



### EDITORIAL.

Harmony is essential to successful co-operation.

Secure the right foundation and then breed better stock.

Put the finishing touches on the horses being fitted for sale.

Good crops grow from the best of seed of the right varieties.

Summer workers, not summer boarders, is what the farmer will want this year.

The man who co-operates likes to see the business done on a straight business basis.

Most of those who can't fight can pay and they are doing admirably when called upon.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture will soon have a whole battalion of new officials.

What re-organization is necessary in an Empire solid and united as the British Empire is?

A big problem facing a great part of Canada is that of ensuring a permanent and satisfactory fuel supply.

The Provincial Government in Ontario is evidently working on the assumption that agriculture needs more hired help.

An author has said that "money is condensed pleasure, a dollar is fun seed". There is more than seed grain scarce in some parts of the country.

The Farmer's Advocate advised the early purchase or preparation of seed. Those who required potatoes and bought early are congratulating themselves.

Germany has decided that it is impossible to win the war by Zeppelin raids. The same disappointment will come to the Huns in their submarine campaign.

Good resolutions, the buying and planting of the seed will not ensure a good backyard garden. Some hoeing and weeding will be necessary next June and July.

Do not select occupations for the boys. Let them choose the work they like whether or not there is money in it, rather than make them do something they abhor even if there is wealth to be had from it.

When you pay out good money always make sure you get a good receipt. Several farmers in Western Ontario recently received worthless receipts for money which they paid to a man describing himself as representing this paper. Fortunately, the man was apprehended and these men will get their papers.

Everyone hopes for a big crop in 1917, but no one should blame the farmer if it is not as large as desired. Labor is scarce. Fall plowing, particularly in the West, was not all done. Good seed grain is scarce and high in price. Conditions are not the most favorable, but the farmer faces them with a determination to make the land produce abundantly.

### The Reconstruction of The Ontario Department of Agriculture.

The great war has placed agriculture in a new light in the eyes of many Canadians. People are beginning to realize that there is some truth in the politicians' hackneyed phrases about the farmer being the "backbone" of the country and agriculture its "basic" industry. Governments are lining up to do greater things for the farmer and in their zeal they sometimes do things the wisdom of which is not plain to the man for whose benefit they are said to be intended. The Ontario Department of Agriculture is a case in point. Farmers said little when the late Hon. James Duff appointed a Deputy Minister and an Assistant Deputy Minister to succeed the late Dr. C. C. James as Deputy, because they realized that it was a difficult task to select one man who could handle satisfactorily all the work which Dr. James did so efficiently; but now that the Hon. Mr. Duff has passed and Ontario has a lawyer Minister of Agriculture, a Commissioner of Agriculture, an Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, and two Deputy Ministers of Agriculture with equal rank, and with rumors of appointments of Superintendents of District Representatives, Corn Experts and various others, farmers are beginning to wonder which is in the most need of men, practical agriculture or official agriculture. It is very fine to be able to make the statement that the Prime Minister is Minister of Agriculture. If he were a practical farmer it would sound much better. Few would complain as it is if an outstanding man were appointed Deputy Minister and took over the work, but with two Deputies and two Commissioners, it looks to the average man as if someone had little confidence in someone else and the Minister was going to have two separate sets of advisors. If the Government, in its wisdom, has decided that in Ontario the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy should be called Commissioner of Agriculture and Assistant Commissioner well and good, but somehow people are wondering why it should be necessary to have three or four, or more, men to do the work formerly done by one man. Further, if there is work for a Commissioner then that should be his sole occupation. The President of the Ontario Agricultural College is an able man, an admirable head of a great Institution. He would, we believe, make a first-class Commissioner or Deputy Minister of Agriculture, whichever nomenclature sounds the better, but his task at Guelph is a big one and his task at Toronto should be, if it is not, of considerable magnitude. It is not fair to the College, to the Government, to agriculture or to Dr. Creelman to ask him to do two big jobs at once, and if the Commissionership is a big job requiring an assistant we fail to see where the two Deputies come in.

There are rumors that Agriculture is to get larger appropriations. Everyone hopes so, but few believe that it will require so many extra men to spend the money.

It is argued that the District Representative System requires a larger portion of the efforts of one of these men and we have heard that a Superintendent of Representatives is to be appointed in addition. We have only one answer—Too much central control has already injured the work. The right class of Representatives will do the right kind of work without too many strings attached from Toronto.

If Premier Hearst thinks it wise to retain the portfolio of Agriculture few would raise objection provided he would appoint Dr. Creelman as a permanent Commissioner, (practically Minister or Chief Advisor and Deputy). He surely would not need more than one assistant, if any. The present reorganization is the talk of Agricultural Ontario and the talk is not by any means all favorable. People are not complaining about the men appointed, but they are talking freely about their

numbers and are looking upon the whole thing as an indication of weakness on the part of some of the officials, when it requires four men to do one man's or at most two men's work. A little house-cleaning might be in order in 1917, and with it a little rearrangement of the expensive furniture of the front parlor of the Agricultural Department at Toronto.

### You Owe Your Wife a Garden.

There will be more gardens in Canada in 1917 than for many years. Some of them will be good gardens, clean and profitable. Others will be failures, which will yours be? Every farmer should have a garden and a good garden. It cannot be made to yield as it should unless it is kept clean, and time should be allotted for this purpose. In many cases most of the vegetables for the table can be easily and successfully grown in the root field where they get the same horse cultivation as the field roots. Such a plan saves labor, and where the root field is not too far from the house is to be recommended especially in a year of great labor scarcity. A properly arranged and cultivated garden will yield more food and greater satisfaction than any other similar patch of land on the farm. Put on plenty of manure. Work in well. Plant virile seed. Cultivate frequently. Enjoy fresh vegetables. Live better and longer. Increase production. You are more entitled to a garden than is the city man. You owe your wife a garden.

### Seed it Better.

If we mistake not a smaller acreage than usual will be put in to cereal grains and hoed crop in Canada this present year. Seed of first-class quality is scarce and the price is very high in some cases. Fall preparation, while well advanced in some parts of Ontario was held back in Western Canada and in parts of the Eastern Provinces. Labor will not be plentiful in any district. What does this mean? Just this—Every sower of seed should make that seed as pure and free from weed seeds as possible. It should be screened until nothing but plump, well-matured seed remains for sowing and it should be sown in well-prepared land and as early as that land is ready to work. Seed can be prepared now. Implements can be placed in order. Get the cultivator and harrow teeth sharpened. Put new shares on the gang plow. Repair the drill and disc ready for the field. Plan to do the work well and to use the best seed rather than to rush over a larger acreage with poor seed and worse cultivation.

### Handclasp or Handcuff?

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

It is probably safe to say that the majority of the plain people are of the opinion that it will be time enough to discuss the re-organization of the Empire when the war has been won. To begin with, very few have given the subject a moment's thought or are aware that the Empire needs to be re-organized. The responses that the various Dominions have made to war needs are so far beyond what anyone—even the most ardent Imperialist—would have thought possible three years ago that we cannot be blamed if we think that the Empire is going on very well. Acting freely and spontaneously the Dominions overseas have already made tremendous sacrifices of blood and treasure and are willing to do still more if their own governments make the demand. Apparently this is not enough to satisfy our most eager loyalists. A manifesto issued by the Round Table clubs calls for an Imperial Conference of the political leaders of Great Britain and the Dominions to discuss plans for strengthening the bonds of Empire