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EDITORIAL.

Store ice early and store plenty.

New year honors this year were fortunately bestowed on those whose rights to them few will dispute.

We have a new year now in which to build and progress, and a careful survey of the past will help to guide us in the future.

Lloyd-George might be able to lick Germany and score a remarkable triumph in the British elections, but Ireland is another question.

The result of the British elections is construed to mean a blow to Bolshevism and any semblance of such in this country should be stamped out as one would a fire.

Don't miss the convention which has to do with your particular line of farming. It does one good to mix with others in the same occupation and exchange ideas with them.

The list of dates for the Breeders' Meetings is published in this issue. Important subjects will be up for discussion, and a breeder of pure-bred stock should not fail to attend.

The cost of production should be determined on farms and in communities. Such information will be of immense value when the producer's rights, in regard to prices, are being fought for.

The proposed increase in express rates, if authorized, will strike production a heavy blow, and should not be allowed until after the most thorough and complete investigation proves them warranted.

Build up—don't tear down. Make use of the good which already exists and discard the bad. Progress and development have been slow enough, and we cannot afford to ignore the foundations already laid if they are safe upon which to build.

Now that the British Elections are over, the Kaiser's case should be taken up and definitely settled. Everyone is pretty well agreed on what should be done with him, but it must be carried out constitutionally, and that is where the trouble hinges.

Junior Farmers' organizations have existed in name only for the last year or two, owing to severe disorganization due to the war. Steps should be at once taken to revive interest in these organizations and utilize them to the fullest extent for the improvement of agriculture.

The county agricultural representatives in Ontario could well pay more attention to live stock at this time and have the whole subject thrashed out at club meetings and special gatherings. Instances have already come to our attention where the Representatives are arranging for such meetings with the object of improving quality and standardizing type.

There is an encouraging amount of interest displayed in rural districts regarding parliamentary representation. For half a century "The Farmer's Advocate" has exhorted rural ridings to select a candidate from amongst themselves and elect him as their representative. Happily the wisdom and justice of this practice are being recognized, and we can at last look forward to an adoption of this principle.

The Proposed Increase in Express Rates.

Application has been made to the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, on behalf of the Express Companies for a rate increase "sufficient to enable the Companies to conduct their business at a reasonable ratio of profit." It is claimed that for some time past the Express Companies operating in Canada have not earned their operating expenses and that they now face further increases in operating expenses. This application will be heard at Toronto on January 13 and at Montreal on January 16, where representatives from bodies not favoring the increase, because of injury to their business will also be heard in opposition.

Agriculture should be well represented at these sittings of the Board of Railway Commissioners. Agriculture is represented on the Board, and it will be unfortunate if this Commissioner should have to allow a ruling to be made, unfavorable to agriculture, for lack of protest from those directly concerned. Fortunately this matter has already been taken up in several quarters and resolutions from the Canadian Creamery Association and from the United Farmers of Ontario have already been passed, while active steps have already been taken to protest on behalf of the dairy and fruit industries. Possibly these two branches of the industry would be as adversely affected as any by an increase which ranges all the way from 28 per cent. on short hauls to 100 per cent. on long hauls. The express business in both the shipping of milk and cream and in fruit is immense. In the former case milk and cream is shipped in to the creameries and city milk distributors in very large quantities, and every increase in transportation charges works back inevitably to the producer. Producers already are receiving too little for their product, and any further reduction in reward for labor and investment would be disastrous. The fruit industry would be no less affected since, with truck crops and small fruits, a very large express business has been developed, which is practically the backbone of this branch of fruit shipping. Express shipment of tender fruits and truck crops provides the only practicable method as yet devised of getting small shipments to the consumer with the least delay, and with the minimum amount of deterioration in quality. We sincerely hope that the agricultural interests affected will make due representation of their case, and that the Board of Railway Commissioners will be able to find the request of the Express Tariff Association unwarranted.

Prospects for Permanent Peace.

It is somewhat generally thought that the proposed League of Nations, if brought into existence, would settle the matter of armament and the people of this earth could enjoy an unprecedented immunity from wars, by having international disputes settled by arbitration. Premier Clemenceau of France has expressed approval of Britain's freedom-of-the-seas program and the maintenance of her fleet. President Wilson, we are also told, agreed with Clemenceau in assenting to the proposal, but at the same time it appears that Secretary of the Navy Daniels, of the United States, was working on his \$600,000,000 three-year program, which he introduced to the House Naval Committee on December 30. This, in brief, suggested a navy second to none in the world, so the United States could contribute as large a unit to the proposed police force, if the League of Nations came into existence, as any other nation, and that the pledge to support small nations unable to protect themselves might be carried out. These are worthy objects, and no one can deny the neighboring Republic the right to construct and maintain as large a navy as is deemed necessary. However, if Mr. Daniels was reported correctly some of his remarks were not in keeping with the spirit of the times, particularly when he said: "Unless we have a

navy which can lick any other navy in the world, we might as well have none." This unfortunate observation is hard to reconcile with the actions and utterances of the President, who, we believe, voices the sentiments of the American people. France, Great Britain with her Overseas Dominions, and the United States are now linked together in bonds of friendship which the free peoples of those democratic countries will desire to have more closely cemented as years pass, and as the "new-world idea," which has made Canada and the United States good neighbors for more than a century, gains a foothold in the Old World.

Premier Clemenceau, with his eye yet on Germany, and wisely so, still has more faith in the "Balance of Power" than the League of Nations, and one who hopes for an effective league of all powers with confidence in each other cannot derive any great amount of encouragement from the news which has been lately received. It is to be hoped that something really promising will be determined upon at the Peace Conference, so that nations in the end will not have to fall back upon Cromwell's injunction to "Trust in the Lord but keep your powder dry."

The Wheat Situation.

The guarantees made by various countries in regard to wheat prices now constitute a problem that will lead to interesting circumstances in the coming months. Australia now has accumulation amounting to around 200,000,000 bushels, and the Argentine has a similar supply. The prices paid by the Imperial Government for portions of this are translated by W. Sanford Evans in the Ottawa Journal to mean around \$1.60 per bushel at a north Atlantic sea port. In Canada the guaranteed and fixed price is good until August 31, 1919, but in the United States the guarantee extends up to June 1, 1920, thus covering next season's crop. In both cases the fixed price ensures the producers in the neighborhood of \$2.00 to \$2.15 per bushel. Farmers in England have been guaranteed a minimum price of \$1.59 per bushel during 1918 and 1919 for home-grown wheat, and during 1920, 1921 and 1922 a minimum price of \$1.30 per bushel. There still remains in Australia a large quantity of wheat purchased by the British Government in 1918 at \$1.19 per bushel, and Australia has offered an additional 37,300,000 bushels at the same figure. Exportable surpluses in Canada, United States, Argentina and Australia are large, and the United States, on account of her increased plantings, might possibly have over 400 million bushels out of next year's crop that she will not require at home. No one can prophesy what will happen, but the problem will surely cause Governments considerably anxiety so long as the guaranteed prices remain in force.

A joint committee, made up of representatives from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration recently recommended to Congress that the time even be extended beyond June 1, 1920, in order to handle in full the wheat produced in 1919. In submitting the Memorandum, Secretary of Agriculture Houston said: "The Government has made a guarantee, and it goes without saying that it must be made effective." The Memorandum, further says: "It will be impossible to carry out the guarantee as it is intended by June 1, 1920, and if producers cannot sell their wheat to the United States before that date and are left with wheat on hand, it will be felt that the obligation of the United States has not been carried out in good faith." Evidently the price of wheat to the producer in 1920 will depend largely on where it is grown, but its value on the markets of the world will be a different matter. Full consideration should be given to the subject by the Governments interested, and producers should be taken into their confidence and made acquainted with the probable outcome. This is of vital importance in many large sections in Canada where plans for the future must soon be made.