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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 22, 1918.

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EDITORIAL.

Brain, brawn and optimism are three valuable assets.

A big crop will, no doubt, be needed in 1919. Prepare this fall.

Give the fall wheat land plenty of cultivation. A good seed-bed is one of the first essentials.

Are you prepared to assist others in regard to fall wheat seed? If you have a quantity to dispose of let it be known.

After-harvest cultivation has a place in clean farming. The objects of same are conservation of moisture and the destruction of weeds.

Even a small exhibit of live stock, field crops, fruit or vegetables will help the local fair. Bring out the best you have; it will help others as well as yourself.

Western crop reports are much more optimistic in tone and an easier feeling prevails in that part of Canada where, not long since, conditions looked none too good.

Go through the clover field and take out the bad weeds, if the second crop is to be cut for seed. The separation can be effected more easily now than after the crop is threshed.

Some are of the opinion that price-fixing would be a remedy for all troubles. A little of it can be tolerated, but very much price-fixing would disorganize the whole system of production and trade.

Farmers have worked together in the harvest to good advantage, and they should not let this little germ of co-operation die out when the rush is over. More unity would be good for the industry.

Those without titles have every reason to feel grateful. Surely a Knight or Baron would not dare to remove his coat at the table and eat a meal in comfort these hot days. Shirt sleeves are unconstitutional.

The Western Show Circuit is just about completed, and the eastern herds will be returning soon to meet fresh competition in the rings at Toronto, London and Ottawa. It is rumored that a Manitoba herd will be represented in the Shorthorn classes at the coming events.

Canada's air force should prove a grand success if well managed. Our aviators are second to none, and there are others ready to enlist in this branch of the service which permits of initiative on the part of the individual. Resourcefulness under difficult or uncommon circumstances is a peculiarity of the Canadian.

Never before in the history of Canada has the importance of agriculture been realized as it now is. It is the duty of every farmer to do his best and add dignity to his calling by having some regard for himself and respect for others of the same occupation. Too long have we looked on the professional man as superior to the husbandman.

The next issue of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" will be our annual Exhibition Number, wherein readers will find the results of extra efforts in all departments of the paper. Experts and authorities in various lines have contributed to the columns of the forthcoming issue, and we feel assured that the number will be appreciated by all who take an interest in agriculture and its advancement.

Veterinarians Should Use Anæsthetics.

Conditions are constantly undergoing change, but changes follow and are the result of progress of human intellect and human ideals. What proved very satisfactory to the aborigines of this country were altogether unsuitable for the white man who came, and what the early settler endured would not be tolerated by the Canadian citizen of to-day. It is commonly said of those who fail to see changes coming and will not acknowledge the demands of our ageing civilization that "they cannot see the handwriting on the wall." There is a growing sentiment in favor of a more humane treatment of dumb animals and a realization that neglect of their welfare, or an unnecessary infliction of pain, is cruelty, which an enlightened public opinion will not endorse or condone. Humane societies have done a good work, but at first they were looked upon as a fanatically sentimental group of "busybodies" with nothing to do but interfere in the affairs of people who had their tasks to perform and life's battle to win. No doubt there were those in these organizations who showed too much zeal and too little practical knowledge of what was right and what was wrong, but on the whole we must admit that a good work has been done and expression has been given to a growing sentiment that dumb animals should not be submitted to cruelty and torture at the hand of civilized man.

The veterinary surgeon has it in his power, while attending to his professional work, to alleviate a great deal of pain, or, on the other hand, to perform operations of a very distressing nature without anaesthetics or anything to allay the suffering of the brute, bound and absolutely helpless. In some of the States in the neighboring republic, veterinary surgeons are obliged to use anaesthetics in all major operations, and the same rule is not too rigid for Canadian veterinarians to observe. The treatment for fistulous wither is rather severe, especially when a part of the bone must be removed, and animals operated on for such should be anaesthetized. The same is true of a double ridgling and in other numerous cases. Frequently, too, a local anaesthetic can be used with very good effect in minor operations, but where sensitive parts are involved. By a proper compounding of drugs the effect of the cocaine, or whatever agent the operator elects to use, can be localized and made to exert its influence for a sufficient length of time.

We are well advanced in an era now where breeders and stockmen generally demand professional skill on the part of the veterinarians they employ, neither will they object to a slight additional expense if the operations performed are carried out in harmony with the growing sentiment which favors humane treatment and respect for the feelings of the brute. Some veterinarians are strong exponents of anaesthetics; others are not. The time will probably come, and it cannot come too soon, when it will be compulsory to use anaesthetics when major operations are being performed.

Dr. Beland and His Message.

In Hon. Dr. Beland, who has passed through the hardships of a German prison and is enthusiastically eager to see Prussian "kulture" put down, Canada should have an able devotee of unity and a valuable exponent of the democracy for which we and our Allies are fighting. We have a little trouble in our own home to adjust before we can be of the most assistance in quelling that larger and immeasurably greater quarrel beyond the seas. The former Post Master General appears again on the horizon, as it were, unattached to any party and with a desire, kindled to flame by German treatment, that the war be won and won triumphantly by the superiority of arms and supplies which the Entente Allies can put into the field. Dr.

Beland was beyond the reach of insults hurled at his countrymen during the last election, so he now comes before the Canadian public unprejudiced in regard to politics or religion in so far as they affect our war efforts. French Canada will hear from him what Quebec has done and what she should do, and the English speaking element of this country will perhaps realize that one of the oldest and largest of our provinces was badly handled to the detriment of the major cause. Dr. Beland can be a wonderful agent for good in this Dominion, and it is to be hoped that politics will not be allowed to interfere with the more important business for which he is exceptionally well equipped.

Important Show-Ring Features.

In viewing the live stock coming before the judge in the show-ring, observers should single out the important classes and know what they signify. Too little attention is usually paid to the "get of sire" and "produce of dam." These mean a great deal, and the purse for these classes is seldom as large as it should be. If any animal is a sure getter of good progeny it should be known far and wide. With plenty of money anyone can pick up enough good individuals to make a show herd, but it is the breeding of good animals that should be encouraged. It is well to depict type, conformation, breed character and such, but it is another thing to breed it. The man who can breed prize winners as well as fit them deserves the highest honors of the fair, but to be able to do this he must have the right kind of breeding stock. The two classes mentioned indicate where the good parentage is to be found.

Another important class is that for "The best four calves, bred and owned by exhibitor." It, too, is indicative of what the exhibitor has at home and how successful he is as a breeder of good cattle. Of no less importance is the breeder's herd which is usually made up of one young bull and four young females of stipulated ages; all bred and owned by the exhibitor. To win in such a class against competition is a distinction worthy of recognition. Such means that the herd sire is a producer of the right kind and the breeding females are matrons of the proper sort. More emphasis should be laid on the breeding of good live stock, and the honors should go to the herds or flocks from whence it comes.

More City Homes.

The attitude assumed by our Provincial Government in regard to the housing of industrial workers in the cities of Ontario is, in one sense, commendable. The appropriation of \$2,000,000 to be loaned for building purposes shows an interest is taken in the comfort and improvement of the home life of those who toil and, so far as this goes, the legislators are worthy of considerable praise. On the other hand, the appropriation gives expression to an apparent indifference to the decreasing rural population and the certain decline of agriculture, the basic industry of all. The country would benefit far more by the erection of 1,000 cottages on the farms of this Province in order to house the laborers and their families than by the addition of 5,000 houses to the city of Toronto. Immediately prior to the war there was no dearth of houses in Ontario urban centres, but "munitions" drew laborers from everywhere and paid them well. Others scented the money that was flowing freely where "big business" was located so they, too, hied away to cater to the wants of those earning the high wage and spending it freely. This, of course, means congestion and a housing problem. But after the war—what?

We hear it said on every hand that agriculture must absorb a large part of the floating population after the war. Agriculture will do its bit when the time comes, but how about the housing of these people when they

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