

FOUNDED 1866

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Plow now—harvest big crops in 1918.

Nothing attracts more people at the big fairs than the farm tractor.

Let the corn mature as well as possible. Even if left late there is likely to be much inferior silage this year.

The corn that got sufficient cultivation is a fair crop; that which could not be cultivated because of scarcity of labor or bad weather is short and late.

A man may be an agricultural specialist and yet not a successful farm manager. There is room for much investigational work on farm management.

The people who do most of the estimating on cost of production rarely produce anything but a lot of misleading figures. Canada needs the facts.

Ontario buttermakers are doing better but there is still room for improvement, which must eventually come through Dominion-wide compulsory butter grading.

Breeders of pure-bred stock should pay more attention to uniformity in type and conformation. Some line-ups at the big fairs do not show very clearly the desired type.

It is as necessary for the student of agriculture to know as much about farm engines and machinery as he does about horses and cattle. Does he get the same training at our agricultural schools and colleges? If he doesn't he should.

Enlistment figures show Ontario and the Western Provinces in the lead in proportion to population. In fact, Ontario has already sent her share of the next hundred thousand asked for, according to enlistments and population, but the gaps must be filled, and there are none who would see their comrades call in vain for help.

Horse classes are not large at the fairs, but the heavy drafter will come back. It is a good time to start now. A successful farmer of our acquaintance always worked on the following advice: "Walk when all others run, and run when all others walk." The others are "walking" now in the horse business, so it might be a good time to break into a brisk trot.

One of our advertisers reports that he recently received in reply to an advertisement for a hired man an application from a man who offered to come at once if the farmer would pay the freight on his goods, furnish free house, gas for fuel, vegetables, milk, cream and ice cream for the family, and pay him \$20 weekly, with every third afternoon off. This would-be-not farm laborer only wanted \$1,040 per year with, counting 26 working days to the month, 104 half holidays, or 52 full holidays, or two months off. Besides this he desired two-thirds of his board, all his fuel and insisted upon gas and a free house. Since when has farming become an occupation able to pay such wages? And our correspondent says he had several applications for the position, many of which were almost as bad. We would advise those with such high-flown ideas of their value on the farm not to call themselves mere hired men but to take on a more lofty appellation, such as Controller of Farm Finances, Commissioner of Farm Outputs, or Official Banker of Farm Returns. If not satisfied with these, perhaps one of two three-lettered words would suit—"nut" or "hog."

A Great Year.

It has been a great year in Canada—a year to be remembered. The call for greater production has not been in vain. Farmers have responded nobly and it is to their credit that they have quietly done their best. City people have made a wonderful effort in backyard gardening, and some have made good in helping farmers. Let us hope that it is only a beginning. A man who can grow a good garden in times like these, and benefits therefrom, can grow his own vegetables any time with good results and much satisfaction. A man who turned out and helped a farmer this year and felt that he learned something, was well used and aided in a measure may care to do so again, and in the end the man on the land and the man in the town will get better acquainted the one with the other, and each will surely have a more just appreciation of the work the other is trying to do. In the past, owing to misunderstanding and lack of acquaintanceship the city man was wont to look upon the farmer as something lower in the social realm than himself, and the farmer looked upon the city dweller as a man of means and leisure. Working together will convince both that they were in a measure wrong. The farmer will get his proper status—a business man among men as good as the best—and the city man will be appreciated by the farmer as a hard-working, honest citizen. That is the average city man and the average good farmer. Of course, there are exceptions but we will not discuss them here. It has been a great year; crops are good and never mind if they are hard on the land; the work is getting done even if long hours are necessary; some city help has made good on the land; and some have found that not all farmers are slave drivers.

The War Elections Act.

Before this reaches our readers the final action on the War Elections Act will likely have been taken, and Canadians will know whether or not they have the right to vote at the next election provided it comes during the war. Each side of politics is forever accusing the other of doing everything for their own political advantage, and it does seem that very often actions speak loudly that way. When any Government supporter says anything in favor of the Bill he is accused of looking for party gain. When any Opposition voter objects to any clause, whether or not his objection be taken on the grounds that it does not go far enough, he is branded as "disloyal," or as one who would deprive the soldiers and their families of the right to vote. Such are the ways of narrow-minded party politics in a time when Canada should have representative, united, national government, not by party or parties but by real leaders who, regardless of party, creed, or class, are big and broad enough to see the duty of the country and set about to do it. The common people are too much concerned about the outcome of this war and are too intelligent to be blindfolded by the maze of political claptrap which those who think more of self and party attempt to pull over the eyes of the masses. This is not aimed at one particular party. Each can take it and if the shoe fits wear it. One party must not think that by covering the other with mud they whitewash themselves. Both have their dirty spots and both their bright. In the matter of the Bill in question, however, there are few who can see any reason, if the mothers and sisters of soldiers are to vote, why all women of age should not be granted the privilege. Surely a woman should not be deprived of the right of franchise just because fate had not made her a close relative of someone who has gone to fight. What about the work of the women for war relief? Is it not worthy of recognition? Parliament should not fear the votes of all the women of Canada, neither should it deprive loyal citizens of the right of exercising the vote. Some of Canada's

best citizens are Friends and Mennonites. They are interested in this war and in the welfare of Canada. The Society of Friends has contributed liberally toward relief. They do not deserve to be deprived of the vote. Fairness will always outlive Prussianism. Canadians are in this war to the finish, and all they ask is efficiency and fairness in carrying it through.

Apple Orchards.

A few years ago some of those most familiar with the situation were afraid that over-planting of apple orchards had taken place or was likely to come about. Previous to that time and throughout the years of heavy planting "The Farmer's Advocate" warned its readers that apple trees would not grow successfully without proper attention, and that clean and profitable fruit could not be produced without care, meaning judicious cultivation, regular spraying and frequent fertilization. An extended trip through the country at the present time reveals the fact that many young orchards have been planted and neglected, and many older orchards allowed to go back through two years of apple crop failure and labor scarcity. It appears now more than ever before as if commercial apple growing were a specialized business beyond the reach of the average farmer. True, there are many men working farms on a mixed farming basis who make a success of a few acres of apples, but they operate the orchard as a specialty with their other work. They care for it. There is no use of a farmer planting trees if he hasn't time or inclination to care for them. An orchard going bad is often allowed to go worse. More interest is generally taken in any branch of farm work when it is going ahead well and it will not prosper without interest.

What of the apple future in Ontario? Observation leads us to believe that a large amount of the commercial supply must be grown in comparatively large plantations as a specialized branch of the farming industry, that there is profit in it for the mixed farmer who has time to take care of a few acres as a specialty, and that, keeping these things in mind, overplanting has not been done. Acres and acres of trees are neglected, and unless something is done soon will never become factors in production. Owners of good orchards, young or old, should take heart and care for them well. Planting is only the beginning; it is care that counts. In good apple districts orchards properly handled will pay one season with another over a period of years.

The Poultry Situation.

A few days ago there appeared in several papers of wide circulation notices sent out from Ottawa drawing the attention of the public to frozen poultry as an article of diet. It develops that because of the shortage of ocean tonnage the regular market for this frozen poultry has not been available and the storages are filled up with chickens, broilers, ducks, geese and turkeys, and the reading notice invites the people to buy these and notes that the trade advise that many of these varieties can be obtained at prices considerably lower than those prevailing for fresh-killed stock.

It is reassuring to realize that there is in Canada such a surplus of food material. Everyone rejoices to know that there is no cause for famine alarm in this country. The notice also points definitely to the fact that the producer in this country has done his part well, and that the real problem is not one of production any more than of transportation. Tonnage is scarce, consequently the cold-storage people who figure on storing large quantities of poultry in the frozen state for sale to Britain find it impossible to sell on that side of the Atlantic. They must sell here or lose. Taking advantage of war conditions they get Government officials to send out notices drawing attention to their