

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

One class of Canadian labor (we hesitate to call it such) is still plentiful, viz., Government officials.

A premature, patched-up peace would be much more uncertain and dangerous than further prosecution of the war.

Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, assures the Allies that Britain's finances are sufficient to win the war.

Canada's young farmers are alive to the needs of Canadian agriculture. Witness the success of our department devoted to their work.

The national service card will show where the men are. Some may do a little thinking when answering the twenty-four questions asked.

Good roads are ever becoming a more important factor in the farmers' marketing problem. Municipalities should save some money to put to the good purpose of more intelligent road building and maintenance.

Radial railways paralleling trunk lines already established do not appeal to thinking people, but radials tapping districts not now favored with railway facilities are necessary to the greatest development of rural districts.

The farmer with a well-preserved wood-lot can toast his shins by a roaring birch-and-maple fire while his neighbor, forced to depend upon coal, is this year shivering because of the scarcity of the product in many localities.

Every college professor and agricultural orator should have at least one hundred acres of farm land to operate at his own expense. This would prevent considerable soaring in the clouds away out of reach of the practical farmer.

The firm or organization which sets a price sufficiently high to ensure a reasonable profit, to be used in extending the business or in adding to cash reserves, is usually considered to be on the best business basis. There is a point in this for Farmers' Clubs and all local and larger organizations of farmers.

Our subscribers are telling their neighbors how "The Farmer's Advocate" fights the battle for all farmers, and the neighbors are subscribing. These reinforcements will enable us to wage a more aggressive campaign in 1917. Sign up with "The Farmer's Advocate" brigade now while the subscription rate remains at \$1.50.

A happy New Year! All those who are engaged in some branch of one of the three necessary organizations to win this war, and are conscientiously doing their best, will have a happy new year, because of the assurance of a permanent peace when militarism is at last finally subdued by democracy. The three essentials are fighters, munitions workers, producers. The winning of the war is the only thing that matters.

One class of twenty-five or thirty young men from the farms, trained and educated to work together to improve seed, stock and farming methods generally, and to be able to express themselves in public—young men trained to think and act—is of inestimable value to Canadian agriculture. The District Representative would do well to put more time on the young farmer and the older farmer and expend less in School Fair work, which the schools themselves should now be able to carry on alone or with less expensive assistance.

National Service.

Early in the new year, every man in Canada between the ages of 16 and 65, inclusive, is to receive a card bearing 24 questions which he is required to answer promptly and return to the Director-General of National Service, Ottawa. This is the first step towards universal enrolment, a subject which has been discussed several times through these columns during the progress of the present struggle. The card is intended to determine an accurate estimate of the man power of the Dominion. There is no question on it which any loyal Canadian, working hard in his particular work cannot quickly, truthfully and satisfactorily answer. The cards will show where the men are, and what those who are willing to do work for the Empire in Canada are doing now. No doubt the calling in of the cards will be followed by a vigorous and systematic recruiting campaign for service overseas as well as for the carrying on of work at home, essential to the winning of the mighty conflict. Canada's man power has, so far, lacked organization to get fighters, to provide fighters with munitions, and to feed fighters. Let us hope that full and efficient organization for all three essentials to success grows out of the start which the cards will make. They have been criticized for not going far enough, but they are a start. Farmers and farmers' sons should be able to sign up without a qualm. They are doing essential work. A few farms, very few, have more men than are needed to carry on the necessary work of the farm. An occasional one has three or four to a hundred acres, but such are few and far between. Then, too, we have heard of some young men going to the United States to get work for the winter, because they didn't like to face the recruiting sergeants. Any such, with no more red blood in their veins than to run away from duty, would be little use if "signed up." On the whole, the rural districts have done remarkably well. Man power in most districts will not average more than one man to 100 acres of land, and in some places conditions are even worse. We hope the card system leads up to a thorough organization of all our forces.

These are the questions which are easy to answer, and which should be promptly answered by all those receiving cards. If you do not get a card ask your Postmaster for one, fill it in and help on the good work. 1, What is your full name? 2, How old are you? 3, Where do you live? 4, Name of city, town, village or post office. 5, In what country were you born? 6, In what country was your father born? 7, In what country was your mother born? 8, Were you born a British subject? 9, If not, are you naturalized? 10, How much time have you lost in last 12 months from sickness? 11, Have you full use of your arms? 12, Of your legs? 13, Of your sight? 14, Of your hearing? 15, Which are you—married, single or a widower? 16, How many persons beside yourself do you support? 17, What are you working at for a living? 18, Whom do you work for? 19, Have you a trade or profession? 20, If so what? 21, Are you working now? 22, If not, why? 23, Would you be willing to change your present work for other necessary work at the same pay during the war? 24, Are you willing, if your railway fare is paid, to leave where you now live, and go to some other place in Canada to do such work?

Prices and Profits in Club Work.

This week we publish in our Young Farmer's Department four or five good letters on the Farmers' Club. We note that in some, reference is made to certain methods of handling goods required by the farmer at cut-rate prices. Those who follow our paper closely remember that about the middle of last March we had a somewhat lengthy Editorial setting forth that price-paring is not good business in a co-operative association. We have always held that it is better for everybody,

and certainly better for the co-operative business, when operations are carried on so that some money is made on the year's transactions to be used either in increasing the business or to be divided amongst those who do business through the co-operative association, according to the amount of business done. Where goods, such as groceries, feeds, and all the many such materials purchased by the farmer are bought through a Farmers' Club, we believe the Club would be a bigger success, on the whole, if prices were kept up so as to show a reasonable profit on the transaction, the accruing moneys to be used to strengthen the Club in the way of a reserve fund, or to be divided at the end of the year's business on the basis of business done. This would mean that every farmer doing business through the Club would get, at the end of the year, the benefit that the Club had been to him in the way of saving money. It would ensure, however, if the members of the Club decided to work on a business basis, money for future operations, which is absolutely necessary. It would also be a better system in so far as it would not disrupt trade and drive out certain country storekeepers and country dealers. We hold no brief for the country storekeeper, but, as a general thing, it would not be well for even Farmers' Clubs if all country storekeepers were driven out of business. By keeping up the price to the level of that charged by the retail trade, the country storekeeper and his friends can have no objection to the Club doing business. If the Club members are really loyal to the Club, they will buy through the Club, if the price remains the same. If the storekeeper starts price-cutting, loyal Club members should stay with the Club, because they know that in the end their Club and themselves individually are going to reap the benefit of working together. We believe it is good policy, in connection with all co-operative work, that the business be run so as to make a profit, and that the profits be used either to increase the volume of business which means greater profit, or be divided among those doing business, according to business done.

Radial Railways and Good Roads.

In another column of this issue there appears a letter from a subscriber in Wentworth County who sees some danger in building radial railways by the wholesale, and in neglecting to put the necessary amount of work upon the public highways leading to the market centres or to the trunk lines. Our correspondent believes that good roads, on the whole, are more important than radials, and his letter is timely, seeing that many municipalities will be voting on the subject of roads and radials in a few days.

It is a well-known fact to those who have travelled over this Province that first-class highways and prosperous farms go hand in hand. No farm can be as prosperous as it should unless good roads lead from it to the place where the products grown thereon are marketed. And, on the other hand, as a general thing, where roads are bad, farms are either poor or are badly operated and the people are not so prosperous. Good roads are important, so are radial roads. But with the latter some care must be taken that they do not parallel railways and trunk lines already in existence. We know districts which need radials very badly, and which would benefit from them perhaps more than from the same amount of money spent on highway improvement. We know other districts through which there already run one or more trunk lines and many branches, which would not be so greatly benefited by more railways, radials or otherwise, but would be the better of a regular road system both in regard to construction and maintenance. It is a well-known fact that with good roads the farmer could do much of his marketing by automobile, or auto truck. This is important in fruit, dairy and small-produce sections. The good-road question and the radial question are both big and important, and