entail little extra labor or feed. The actual work of staging the exhibition is contributed by a class of labor that might be termed more or less transient, so the essential industries do not suffer. Any move to discourage the holding of fairs should not be considered very seriously, for it is quite possible to interfere too much with the established order of things and decrease production without effecting any good.

Making Capital to Farm

We were talking with a man a few days ago who had left the farm and taken up other work in a Western Ontario city in his younger days. As is usual in such conversation at this time, the subject of farming came up for discussion. Our friend remarked: "I intend to return to the farm when I have sufficient capital to start on a fair basis." It occurred to us that we had heard that same expression several hundred times from several hundred different people. They all plan to return to the farm when they get sufficient capital to start. Surely farming is a queer business. Surely something is wrong with the economics of this country when it is necessary for the farm-bred and farm-raised boys to go elsewhere to get enough money to make a start in the business they like best and know most about. What is wrong with the farm? Men trained in other business can make a start in that business. Men trained on the farm leave for other business in order to make enough money to come back to their chosen calling and start on the farm. Surely farming must be at a disadvantage in the economic