

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Save the pig crop this spring.

Those who save, without skimping, serve.

Seed that goes in early has the best chance.

Like the big fish, the big banks swallow up the little ones.

To ensure that too many days are not meatless, organize a beef ring.

Hindenburg was not in Paris April 1, but countless thousands of his men were in eternity.

The more feed the farm grows the less will be the trouble in feeding the live stock next winter.

No matter how the clock may be changed, we can only make use of the daylight Old Sol sees fit to give us.

Those who place obstruction in the way when the country is at stake deserve to be summarily dealt with.

Every job has its drawbacks, but the most unhappy man on earth is the man with nothing to do. There should be no idlers this year.

The man who advised those who didn't know anything about growing any crop to leave the seed for someone who did, had some common sense.

In every scheme of rehabilitation of returned soldiers the men themselves must be consulted individually. Farm land should go only to men who will farm it.

The man who breeds and develops the better class of live stock is doing work of more than community service. It has an important bearing on the national welfare.

From the favorable comment coming from correspondents and which has appeared in these columns, it would seem that the Government would be justified in going farther with the proposal of gang threshing in Ontario.

There is more than one good breed of all the various classes of farm live stock. Do not forget that the other fellow's cattle have a place in the live-stock industry of this country—that is, if they are creditable representatives of any of the recognized breeds.

Sometimes we are told that Governments always do what they think public opinion demands, but they do not always hit it right. For instance, the recent increase in railway rates is not popular with the people and the decision made does not solve Canada's railway problem.

The man who defined "chores" as a term invented in America to enable the farmer to squeeze two or three hours more work each day out of his hired help without pay, evidently started as a hired man in the old days. Hours will be longer than usual this year because of the scarcity of men and the need of heavy production.

If your wife and daughters are going to help you outside, give them the advantage of a few labor-savers in the house. All the hard work on the farm is not done by the men. Farm women have had a heavy burden to bear. Running water with its added conveniences would lift a heavy load.

Quality First in Pure-bred Live Stock.

Canada is undoubtedly only on the threshold of the great development, which is sure to take place agriculturally. Vast numbers of pure-bred live stock will be required to improve and build up the herds of the now pioneer farmers in the new districts of the North and West. In their buying they will not concern themselves much about pedigrees. They will demand good type, conformation and quality, so as to distinguish them from the ordinary stock already on their farms. A farmer from a newly-settled district in Western Canada recently made a tour of Ontario in search of pure-bred stock for his district. In regard to some young bulls he said: "I am not particularly interested in their pedigrees; what I want is something I can turn out in the field and we shall know they are pure-bred without branding them as such." Farmers are more and more looking for the reality and laying less stress on the promise of something good if the living evidence is itself a condition. So long as development is steady and healthy a fashionable pedigree will not be considered compensation for a lack of merit in type and quality. If like begets like then one should breed from the type he wishes to propagate. Breeders would be unwise to ignore pedigrees, for they are the foundation of the whole industry. What is wanted is an elimination of the scrub pure-bred so more farmers will cast aside their prejudices and improve their stocks with pedigreed sires of good quality. Maintain the business on a good basis in this way and the development of this country will absorb all the breeder's surpluses to the advantage of the industry at large.

Fruit Growers out for Standardization.

The Dominion Fruit Growers' Conference, held in Ottawa on March 26 and 27, marked the beginning of a new era in Canadian fruit-growing affairs. Too long we have had differences of opinion in regard to packages and grades, but the delegates met on that occasion with their minds centred on uniformity and a Canadian standard, in so far as the widely varying conditions of this country will permit. Owing to the adaptability of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia to the production of fruit, and the development in this line which has taken place there, they were most deeply concerned, but the other Provinces were represented and listened to with interest. The Conference at Grimsby, Ontario, in 1914, was well attended but the spirit of compromise did not manifest itself to the same extent, neither did the Canadian viewpoint prevail as it did at Ottawa on this recent occasion. Few who are not publicly interested in the administration of the Inspection and Sales Act, or who have given little study to the conditions under which fruit is grown and marketed outside their own Province, can appreciate the necessity of standardization and uniformity in grades and packages, and the difficulties which must be overcome in the realization of the same. At the Conference held in Grimsby, almost four years ago, the sentiments expressed were more or less Provincial but localisms were swept aside, and only matters of Dominion-wide importance were allowed to influence the resolutions or recommendations adopted at Ottawa. Further, contentious questions which have been debated for years were settled with the utmost dispatch.

The compromise between the Nova Scotia small apple barrel and the Ontario container, with a thirty-inch stave, ended a long, protracted controversy and will tend to standardize the Canadian apple barrel on the markets of this country and the United States. Ontario representatives considered that they made a concession here, but they did so with the determination to prevent so many sizes, which the wording of the Act

permits, and thus put an end to a condition which is inimical to trade. Boxes were also standardized and the proposed dimensions for all such containers seemed reasonable indeed. Chiefly in depth does the difference occur, for they are practically all eighteen inches long and eleven and a half inches wide. The tops and bottoms are thus the same in all cases, as well as the length of the sides. Growers and box manufacturers alike will welcome this agreement. Specific dimensions were also laid down for standard six and eleven-quart baskets, which are very popular packages but which have been giving producer and shipper an immense amount of trouble, largely on account of their inferior quality and variation in size.

Considerable improvement was made in the grades of apples. The fancy grade was eliminated, owing to the fact that it is not used commercially. The No. 1 was left as it was, but the No. 2 was improved and the wording of the Act made more definite. It was also suggested that a Domestic grade be legalized, while still retaining the No. 3. The Nova Scotia delegates, particularly, desired that the last-mentioned grade be retained since they have established a considerable market for it. In quality the Domestic holds precedence over the No. 3, and we believe the apple trade would be healthier over a term of years if the No. 3 had been dispensed with altogether. The marketing of low-grade fruit is detrimental to the industry, and growers would profit in the long run, we believe, if they would limit their product to something ordinary and better. Anything inferior in quality tends to drag down the price of the good article, and the Domestic grade is pretty well adapted to looking after everything fit for sale, but not good enough to go in a No. 1 or No. 2 barrel. The growing scarcity of barrel stock, transportation difficulties, and insufficient labor combined, seem to pronounce the No. 3, as now defined, an economic mistake.

Why Not a Demonstration Farmer?

At Summerland, in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, a fruit and vegetable grower was retained by the Provincial Government at an annual salary of \$1,000 to demonstrate what a good fruit plantation looked like, and what the proceeds from such a farm would likely be. He was not responsible to the Government in any way except for a sworn statement concerning gross receipts and expenditures. He was, however, expected to show visitors over his farm and explain matters of interest to them. This grower, J. H. Hilborn, formerly of Leamington, Ont., but who several years ago settled in the Okanagan Valley, conducted his plantation without Government subsidy and without Government dictation. Neighbors or visitors were unable to say "It is easy enough to do that with the Government treasury behind him." The farm was his own, the crops were his own, and the revenue was his own. He was simply compensated for exposing his methods to the public, and telling exactly what his receipts and expenditures were. Authorities have stated that the Province of British Columbia never spent a thousand dollars to any better advantage. It is just possible that this principle or feature of agricultural education might be adapted to other circumstances, and instead of having a Government demonstration farm we could have a demonstration farmer, moderately subsidized by the Government.

Mr. Hilborn's farm in British Columbia comprises about nine and three-quarter acres. From this the gross returns in 1917 were \$7,195.10; the expenses were \$2,237.85, leaving a net revenue of \$4,957.25. Fifteen different crops, including fruit and vegetables, were produced and the above figures, indicating receipts and expenses, were included in the sworn statement furnished the Department of Agriculture. All crops grown were not necessarily profitable. One season melons were the money-makers, and on another occasion cucum-