



Vol. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 17, 1911

No. 986

EDITORIAL.

The mouth of the cannon is being stopped.

War drums did not beat nor trumpets blare when the peace treaties were signed.

Do not let the weeds go to seed. It is far easier to kill one plant than the scores which will come from its seed next year.

Great Britain and the United States and France and the United States have agreed hereafter to settle all international disputes by arbitration, instead of fighting.

In discussing tariff revision in the United States, Wallace's Farmer says, in so far as the old wool tariff was concerned, the farmer got the crow, while the other fellow took the turkey.

The results of good, careful spraying are becoming more evident every day. The grower who sprayed his trees well this spring is now enjoying a crop of clean fruit that will sell in any market, while a large percentage of the unsprayed fruit is fit only for hog feed.

Take a look at the pasture fields and see if the grass hasn't become very dry. It is short parched grass which suggests the feeding of some green feed, as alfalfa or corn, to keep the stock in good condition. It is a mistake to allow stock to fail in flesh, especially in fall.

In sections where the drouth has been severe the corn should be worked as long as possible. After it has become impossible to get through it with the large cultivator the one-horse cultivator can be used, and good results will follow such a practice, even until the time the ears are pretty well developed.

In many sections the drouth and heat have been so severe that the crop has been comparatively light. This should serve the purpose of impressing upon the minds of the people the need of cultivation with a view to conserving soil moisture. Next year's crop depends largely upon the amount of this autumn's rainfall, that is held in the soil for use next year.

One of the drawbacks of the dairy business is the shortage of real good heifers. The female progeny of the best cows should be kept in the herd rather than sold for veal. There is no surer method of building up a high milking average than by keeping records of the cows in order to ascertain which cow's offspring should be discarded and which kept in the herd.

As a result of preventive and curative measures in the last ten years in England and Wales, mortality from tuberculosis has diminished 19 per cent.; in Scotland, 24 per cent.; in Ireland, 24 per cent.; in Germany, 18 per cent.; in London (England), 30 per cent.; in Berlin, 24 per cent., and in Paris, 3 per cent. This improvement has been concurrent with a proportionate decline of the general death-rate and with a decline of alcoholism. All these declines were co-incidental with better housing, improved education, the social improvement of the people, and their moral elevation.

A Little Extra Feed and Care.

The last of a series of articles on the dairy farm investigation appears in this issue, and contains some valuable information on winter feeding and on the care and handling of the milk, etc. Feeding is one of the main factors in milk production. Invariably, the man who is feeding heavily is getting larger returns than the poor feeder. It requires a certain quantity of feed to keep up the animal system, and where a cow is only receiving a small ration, all or nearly all of it is used for this purpose, very little being left for milk production. It is a fact, however, that the cow's maternal instinct is so strong that she will draw on the reserve material of her body to produce the milk which is intended to feed her progeny. No cow can produce satisfactory results from such low feeding. When the reserve of the body is exhausted, the animal is in a very poor condition. It pays to feed, and to feed well. There are few, if any other, animals kept on the farm which will yield as large returns for extra care and feed, particularly the latter, as will the dairy cow.

The herds which constituted the subject of this particular investigation were very well cared for. A feature of the care given cattle during the winter months is regular cleaning or currying. All owners practicing this have no hesitancy in recommending it as a profitable operation. It keeps the skins clean and free from dirt, and the stock thrive much better than when left uncurried. Another very simple yet commendable feature is clipping the cows' tails, leaving only a switch at the end. This is a great aid in keeping this appendage clean, and during the milking process the tail is very often in motion, so that any measure which will tend to keep this member free from dirt is worthy of a trial. Special separator and dairy buildings are necessary adjuncts to good dairying. It is impossible to produce a sanitary article if no special care is taken. Cream separators situated on a block in a corner of the stable or feed-room collect a number of bacteria beyond comprehension, and a position of this kind is no place for this machine. The separating and cooling room does not need to be very large, and consequently will not be very costly. It is understood by all that the harmful organisms in milk do not develop so rapidly when the milk is kept at a low temperature; therefore, the more quickly the milk is cooled after milking, the better. Most of the dairymen producing milk for city use have ice for cooling, but many are using special coolers.

There are very many little things which can be done to promote cleanliness. Where certified milk is produced, the cows' udders are all washed with antiseptic water previous to each milking. Each cow's milk is taken to the dairy and cooled immediately after being milked, and the milkers wash their hands in antiseptic water after each cow is milked. In one dairy, even the milking stools were taken to the dairy, and thoroughly scrubbed each morning and evening. It is the little things like these that demand attention in the production of the highest class of sanitary milk. Few dairymen produce certified milk, but it is within the reach of every owner to produce a high-class article by paying just a little more attention to the handling of the milk. A small dairy building, entirely separate from the stable, should be the aim of every milk producer who does not already possess one. Cement seems to be the best floor for this building. It is cool and lasting. The walls are all the better for a coat of white-

wash, and plenty of water should be used at all times to keep the building cool and clean. Dairying means work, if it is properly done, and to get the most out of it requires care and labor, but there are few other phases of agriculture which pay as well for the labor, one year with another, as does the dairy business.

Political Issues Tabooed.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has been asked to publish an article discussing the issues before the electors in the pending political campaign, with a view of assisting them towards a wise exercise of their franchise. We must respectfully decline. "The Farmer's Advocate" is not a political paper. Business and economic questions it occasionally touches upon, but the moment one of these becomes a party question it is frankly eschewed.

The great function of this journal is to promote the cause of agriculture and country life. In this behalf it appeals to all classes, distinguishing between no parties, races or creeds. Persons of all shades of political and religious conviction welcome it as a helpful and uplifting agency, and may it ever be so.

"But," says someone, "why not treat these questions impartially?" Every sentence that might be printed would be weighed as to its fairness or alleged bias by honest readers with all shades of deep-seated political prejudice, and prejudice is still in many cases stronger than reason. The net result would be few changes of opinion, many enmities and substantial weakening of influence in our especial sphere.

The central issue in the present campaign—the one which precipitated the election—is reciprocity. Upon that issue the position of the paper has already been clearly manifested. We expect to say no more about it till the election is over. Furthermore, we close our columns for the time being to correspondence upon the subject—correspondence which, however logical and disinterested it might be, would quite certainly be misinterpreted as to its motive by those who did not agree with the writer's politics.

We state our position thus frankly, confident that it will commend itself to the common sense of practically all readers. If a word of adjuration were added it would be to keep clear of the party machines, thereby preserving a detached point of view. Many a sovereign elector's tendency to independence has been nipped in the bud by a wily political strategist who succeeded in getting him publicly identified with his old allegiance, smothering the pleadings of judgment and principle with election heat and party fervor. The hope of democracy rests upon the unpurchasable independent vote. The larger this is the better.

The Struggle for Existence.

Give Nature half a chance, and she will do the rest. Nature does not shirk. She always plays her part in the game. In driving through certain sections of the country lately, one could not fail to be struck with the way in which scores of oat fields were struggling instinctively to produce a crop. Owing to drouth and other causes the grain had been in some cases almost a failure, but had been cut and removed. The roots still lived, but, no doubt, ashamed of the little stand of straw and less grain produced, had thrown up a fresh set of shoots along the old drills all over the fields. At the time of writing, many of the stools had reached a height of from six inches to nearly a foot, and in some cases had actually again headed out. Occurring in a poor, sandy