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EDITORIAL

Lessons on the Dry Spell

The extremely dry weather that has prevailed over parts of the Canadian West will do much to impress the advisability of mixed farming. When weather conditions are normal the all-grain farmer prospers, because the productive soil gives him a good return, if he but covers the seed. However, the truly prosperous farmer is the one who adopts such system that, except under the most calamitous circumstances, always gives him something for his year's work.

While there are limited districts in which approved methods and general thoroughness have not brought returns this year, there are many instances in which farmers who are recognized as being thorough in every particular have much brighter prospects than their less thrifty neighbors. It seldom pays to put all the eggs in one basket, and in farming the man who diversifies seldom meets with a total failure even for one season.

Follow the lead of your progressive neighbor. Practice mixed farming; adopt a system of crop rotation; keep stock, and in everything use common sense and thoroughness.

A Country Governed by Farmers

The three things, according to Frederick Howe, which make Denmark unique are peasant ownership, nearly universal co-operation and the political supremacy of the peasant class. Denmark has "a farmer parliament, a farmer ministry, and a farmer point of view in its legislative enactments." Over 89 per cent. of the Danish farmers are said to own their farms, the average size of which is thirty-nine acres. A farmer who has paid one-tenth or more of the purchase price of a farm can borrow from the state treasury on mort-

gage, at four per cent., to pay the balance. The railways are state-owned, and conducted to pay wages and expenses. City wages are determined by the agricultural index.

Intensive cultivation and co-operative buying and selling have made the Dane the best farmer in the world. The farms, says Mr. Howe, are cultivated like market gardens, the chief products of which are butter, eggs, bacon, poultry and fine stock. There are now 1,087 co-operative dairies, comprised of a membership of between 90 and 95 per cent. of the farmers. These export to England nearly a million dollars of butter per week. The egg export society is another example of co-operation. It was organized in 1885, and has developed an export business of over six million dollars per year. The eggs are stamped and expertly graded. Emphasis is put on quality rather than quantity, and hence the products command the highest market prices. Mr. Howe's conclusion, as stated in *The Outlook*, is that Denmark, notwithstanding its exclusively agricultural conditions and aims, is demonstrating that the old individualism must give place to a more or less socialized organization.

Posture and Speed at Plowing Matches

On another page of this issue appears an interesting article on plowing matches from the pen of Mr. Guild, an expert plowman. A perusal of this letter gives the impression that an editorial in our issue of May 18 merits severe criticism. Those who read the same will agree that little if any of what was said has been discredited, even by an experienced competitor, who is a firm believer in assuming any posture and paying little attention to speed.

It was not our intention to criticize "characteristic attitudes." However, every man who has followed plowing contests has a clear mental picture of the twisting and crouching and the jerky, mincing step that must have been a severe strain on the man between the handles. Moreover, we do not care to suggest that a plowman should walk like a soldier on duty, or even as a city man on the street. We had no thought of city folk when our article was prepared. It always is our aim to prepare practical articles on matters of practical value to farmers. It so happens that we were brought up on a farm and under the care of a farmer who insisted on having everything "turned under" when the plow was in use. It frequently happened that the furrow was not as straight as those seen at championship matches, but they were not always of the city youth variety. This experience of bygone years, and a study of present-day plowing contests, leads us to suggest that

something can be done to encourage speed even at a match. We agree with Mr. Guild that the aim should be to raise the standard of plowing, and also that "anything which aids in the realization of that aim is to be commended," but surely preference should be given to the man who realizes it with the minimum of unnatural effort and who plows a reasonable area in a given time. Any person with a regard for fairness would make due allowances for unavoidable delays.

Competitions of any kind are of educational value to the competitor and to those who follow the contest. The practical farmer always wants a man to do a day's work. It does not seem to be out of the question to have points deducted when a reasonable limit of time is given and due allowances are made for unavoidable delays. This premium on speed will be of further value to the competitor in teaching him to use his head in planning his work to facilitate matters.

Crop Outlook and Prices

The crop situation is a difficult one to sum up at present, and yet what conditions are supposed to be is having a marked influence on values. The report of the census and statistics office, covering conditions up to June 30, does not indicate damage from drought to the degree expected. In fact, in some districts the official report figures wheat above normal in outlook. Northern Alberta, Central Saskatchewan and parts of Central and Northern Manitoba are well rated, but there are large districts in which crops are practically dried up, and large areas that will not be cut. The government of Saskatchewan estimates a yield of approximately 60,000,000 bushels, as against 90,000,000 bushels from a less area sown a year ago. Private estimates of the Western crop are as low as half what was harvested in 1909.

The Northwestern States, if all is true that is being said of crops, will harvest less than half the number of bushels they did in 1909. Outside America the most favorable conditions for a large wheat yield do not prevail. Parts of Europe have received too much moisture, and the southern part of the continent and Russia have not been receiving enough. The Russian crop will be less than a year ago; that at least is the present indication. Conditions in the southern hemisphere cannot yet be figured on, but it is scarcely possible that Argentina and Australia can make up the shortage, or anywhere near make it up, providing only Canada and the United States harvest less wheat than a year ago. These two countries between them will not sell more than two hundred million bushels of wheat, and the crop of North America has been