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EDITORIAL.

Time and manure are two things commonly much undervalued.

The trouble with apparently good ideas that do not pan out in practice lies often with the practice.

Watching the judging-rings, then reading carefully the reports, one can learn much by fair attendance.

Odd, isn't it, how some fields shrink in area between seeding and threshing time? Wheat fields seem particularly liable to this peculiar process. Wonder why?

The final object in life is not to make money, but to use the money in developing a higher type of endeavor, and of society. The richest farming regions do not necessarily have the best society, or even the best living conditions—but they should have.

This is a century of surprises, and the Hudson's Bay Railway project may be all right, but it has never appealed to us that a system of transportation which necessitated the holding of the crop for nine or ten months could be a very satisfactory route for marketing Western grain. This, besides all the difficulties, dangers and other probable disadvantages of the route. The logbook of the Government Steamer Stanley may well give us pause.

Ontario's superb system of dairy instruction and sanitary inspection is bearing abundant fruit in the improvement of equipment and sanitary conditions at cheese factories and creameries, in more uniform and skillful methods of making, in such improvements as pasteurization of whey, introduction of individual cans for cream-hauling, in the suppression of adulteration, and in the general adoption of cooling the night's milk, and better care of milk by the patrons—all these factors tending to improve the quality of our cheese and butter, which was never before so high as this season.

Too many are inclined to think that the arguments in favor of reforestation are purely aesthetic. Undoubtedly one of the greatest ultimate benefits which arise from farm or other wood-lots is the charm which they add to life—that spiritual delight, that moral strength, and that love of the Master Spirit which comes from close association with those giants which delve into the depths of the earth for sustenance and reach to the skies for power. But there are many other arguments in favor of a vigorous policy of forest renewal, and of these the financial is one of the strongest. In Germany the State of Baden has thirty-six per cent. of its total area in forest, of which nearly one-half is owned by community corporations. These communities cut \$3,600,000 worth of timber annually without removing more than the annual growth of wood. The City of Baden itself owns 10,576 acres of forest, from which the total revenue yearly, after paying \$33,392 for interest, improvements, labor, etc., yields \$625 per acre net profit. This is but one of many instances of profit from forests properly managed. Not many farms show a larger net yield, and above interest and wages; and that yield is practically perpetual under any sort of care and management.

Fall Foals.

Fall foals are almost as easy to obtain as spring foals; they are not subjected to the pest of flies for so long as spring foals; they make a greater use of grass during their first year, and are less likely to be stunted by weaning; they receive more care, and are consequently gentler and better mannered; their mothers do more work, at less risk to themselves and their offspring. These are some of the arguments put forth by practical men in favor of having foals dropped in the fall. On the other hand, some few claim that they do not grow as well; that they cost more to produce; that the mares are harder to get in foal, and often at greater inconvenience, due to the distance to a desirable stallion; that they are handicapped in the show-ring; that there is more trouble with their feet; that it is contrary to the natural breeding habits, and for these reasons do not think fall foals practicable.

Undoubtedly, there is much to be said on both sides of the question, and, while the raising of foals dropped in the fall may not be feasible as universal practice, yet there seem to be many reasons for following it more than is now done. The colt may require some extra attention and care in feeding, exercising and trimming of feet, but during the winter there is much more time for such care. It would appear that more work would be secured, at less risk, from the mares, and the exercise thus obtained should insure a strong, vigorous youngster. When mares are worked, which, as a general thing, they should be, the spring foal has to be fed and tended as carefully as his later-born brother, when the breeder is busier and feeds scarcer. When spring foals are dropped on the grass, conditions are in their favor, but when the mare is to do duty in harness, practice has largely called for the earlier birth of the colt, so that we do not always, even in the production of spring foals, conform to natural precedence.

Conditions must largely determine one's methods, but where mares fail to produce in spring, it seems to be good practice to breed them again in the autumn, thus perhaps preventing the loss of an entire year.

Rabies.

A recent case of alleged hydrophobia, more properly called rabies, caused by the scratch of a cat, has revived discussion of the muzzling order. A good many people have been opposed all along to the order, and have claimed that the symptoms taken to indicate that dread disease have been due to a different ailment, and have been exaggerated by the imagination of the victims and the doctors. Some of these now argue that a case of the supposed hydrophobia caused by a cat scratch proves their contention.

Opposition to the order, on the ground stated, is based on an inadequate conception of the means by which the disease may be communicated. Of the domestic animals, cats and pigs are liable to get the disease, as well as horses and cows. The virus may be introduced through the secretions—saliva, tears, or milk of rabid animals. An infected cat is very likely to get saliva on her paws; indeed, it is not impossible that in self-defence against a rabid dog she might get her claws smeared with the germs. The dog's natural habits, as well as his related actions in the disease, make him the principal agent in the spread of it.

The term hydrophobia literally means dread of water. It is a mistake to suppose that the dog fears water. He may act peculiarly in its presence, for the fact is that though suffering from thirst, the disease has paralyzed the throat, and

he cannot swallow. His craving for food and drink has been known to cause him to force stones and bits of wood into his throat. The prolonged howl, symptomatic of madness, is the modification of his bark, also due to the paralysis of the throat.

Upon different kinds of animal, and to a less extent upon different animals of the same kind, rabies produces different effects, although, generally speaking, after a period of development, varying from two weeks to six months, or even longer, there appears a stage of melancholia lasting two or three days, followed by a period of excitement or fury of nearly equal duration, then a period of paralysis ending in death, which ensues in less than a fortnight after the appearance of the first symptom, sometimes in less than a week.

Rabid horses are more dangerous to man than rabid cattle. The former bite viciously at their own bodies, at the manger, or at anything else within reach. Cattle are apt to chase the poultry, dogs, or even man, but seldom make any attempt to bite. They exhibit muscular twitching, and are unable to eat or drink.

Pasteur's method of preventive treatment was devised on the germ theory of the disease, but if the cause be a germ in the class with those that give rise to tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc., its life history is not yet made out. In the brain of the rabid animal microscopic granules, called Negri bodies, after their discoverer, can be found. These are variable in size, some of them a dozen or twenty times as large as others, but all so minute that it would take 1,000 or 20,000, according to size, to make a line an inch in length. Pasteur's treatment, if taken in time, can be relied upon to arrest the disease. It is as effective for domestic animals as for man.

For many years, all the residents of any given community have worked together in church and school, and have accomplished in those lines what can be accomplished in no other way. But few people, indeed, would consider returning to private schools and tutoring methods, while, for the general mass of the people, an abandonment of our public-school system would be preposterous to think of, and ruinous if executed. In church affairs, no other plan other than community action has ever been considered. Of late years, by our butter and cheese factories, and our fruit-growers' associations, we have extended the benefits of the system. But we must greatly extend the active use of this method of working. We must learn to co-operate in our breeding and marketing of live stock, and in grain production; we must pull together for good roads, and for social improvement; we must learn that, in helping our neighbors, we are helping ourselves, and that his failures do not make for our successes. It is a hard lesson to learn, and with too many of us it takes a lifetime to do so; yet, it is true that, through unselfishness can we best accomplish the things that are impossible to us, due to selfishness.

Lightning, hail and beating rainstorms have done an extraordinary amount of damage in Western Ontario this year. Barns have been burned wholesale, grain crops flattened so they could be cut only one way with the binder, and in some cases hardly with the mower; fruit has been spotted seriously. Much of this injury is unavoidable, but the loss from lightning could be very largely guarded against by properly-erected rods. Excellent homemade ones can be put up at a total cost of about 5 cents a foot for material and labor. It is extremely unwise not to have them.