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EDITORIAL.

Get ready for fall wheat.

Look well to the feed supply for next winter.

Save something good for the fall fair, and get the young folk interested in the preparation of an exhibit.

The growing chickens should be given every chance to mature early. Early-maturing pullets are the most profitable winter layers.

Salvage the shelled grain in the fields with poultry. They will pick up a good living, for a time, in the harvest fields, and convert waste into money.

The participants in the race war in Washington would have no need to wear badges to indicate allegiance to either party. It was a straight fight of black against white.

Unmown fence corners, neglected lanes and weed-infested roadsides make clean farming a difficult task. With environments such as these a farm will never look or do its best.

Have the school grounds in your section received any attention since school closed for the holidays? Don't allow this little community centre and seat of learning for the young to take on a deserted appearance and become an eye-sore to the district.

In some parts of the country the apple crop will again be small. It is good advice, but perhaps poor satisfaction, to be told to hold on through poor years as well as good. Experience has shown that in the long run well-cared-for orchards are profitable.

After-harvest tillage is now the order of the day. Clean farming has received a set-back during the labor shortage, and, while help is as scarce as ever, many farmers can improve dirty fields by thorough cultivation of the unseeded stubble fields.

Farmers who ship live stock to the stock yards should familiarize themselves with the new regulations which are to be made effective by the Dominion Department of Agriculture in August. These are designed to give protection to farmers, and all others dealing in the yards.

This will be a lean year agriculturally for Canada. Alberta has been burnt up, over half of Saskatchewan has been dried out and Ontario crops, taken in their entirety, are considerably below the average. The effect will be universal, and conservation and thrift still remain a good motto.

Through this dry weather the corn cultivator will do a great deal to conserve what moisture there is in the soil, and thereby increase the crop of corn for feed next winter. The dairyman who has his silos full this fall will be in a defensive position next winter. Feed generally promises to be very short.

While war on a large scale has ceased and peace has been celebrated, the battle flags have not been furled the world over, for from Russia and other distant lands there still come rumors of advances and retreats. The ex-Kaiser kindled a flame that will not be entirely extinguished, perhaps, until after the light in his despoiled body has flickered and gone out.

After-Harvest Tillage.

Each year teaches new lessons and reviews the old ones taught over and over again by the recurrence of droughts, weed infestations and the attacks of insects and fungous diseases. Clean farming is a more arduous task than it was years ago when more labor was available, and the hand-hoe was used freely to supplement the work of the cultivator and harrows. More than that, weeds have been permitted to distribute themselves through artificial channels in addition to the means provided by Nature, and insects have become more depredations on account of the increased advantages afforded them. After-harvest cultivation, always a good practice, has now become a prime essential in good farming methods, for as forests are cut away or destroyed by fire, the conservation of soil moisture becomes more and more important, as man has interfered with Nature's plans, and must, therefore, take steps to provide the substitute.

Insect control is of growing importance, but weed eradication and conservation of moisture now renders after-harvest tillage one of the most essential of farm operations. The unseeded stubble fields lying idle through-out the long autumn provide a splendid seed-bed for the growth of weeds, which often come to maturity and infest the land. Furthermore, water channels are established to the very surface, and water is pumped from the reservoir below and given off to the air above.

Stirring the surface produces a mulch that checks this evaporation and, at the same time, makes conditions favorable for the germination of weed seeds that otherwise might lie dormant until the following or subsequent springs. Then a later cultivation destroys the young plants and rids the soil of many troublesome weeds.

There is also another point to be considered in connection with after-harvest cultivation, namely, the improvement made in the physical condition of the soil and the increase in fertility thus brought about. Much plant food is unlocked and made available by the very working of the land, and one really adds fertility when he practices after-harvest tillage.

Don't Be Satisfied With the Average.

We have often heard the farm press criticized by farmers for giving information concerning high yields and good results without mentioning at the same time the comparatively small returns of the vast majority. They claim it is misleading to the general public to relate the experiences of the most successful in the various branches of agriculture, and that an impression is likely to get abroad that farming is highly remunerative under almost any circumstances. They favor average results being published, so those outside the field of agriculture may not form wrong conclusions or labor under the impression that it is due to some fault of farmers themselves that all are not equally prosperous. It is expedient and necessary, now more than ever before, that people generally, should have a correct understanding of the various industries which are considered the essential ones. Nevertheless, it is one of the chief functions of a farm paper to guide its readers and keep them informed concerning the most modern and up-to-date methods of farming. If a man, by the use of legumes, good cultural methods, or fertilizers, builds up a worn-out farm or improves a good one, so it will produce an abundance of corn, grain and roughage, and as a result more live stock can be maintained to still further enhance the fertility of the soil, information concerning his practices should be of interest and benefit to thousands of others working under similar conditions. His results indicate the extent of his success, and should, therefore, be made known. There is, perhaps, no phase

of general farming that will permit of more improvement and show better financial returns for any forward step made than will dairying. Many take cows as they are and attempt to get along with them as best they can, while others set about to build up a herd of known producers and money-makers. The average production per cow is in the neighborhood of 4,000 pounds, but through breeding, weeding and feeding it is possible to double or treble on that amount for every mature cow in a good dairy herd. Why be content with the average? It is always below what the ordinary man can accomplish if he applies himself and attempts to get above the surging sea of humanity made up of just "average" persons. "The Farmers' Advocate" has never neglected to keep before the public mind the handicaps under which agriculture is carried on, nor has it neglected to make suggestions, which, when acted upon, tend to make farming more pleasant and profitable, yet as a farmers' adviser this publication is always on the lookout for new ideas which have been put to the test and proved sound. These should be conveyed, we feel, to farmers who are endeavoring to progress and get away from the "average," with which too many are content. There will be lean years, such as the present, and there will be fat years, but through them all the progressive, up-to-date, practical farmer will be in the lead, and to him other ambitious farmers will look for guidance and information.

Fall Wheat as a Crop.

Fall wheat as a farm crop in Ontario has had its ups and downs, but always it has been held in favor by farmers situated in districts specially favorable to its production, and on certain holdings known as good wheat farms. War needs forced it back more generally into the rotation, and a great many farmers have found it a not unprofitable crop when a reasonable acreage is devoted to it. Fall wheat is risky, that is true, but on a great many places this year it is the only grain crop that will amount to very much. It has been disappointing this season—not when compared with the yields of coarse grains, but when the threshing results are contrasted with the promise it gave two or three weeks prior to harvest. However, considering the season, fall wheat has done fairly well and, no doubt, a considerable acreage will be prepared for it again this autumn. Farmers find in fall wheat a cash crop which, at the same time, contributes liberally to the supply of straw, and thus adds to the roughage which is never too plentiful on a stock farm or where the ordinary type of mixed farming is practiced. The land is prepared and seeding done in what may be termed a mid-season, if such now exists, and the crop is taken off, and in many cases threshed, between haying and the main grain harvest. Labor is thus distributed, a cash crop is produced which is marketable at a time when receipts are not heavy, and a generous supply of straw is obtained. Many do not care to get along without a certain percentage of wheat in the chop fed to hogs or cattle, and would grow it for that reason if for no other.

If forced to make use of raw and inexperienced help in haying and harvest, be as patient as possible and show them the little tricks of handling a fork in pitching on. Once they get the "knack," what is really hard work will not seem so hard.

Don't fail to provide the hogs with plenty of fresh water daily, especially those on pasture feeding from a self-feeder.

Do not breed swine small in the bone if you would have good-doing, thrifty stock.