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Succeed."

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EDITORIAL

Dominion Day—the birthday of the nation!

An extremely late season, is the word all across the country, from the Peace River District of Alberta, to Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. It is said the ice was a month late this spring in moving out of Lake Athabasca.

Encyclopedic is the only word that seemed to fill the bill, as we laid down the proof-sheets of the half-yearly index covering the articles and illustrations from January to June, 1909. Save every number of the paper, stitch each volume together with the number containing the index on top, and accumulate an invaluable ready-reference library.

Another dairymen's year. Twelve-cent cheese is a money-making commodity, even under present conditions of artificially-enhanced cost of production. Conjoined with attractive selling values, we have the assurance of a considerably increased make throughout Western Ontario, and somewhat of a betterment, also, in the eastern part of the Province, although in some localities factories were late in commencing.

Twenty-four billion dollars! Such is the debt of Europe, owed to the unseen empire of finance, the money-lenders of the world, according to E. Alexander, in the Saturday Evening Post. And most of this monstrous twenty-four-billion-dollar debt has been piled up in sacrifice to the fiendish god of war. Yet we call ourselves civilized. How such figures must impress the heathen as to the beneficence of Occidental religion!

An acre of soiling crop will produce more nutriment than several acres of closely-grazed pasture. If the meadows seem likely to be short, it will be the part of economy to help them out by cutting some green alfalfa, clover, or even grain, to feed the cows, either in stable or in field, preferably in the stable at milking time. Particularly if there be a lodged patch, should it be used in this way, as such areas not only produce ill-filled heads, but are quite likely to smother out the seeding of clover.

Wide-swath haying implements pay in two ways: economy of time, and capacity for rushing operations in those critical periods when the weather is favorable. The important point is not whether a certain implement will suffice to do the work with, but whether it will enable the owner and his employees to make maximum wages while performing it. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, struck it right when, in correspondence to this paper two years ago, he remarked that "On the Experimental Farm the largest machines available are used, since the land is fairly free from stone, and fairly even, a seven-foot mower, a twelve-foot horse rake, and sixteen-foot racks on the wagons, being the rule." When one has a complete outfit of the narrow-swath machines, economy may compel him for a time to make the best of them, but when buying new ones, get the largest ones made, except, perhaps, for very rough or very marshy land, or possibly on very small farms, when only light teams are kept.

Speed the Plowing.

From the pointed stick of the ancient Egyptian, forced through the ground as it was drawn forward, to the improved, twentieth-century, two-furrow plow of the Canadian, seems a far call. Yet, leaving out of account the steam gang implement, popularly associated with bonanza farming, it is remarkable, through all the passing centuries, how slow has been the progress of improvement in this most primal of tillage tools. As a means of inverting and stirring the top soil, thereby preventing the growth of weeds, incorporating fertility (applied or grown), and improving the mechanical condition of the soil by aeration and drainage, so that its elements may become available for plant growth, the single-furrow walking plow, during the past century, in Great Britain and America, probably reached its highest stage of excellence. Different views have been entertained as to the depth and style of the furrow, but plowing itself continues the fundamental process in soil culture; and yet, in the matter of speed, on the ordinary farm, the plow remained as it was for generations. The self-binder displaced the cradle; tillage and haying machinery of wide sweep supplanted the slow and primitive tools of former days, but the plow still turned its single narrow strip, at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres per day, with the service of a man and team. The first advent of the double-furrow plow many years ago met with a reverse, because of the heavy draft and other reasons, due, perhaps, to structural defects. But the scarcity of labor and the ever-increasing value of time in farming operations has again brought the implement to the front. The foremost plow manufacturers of the country have addressed themselves in earnest to its improvement, so that it now bids fair to hold its place as an efficient implement and a real time-saver.

The uncertainties of weather make it imperative that plowing be done more speedily, and at the right time. Almost invariably, the early crops are the best crops, and plowing absorbs the most time. Then, again, in a dry autumn like that of 1908 there were many farms where the soil became so hard that the ordinary single plow could not be held in the ground, let alone turn it over properly. In some cases, even a two-furrow walking plow, with the three-horse team, was scarcely equal to the task, but we have in mind cases where a riding plow and four horses abreast achieved the seemingly impossible, and did it well, the added weight of the operator holding the plow down to its work.

Effective use for the two-furrow implement has been found in doing the regular fall plowing six or seven inches deep, of stubble land soon after harvest, instead of the plan of early skimming, with deeper plowing nearer winter, a laborious and not altogether satisfactory method. Should the land show a growth of weeds under the new plan, the use of the cultivator is advised.

It may be said that the two-furrow plow is hard on the horses, and it must be conceded that, where three horses and one man perform almost the work of two men and four horses, extra effort is being put forth, or more units of work performed. Even were four horses required, the time of one man would be saved. To accomplish this, good horse-power will certainly be required. The real point is, however, do we get the added result in plowing? People do not object to big crops because they abstract plant food largely from the soil, for they have the crop, and there is the residue in the soil. Is it lazy-looking, and a hardship on horses that a man should ride the plow? If he feels that way about it, why, he is

not compelled to use a riding plow. But is it a "hardship" for the three or four properly-fed horses of the blocky type? Suppose it were an onerous task, when the issue is between man and horse, which is to bear the brunt of toil? What are farm horses for? The plowman who uses his horses aright on a single-furrow plow will not likely abuse them, even though he turns over from three to four acres of land in the day's work, and right there lies the great advantage of the plow that turns two furrows instead of one.

In usage, dependent upon soil and other conditions, some localities prefer the walking plow, while others elect to ride. In our own observation, it appears to be largely a matter of local custom. When three horses are used, two walk on the land and one in the furrow, but when four are used, one walks on the plowed ground, and should be given some advantage on the double-tree. It is preferable to turn to the left; and if there is a furrow of the previous plowing to follow, it can be used for "striking out," though some use the single plow both to "strike out" and finish the furrows, one hitching-up sufficing for each operation. Narrow headlands are best done with the single plow. Wide lands and long fields are the natural complement of the two-furrow plow, in order to the greatest saving of time. In starting the plow for the first time, the aid of an expert will effect a saving of time in learning the use of levers and making proper adjustment for depth and width of furrow, and of the horse-eveners. Though more expensive, the rolling coulter is very generally preferred, as it makes a cleaner cut of sod, weeds or lumps, and the friction is probably less than with the straight, rigid style. The use of the two-furrow plow on very hilly or rocky farms and hillsides is, perhaps, inadvisable. While fancy furrow-turning of the plowing-match style may not be generally accomplished by the two-furrow plow, still we are satisfied that, with the structural improvement being made, and the more thorough knowledge of how to select types of plows suitable to different soils, such as sand, heavy clay, or clay loam, work will be done which the expert, with the wheelless, single, walking implement of yore, might concede as entitled to the designation of PLOWING.

In the foregoing we have not undertaken to do more than outline the chief points in the use of the two-furrow plow, and should be glad to hear from readers who have had the experience of a season or two in its actual use, with any observations that they might consider useful to others in adding such an implement to their outfit of farm machinery.

"The supply of farm laborers about equals the demand, while good wages are paid; and who is more deserving of it?" writes an Ontario Co. correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate." This is the right way of looking at the matter. The true and beneficent way to solve the labor problem is not to try how cheaply we can manage to get help, but to study and plan how much we can safely afford to pay. When every employer is anxious to devise means of making labor more productive, so that he can afford to pay his men better, agriculture will be on the highroad to progressive economy. Surely the laborer is worthy of his hire. Efficient, well-paid labor, with modern, labor-saving methods, will produce much more than cheap labor, with the time-consuming practices which it tends to perpetuate. In the long run, an era of high wages, and efficient farm help will render conditions more favorable to all who are engaged in the industry, and by no means least to the employer himself.