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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

It is not too soon to begin for next year's crops.

Time spent in the fall wheat land is well spent, for wheat is a crop that requires careful handling.

A day spent cutting and gathering up burs and burdocks growing along the fences is time well spent.

The best fed and cared for hens are the most profitable producers. It doesn't pay to leave even the inconspicuous hen to shift for herself.

Take time to see the fair thoroughly and give the family an outing. The season has been a strenuous one, and farmers are entitled to a holiday.

The coming session of the House of Commons ought not to be a long one, unless members desire to repeat or contradict what they said last spring.

The Prince of Wales, now visiting Canada, has proved himself a man among men, and will be all the more welcome because of his sterling qualities.

If you don't express your opinion at the convention in regard to the man selected to represent the riding, don't complain afterwards if you are not suited.

The weather cannot be controlled and frequently plays havoc with a good stand of wheat. However, the man who does his part well usually comes off best.

The surface of unseeded stubble fields ought not to go untouched. After-harvest cultivation is as good as considerable fertilizer, and it helps to conserve moisture for next season's crops.

It costs more to put flesh on the stock than it does to hold that already there. It pays to supplement the feed picked on those parched pastures with hay, green corn, silage or even some concentrates.

If a goodly percentage of the farmers nominated as candidates for the House of Commons are elected, there will surely be less politics and more national business featured in the parliamentary sessions.

Seedings of fall wheat at the O. A. C., Guelph, which have taken place between August 26 and September 9 have given better results than those of earlier or later dates. Plant the wheat in good time and give it a chance to start.

Thoroughly clean and grade the seed wheat. Large, plump seed gives a much larger yield as a rule than does small, shrunken seed. Good seed, a well-prepared seed-bed, seed treated for smut and seeding at right time are factors towards securing a maximum yield.

Threshers will have short sets this year in many of the best producing sections of Ontario. Particularly in dairy districts has the drought been felt, and dairy products will have to sell higher this coming winter than formerly to enable producers to carry on without loss.

From every direction comes the cry for greater production. They need it in Europe, we need it on this continent; but badly as greater output, especially of food products, is desired no one in authority seems to be losing any sleep over a scheme to create enthusiasm in the farming world. The tendency is to jump on food products first of all in an effort to bring them down while other necessities of life, which are ridiculously high, go soaring higher still.

## Thou Too, Brutus!

It was considered an unkind stroke when the Imperial buyers consented to pay only 25 cents for cheese at Montreal, and thus reduce the price of milk for cheese-making to \$2.00 per hundred. On top of this comes the rumor that Ottawa contemplates putting an embargo on milk, and dairymen can well exclaim, "Thou too, Brutus!" when our own Government appears with drawn blade ready to stab the dairy industry. While nothing definite has been announced in regard to milk, at time of writing, the placing of an embargo on hides and skins only recently is creating a fear that the authorities might continue this foolish and unjust practice and apply it to other products of the farm. If there is any serious scarcity of milk, dairymen are certainly not to blame, and why they should be penalized for the sins of others we cannot understand. Embargoes are wrong in principle, and if they afford any relief at all to consumers it is extremely temporary, and they are discouraging to the industry upon which their influence falls. Agriculture has submitted for long to a system which makes operating expenses unjustly high, but when those who have remained in the business find their market restricted because of scarcity, there is a feeling that it is "the last straw."

After all is said and done, an embargo is merely a salve handed out to consumers by authorities who are not able to cope with a situation demanding more drastic treatment. The Cost of Living Commissioner pops up occasionally with some startling statement about hoarding or profiteering, but remedial legislation is not forthcoming, except in the form of an embargo or other ineffective means of reducing the cost of finished commodities. These artificial restrictions to trade reflect at once on the agricultural industry, but bring no substantial relief to the buying public. What we need is greater production of those things which are scarce, but to get greater production there must be encouraging rather than discouraging legislation.

## The Future World Market.

We have been inclined in the past to look upon a hungry world as our market, and consider that consumers would pay for food products in proportion to the degree of their hunger. In other words, if food could not be brought from a distance and laid down for less than one dollar per unit, we would receive one dollar per unit for the commodity we had to sell, provided a cheaper substitute could not be found and the price was not sufficiently high to curtail consumption. What we have viewed as our market is really the destination of the product. The "market" itself has, in most cases, been a group of manipulators, exploiters and gamblers who endeavored to guess what the demand would be and then proceed to appropriate so much per unit of food which, in some instances, they never saw or never handled. The war created a condition that left little need of guessing. The demand was real, urgent, imperative, and for once it was realized that good prices are the most effective impetus to production.

A new feature is now introduced into the marketing system of the world. Britain, with a lean cupboard for the coming winter, adopts "collective buying," and with her in this innovation will likely be associated other continental nations who desire to fill their market baskets from a meagre purse. If several large nations combine to make their purchases in this manner, the price they pay will become a fixed price in all countries where values are decided by the export call. While our experiences in collective buying in regard to cheese are not encouraging, the scheme seems to possess good features in that it stipulates what each receives for the services rendered in connection with the handling and distributing of the product. It eliminates the gambler and reveals to the public gaze the channels through

which food must pass, and what each contributes to the ultimate cost as it passes from hand to hand.

We doubt very much whether collective buying will persist after nations get upon their feet and enter with full vigor into the competitive field. However, during the trial given it there will be considerable learning that will stand both producer and consumer in good stead. Our future markets ought to be kept free from unnecessary go-betweens who contribute to the final cost without rendering actual service.

## Only One Way Out.

During the first six months of 1919, 87,932 working men throughout Canada lost 1,451,144 days as the result of strikes and disputes. The total loss of working days expressed in another manner amounts to 3,975 years, not considering Sundays or holidays, and amounts to practically 4,000 men idle for a whole year. The source of these facts is the July issue of the Labor Gazette, which summarizes in tabular form the strike situation for the first half of 1919.

Without regard to the cause or provocations leading to this serious loss of time, we doubt very much if labor has actually gained anything substantial in the way of immediate returns as a result of the contentions. True, laborers were not receiving, in many cases, enough to keep their homes going and afford them an opportunity to live in reasonable comfort, and the increased wages brought temporary relief. More than that, labor acquired the feeling that industry is not invulnerable, and society has awakened to the fact that the working man is not merely a machine, but a citizen whose rights must be recognized. There are those, too, who are beginning to ask themselves for the first time whether labor must depend on industry or industry on labor. Human claims are being heeded, and industry is adjusting itself to comply with this revised social doctrine. On the other hand, there is great curtailment of production in all lines, the result of lost time and a feeling of uncertainty, which makes the problem of living increasingly difficult to solve. Never was the labor situation so acute on the farm as it is this year, and farmers are abandoning the idea that labor can be utilized profitably in the operation of the farm, except where it is absolutely necessary. This is leading to decreased production and increased cost of living, for as food becomes scarcer its price will soar in spite of all the embargoing or price-fixing that can be perpetrated.

Uncertainty is dimming the vision of all industry; definite plans are not laid for the future; everyone is playing safe. Higher wages and shorter hours mean less production at greater cost, and we all have to pay the piper no matter who orders the tune. No production expert has yet shown us how we can have plenty by working short hours, and no economist has revealed a method of purchasing cheaply when commodities are scarce. Local conditions only are not influencing the situation. Fuel, rents, food, clothing and equipment are dear everywhere because they are scarce and their production costs are high. Everything which adds to the difficulties now accompanying production will make them scarcer and dearer. There may be profiteers, there may be combines, and there may be thousands of moral sinners to be ousted out of the way, but only through conscientious labor and good days' work can we produce anything approaching plenty and restore ourselves to pre-war conditions. Farmers are commonly criticized for working too long and too hard, but agriculture has contributed more to the prosperity of the country than any other industry and the cost of food derived from the farm has not risen in the same proportion as other commodities.

The universal slogan at this time ought to be "work and save; boost agriculture; boost all industries; increase production; cut out needless expenditures and banish profiteers or anyone reaping undue reward for services rendered to the public." This would restore