

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Banish the scrub bull—pure-bred or grade.

Immigration has begun in earnest; we hope it is hand-picked.

If weed seeds are sown one is likely to reap weeds. Sow only clean, first-quality seed.

Plan to have a garden this summer, producing all the vegetables required throughout the year.

The farmer has no control over the weather, but he can control the quality of seed sown and the tilth of the seed-bed.

Germany has had a relapse. Prussia and the remnant of the once great German army still pine for the old domineering, monarchical form of Government of the "Me and Gott" kind.

Don't take eggs for setting indiscriminately from the whole flock. Select the best type and the best layers, mate them with a good bird and produce something better than the present average of the flock.

The recent break-up was welcomed in many districts where farmers had, for months, been drawing water to supply the house and stables. There is hardly anything more unpleasant than a water shortage, either summer or winter.

At a recent consignment sale, those standing at the ring-side could see lice promenading up and down on the shoulders of an animal led into the ring. We venture to say that the owner of that particular animal was not a good herdsman. Lice will infest pure-breds as well as grades, but they should not be allowed to victimize either.

Where you find the trustees, ratepayers and parents solidly behind the teacher and rendering support, you will usually find a well-conducted, successful school. Where the teacher is obliged to play a lone hand and meet opposition at every turn, the school is just an ordinary one like the thousands that dot the countryside. Failure is more frequently the fault of the section than of the teacher.

A small spark would create a terrible upheaval in the East where Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Afghanistan, and India may well be likened to a powder magazine. Mohammedanism, with its innumerable hordes of followers, might be quickened by one undiplomatic move and the world thrown into a conflict more disastrous, if possible, than the last.

Those who have delayed purchasing their clover seed may be shocked when they make up their minds to buy. Not only is the price high but the supply is very limited. The condition of the roads all winter made it impossible to move machines and get all the seed threshed. Those in need of seed should keep their eyes on the clover huller and watch where it goes.

The Provincial Minister of Education, Hon. R. H. Grant, would do well to keep his ear to the ground and give some heed to the demands which are being vibrated towards Toronto. The Minister has a very efficient staff, but they may not give sufficient attention to the wishes of those outside the charmed circle. The Department, in the past, may have been inspired, but the chiefs within the Department were never to be complimented for the tolerant way in which they considered the views of others.

The Kapuskasing Adventure.

The investigation into the affairs of the soldiers' settlement at Kapuskasing has revealed the fact that the locality chosen is not tenable, and that the Ontario Government must in some way provide for those who, to a certain extent, are wards of the Province. Our forefathers, perhaps, would have made good, even under such handicaps as the members of this soldiers' settlement have struggled, but that has nothing to do with the present situation. Men and women in the colony of Kapuskasing have found the odds too great. They have lost what money they had when setting out on the wild adventure; they have explored, so to speak, a portion of the Province regarding which there has been undue optimism, and now to deal fairly with them another location or suitable employment must be found.

The Government would be warranted, we believe, in making a rather bold and generous adjustment of the whole matter, in order to relieve itself of any increased obligations to these people who have been wronged. The Soldiers' Settlement Scheme might possibly be resorted to in behalf of those in a position to qualify. Some no doubt, would, after their experiences, prefer employment in towns or cities, and in such cases the Government could work through the various housing commissions to provide them with homes. Still others when recuperated financially and otherwise, might prefer engagement on farms where separate cottages are available, and in pursuit of such locations the provincial machinery could be made use of. The people of Ontario, through its Government, must right themselves with this colony and the object should be to establish the various members according to their qualifications in some line of work, and with surroundings that will make it possible for them to work out their own destiny without too much Government supervision and support.

Scrub Pure-Breds a Menace.

The campaign now in progress to eliminate the scrub or grade bull and replace him with a pedigreed animal must be conducted with no small amount of foresight and skill. The very act of doing away with the grade and putting something in its place that has no more than a pedigree to commend it will do the industry a more lasting harm than would a continued patronage of the scrub. At present, the pure-bred sire, on account of the yeoman service it has rendered in improving our breeds of all kinds, is looked upon with considerable respect, and farmers have not used him as freely as they might because of the erroneous impression that it would incur greater expense. When by persuasion the grade is replaced with a pedigreed animal, and on account of poor individuality or the lack of good inherent qualities he fails to leave better progeny than his predecessor, the pure-bred sire falls into disrepute and his failure destroys respect for pedigreed live stock in general. This is not theory. The situation above described exists in many localities already, where pure-bred sires have been brought in and have failed to make good.

The market for common bulls is rather quiet this spring, and it is possible that some of the poorer ones may be purchased by farmers to replace grades they have been using. Such would be unfortunate, for no pure-bred breeder would be sufficiently ardent in his advocacy of pedigreed live stock to argue that a poor pure-bred is any better than a good grade. Some of these scrub pure-breds foisted on to unsuspecting farmers are likely to create a bad impression, and establish a prejudice that will require another decade to break down.

Breeders should play the game fairly and unsex all poor males that are born into their herds. All horses bred from racing stock cannot go in 2.10, neither are 100 per cent. of the offspring of pure-breds up to the required standards of the various breeds. It is false economy trying to dispose of everything for breeding

purposes, and, if breeders and the advocates of scrub-bull elimination are not careful, there will be a reaction which will retard progress or perhaps turn the wheels backward for another ten years at least.

What has been stated should in no wise be construed as a blow at the pure-bred. The scrub bull should go, and good pedigreed stock should be allowed to demonstrate its wonderful and unquestioned influence in the improvement of our live stock. We heartily endorse the pure-bred, but will not hesitate to condemn the traffic in scrubs or misfits which, because of their pedigrees, are finding purchasers, ignorant of the worthlessness of the animals and the papers which accompany them.

Things Are Not What They Seemed.

Post-war conditions in the meat trade are not coming up to predictions of the more optimistic prophets, who, one year ago, foresaw a hungry Europe clamoring for food and a much increased universal demand, based on the assumption that meat would occupy a more prominent place in the menu of those who at one time or another have been connected with the army. All this, no doubt, would have come to pass had it not been for certain and numerous unlooked-for circumstances that have influenced the whole trend of world commerce and trade. Weddel and Company, of London, England, who annually issue a very reliable report of the frozen meat trade, state in their summary for 1919 that, "Consumption has fallen off to the extent of thirty per cent. from its pre-war standard, and there were large stocks on hand at the close of the year which could not be marketed for lack of demand. The fundamental disability under which the community is laboring is the result of high prices rather than short supply."

The report then proceeds to condemn in no uncertain terms the British Government for continuing its food control regulations, and upon the Ministry of Food is unloaded a great deal of blame for the present unfavorable situation.

Regarding the situation on the Continent the report says: "What the countries of Central Europe might be capable of consuming, if meat were provided at a low cost, may have furnished a basis for some of the official estimates, but that is not a reasonable foundation on which to build. If full consideration be given to prejudices, transport difficulties, and inability to pay for meat, these estimates will have to be reduced materially." The summary is concluded with the following ominous and pessimistic statement from the producer's point of view. "With ample supplies available in the various producing countries, abundant freight space, a much curtailed consumptive demand in this country, and no material expansion in the continental inquiry, the outlook is full of menace to the producer and full of hope for the consumer."

These opinions should not create any undue pessimism among the producers of live stock on this Continent, but they are valuable in helping one to temper his judgment and direct his actions. The whole report is based on conditions which are exceedingly abnormal and at a time when the British Ministry is struggling with a system of food control that has evidently outlived its usefulness. Consumption has been reduced to an alarming extent the world over. With the channels of trade thrown open, allowing supply and demand to operate again there can be no doubt but what the situation will clear itself up in due time without any undue hardship to either producer or consumer.

Spring is here and peculiar to the season is a new crop of young things in the stables and pens. Make conditions right for the increase which annually takes place; and a little "watchful waiting," even if it does mean the loss of a few hours' sleep, is advisable at this time.