

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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ESTABLISHED  
1866

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LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 4, 1917.

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## EDITORIAL.

It pays to be kind to the milk cow.

Give the colt plenty of exercise and get him used to having his feet handled.

The regular use of the currycomb keeps the stock bristlier during the winter.

Regular hours for feeding all classes of stock are essential for maximum profits.

Secure the supply of seed grain early. It may be difficult to get good, clean seed in the spring.

Some clover or alfalfa hay, and roots are excellent for the sheep at this time. A few oats would be relished also.

Don't forget the New Year resolutions. Sometimes they amount to something, but often the good ones die young; however, raise them if you can.

By the way, did you ever stop to consider that if the wife helps with the milking, it is only fair that you should wash the dishes and pails occasionally?

President Wilson's last note has them all thinking. He wants to know what we are fighting for. Next he will enquire if there really is a war going on in Europe.

Your presence and influence will aid in making a Short Course in your County a success. It is just possible you might derive some benefit by attending.

Conventions and meetings are now the order of the day. When the opportunity offers don't neglect to attend some of them. There is good in all things.

Don't neglect to have a supply of split wood on hand and place some of it in the wood box before going at the morning chores. Carrying in wood is not women's work.

Is the manure piling up in the barnyard or is it being hauled to the field? Think over the pros and cons of the different methods of handling manure and apply your ideas.

Make the boy a present of a calf or a pig and let him see what profit he can make. Charge the feed to his account, but allow him to have the surplus when the animal is sold.

Fighting for the Empire, making munitions, and producing foodstuffs are the three branches of the foremost business of the present time. There are many, not over busy, who might be doing one of these.

Neglect to store a supply of ice may result in loss of milk, meat and fruit, besides causing a lot of inconvenience during July and August. January is the season for harvesting the ice crop.

Give the boy an idea of the value of money. One way to do it is to make him responsible for certain branches of the farm work. The farm on a partnership basis relieves father of certain work and encourages the boy to do his best.

## The Result of a Consistent Live-Stock Theory.

While farmers quite generally this past fall were lamenting the shortage of feed for live stock and in many cases showing such extreme sympathy for others as to sell their hay and coarse grains, as well as their cattle, we happened on to a certain farmer's holding who had threshed over 1,200 bushels of grain when the average throughout his county was between 300 and 600 bushels. This particular farmer is widely known as a steer feeder of considerable skill, and the practice for many years of building up his farm with manure from the stable and feed lot seemed to exonerate itself when the test came. Other farming policies might have contributed somewhat to the success of this man in a very bad season. However, it was encouraging to talk with one who apparently was prepared to do business as usual and who was doing business as usual by purchasing his feeder cattle for this winter's operations. Had he been so minded, he might have sold those 1,200 bushels of grain, or a part thereof, a large quantity of hay and considerable straw and settled down to a quiet winter beside the stove with a good bank account and some change in his pocket. But that would not be farming. The owner of 100 acres or more must look to the future just as a business concern will invest its dividends in equipment or improvement of the plant. A run-down farm makes a poor home and a very bad business proposition. We must give value for value, and anyone who continues to sell the product of the land without returning something in exchange is inviting liquidation.

There is a limit, of course, to the number of live stock that can be maintained per acre, but the difficulties that arise from under-stocking are more serious than those which result from overstocking. In the latter case the condition is easily remedied without any great loss, but when the fields are starved a man's children, and his children's children may suffer in consequence. There seems to be something in humor and fertility that will ward off "worm and beetle, blight and tempest" to a very considerable extent, just as a strong constitution in man will resist attacks of disease. These are the times when such should be remembered, for the temptations are great to deplete the live stock and sell grain and fodder. Years ago it used to be a common saying that "any fool can farm", but that farming consisted in depleting fertile soil procured at practically no cost. Building up and maintaining the strength and fertility of our land is no fool's job.

## Learn to Express Your Ideas.

To be able to express ideas in a clear, concise manner is a valuable asset to any man. To-day many good men are prevented from serving their communities in a public way because they cannot express themselves. Our country needs men with ideas and sound principles in municipal work and parliamentary affairs. Young men of to-day will be the leaders of to-morrow, and it is their duty to fit themselves to manage the affairs of the country. The debating club and literary society are a training school for quick thinking and expression of thought. In every rural community the young men and women have a golden opportunity if they will but grasp it. True, it may be hard work to organize a debating club and harder work still to stand before a crowd and express your views, but nothing really worth while was ever accomplished without a supreme effort. Practice is essential in order to become proficient as a platform speaker. Recently our attention was drawn to several young men who, two years ago were afraid of their own voices, but by accepting every opportunity to take part in debates and to give addresses they are to-day able to give expression to their thoughts

in a clear, forceful manner, and are destined to become leaders in their communities. What some young men have done, others can do. If there is no debating society in your locality, why not get the young people together and organize one? This is the young man's age, and he must prepare himself to meet the responsibilities which will be thrust upon his shoulders.

## The Need of the Hour.

The time and opportunity has come for all true Canadians to throw their efforts and their wealth into the balance in behalf of the Empire. All cannot go overseas, and the country could not spare them if they would, but there are munitions and still more munitions needed to blast the Huns from their fastnesses in Belgium, Northern France, and the long battle-fronts of Europe. Food, too, is almost as important as munitions, and Canada, not any too soon, is beginning to realize that some organization is necessary to provide these three great essentials to the success of our armies namely, men, munitions and food. The representatives from this Dominion have done nobly at the front and more like them are required, but it is felt that while those who have left their homes to undergo the hardships of the fiercest war in history, the man-power of their country is not practicing team work, or lending them the support that it could and should. There is human energy all around us either being thrown away or expended on some line of endeavor that has no direct bearing on the war, or the financial stability of this country. When nations engaged in this struggle have seen fit to conscript life, we should at least be willing, in the same cause, to co-operate one with another, to leave in suspension for a time those pursuits which from the viewpoint of victory are unimportant, or can be carried on quite as well by women, and, with permanent peace as our objective, to direct our energies in those channels that will feed the millions of soldiers fighting under the banners of our Allies and furnish them with the accoutrements of war that will hasten the day when Germany will be obliged to earnestly sue for peace.

The supreme effort in behalf of home and country is to don the khaki and meet the obligations which it incurs. The next loyal act is to volunteer our service to the Empire and exert ourselves in the fields or factories of the nation where the food and munitions, that will feed and equip the men who are doing the actual fighting, are produced. How far the "National Service Scheme" will go towards this end will depend upon those who have undertaken the work, and the response of the Canadian people. As it is now some have left home, business and binding duties and risked all, while others are doing no more for the cause and are no more concerned than if a bolt of lightning had destroyed some farmer's barn in Europe and perhaps killed one of his cattle. Women are doing wonderful work, and real work, in the munition factories, while some men are selling neckties. A more logical system, directing human effort, would take the able-bodied men into the factories or on to the farms and place the women, girls and boys behind the counters. Business is business, of course, and those trained in a certain pursuit are more valuable to a concern than an amateur, but there is a big business now on hand and that is to bring this war to a successful conclusion for the Entente Allies at the earliest possible date. Women, the country over, have made wonderful sacrifices, and so have a great majority of the men, but the need now is for more men, munitions and food, and Canada will not do her best until we get things working on an efficiency basis.

Agricultural production will not be up to par next season if more labor is not available. When a man cannot go overseas, he might, perhaps, be able to do