

A Very Merry Christmas



The business of being a man has its advantages these days as well as its responsibilities—especially if someone thinks enough about him, his needs and his wishes, to choose for his Christmas gift

**The Gillette Safety Razor**

Most men are practical. The welcome gift is the useful gift—the Gillette—that fits right into a man's intimate personal life, makes things easier for him, and proves its quality by the way it shaves.

At any good Hardware, Drug or Jewelry Store you can pick out a Gillette Set that will be sure to give him lasting pleasure. If you have any trouble getting what you want, write us and we will see that you are supplied.

**GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR CO.**  
OF CANADA, LIMITED,  
Office and Factory: Gillette Building, Montreal.  
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MADE IN CANADA

KNOWN THE WORLD OVER

## SYDNEY BASIC SLAG

### Our Last Word for This Season

We do not expect to be able to secure transportation after the end of December. If, therefore, you have been thinking of arranging for supplies of our fertilizer for Spring use it is essential that you do so right away. If we are not represented in your district we will supply your requirements in ton lots and upwards at \$22 per ton, freight paid to your nearest station. Or better still, why not take a car of 20 tons and distribute same among your neighbors. You will be reasonably remunerated for your trouble. If this proposition appeals to you write us immediately and our man will give you a call. There is no time to be lost.

TO THOSE ATTENDING THE WINTER FAIR,  
GUELPH, NOV. 30th to DEC. 9th.

Our representative, Mr. A. L. SMITH, will be there to meet you. Call at our stand and make arrangements for your Spring requirements. It will be your last opportunity this season.

**The Cross Fertilizer Co., Limited**  
Sydney, Nova Scotia

## Current Comments on the Farming Business

### The Crops of America

OFFICIAL crop reporters, it now seems, were unduly optimistic all through the season of 1917 when estimating the extent and value of America's crops. Bumper yields were generally predicted for both the United States and Canada and the immediate result of these predictions was that consumers began to demand lower prices when the first of the new crops came on the market. Official crop reporters could not foresee that drouth was going to reduce the wheat crop over a large part of America, that early frosts were going to play havoc with the corn crop and that thousands of acres of potatoes would be frozen in the ground. Judging from reports from other than official circles, it now seems that the net result of this season's work, taking America as a whole, will be a shortage in farm products, almost as great as last year in many lines, and if supply and demand continue to rule the market, farm produce prices will be firm and high.

And what are the prospects for next year? Indications at present are that there will be a reduced acreage and only a wonderful growing season all over America, with abundant crops everywhere, can bring the total crop up to the standard of this year. America (for Canada and the United States are a unit in the production of food for the Allies), has the acres and the equipment to produce great crops in 1918, but labor is sadly lacking. The military draft in both Canada and the United States is aggravating a labor situation that was already intolerable. If next year's crops are to be safeguarded, we would suggest that the Departments of Agriculture take action to acquaint the military tribunals with the labor situation as it exists in rural districts, that they may govern themselves accordingly. The farmers of Canada have done much during the past year to increase production and that against difficulties and discouragements that might well have disheartened them. They are willing to do more, but one thing they cannot do and that is fight in the trenches and produce grain at one and the same time, though judging from the "exemptions refused," that is evidently what some tribunals expect of them.

### When Renting a Farm

THE Country Gentleman asks, "What banker would allow a patron the use of \$15,000 to \$50,000 of capital without some kind of paper to bind and make responsible the user of the capital? What merchant would lease his business to another person without some kind of paper that would make the lessee responsible?" Then our contemporary adds this comment:

"Yet it is common in the farming business for the owner of a farm to place in the hands of a man, oftentimes nearly a stranger, for his keeping and management, property, both real and personal, to the value of \$15,000 to \$50,000, without even a scrap of paper to bind the lessee to the responsibility which he assumes. Aside from the fact that a written contract makes the tenant more responsible than an oral contract, it places on record all the understandings and agreements entered into at the time the farm was rented."

"The Country Gentleman" speaks for conditions to the south of the line, but we know of many Canadian landlords and tenants who are guilty of similar carelessness. We have known of many cases where the owners of farms and tenants who work their farms, were without any written agreement whatever. Such an understanding, or rather lack of understanding, is always accompanied by disagreements between the two contracting parties, disappointments for both, and sometimes the result is a feud that does not die out for many years. Written agreements are an necessary in the renting of a farm as in the consummation of a million dollar partnership, and both tenant and landlord should insist on a black and white statement of their various responsibilities.

### Activities of the Food Controller

FOOD CONTROLLER HANNAH has been granted new and wider powers. He may now prohibit manufacturers, wholesale dealers, commission merchants, brokers, retailers and so forth, from dealing in any or all food commodities, except under license from his office. He may prescribe the manner in which food products may be designated, marked, branded or graded, and the maximum amount of any food or food product that may from time to time be bought or sold. Also he has the power to prescribe maximum profits and maximum prices on any food product. It seems that as yet Food Controller Hanna has not been given the right to establish minimum prices. This may be significant in view of the demand, now wide-spread, for a minimum price on live hogs.

A recent order emanating from the Food Controller prohibits the export from Canada to all destinations abroad other than the United Kingdom or British possessions, of foodstuffs, feeding stuffs, fats, oils, soap, fertilizers, etc., except under license approved by the Governor-in-Council "to countries in alliance with the British Empire and having armies in the European field." Certain small exceptions are made in the case of shipments to United States. The question has already been asked as to how these regulations will affect the export of live hogs and wheat to the United States and hence the beneficial effect which the guaranteed prices on these products to the south of the border would have on our own market.

The Food Controller is also taking measures to limit the profits on the sale of fruit and vegetables to not more than twelve and one-half per cent.