

FARM AND DAIRY



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

Vol. XXXIII.

FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 1914

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada



No. 35

Reminiscences of Crimean War Times

It is not often that one finds so many fine farm homes in a small section," a tourist was heard to remark recently after driving through a portion of Brant Co., Ont. "There must be lots of money in farming to build houses such as I have seen to-day," he added.

"Those homes are a product of war times," answered the old gentleman to whom the remark was addressed. "At least a lot of them are. I can remember when wheat sold over \$2 a bushel. One crop of wheat paid for lots of the homes you noticed. I'm afraid some farmers were doing so well they hoped the war would keep right on. Those were the days when farms were bought at long prices, and paid for in record time."

Frequently one still hears men well on in years telling of the prosperity of rural Ontario during past war times. The reminiscences of our older men are of particular interest now that we are engaged in another great war. Farm and Dairy has recently secured letters from a couple of the veteran farmers whose memory of our last great war is still fresh.

A VETERAN SPEAKS.

"I well remember the Russian war," writes Mr. Albert Tamblay, of Durham Co., Ont., in a recent letter to Farm and Dairy. "I was hardly thirteen years old. War was declared on the 28th of March, 1854. As regards prices everything was high. Wheat sold from \$1.50 to \$2.50; land went from \$50 an acre to \$100, and some choice places as high as \$140. Most all the farmers were building barns, houses, buying land, and making money fast. There are on the 6th concession of Clarke, where I have lived for 60 years, eight or nine stone houses, and twelve brick ones, costing from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and most of them were built from 1854 to 1865.

"A farmer was not afraid to buy a farm at the time of the Russian War. I know one young man who at that time started to work on a 100 acre farm and went \$900 in debt to start. In three years he had over \$2,000 let out at eight per cent., and since then bought the farm at \$80 an acre, and paid for it. He is now living retired.

"My father bought a 100 acre farm, and borrowed \$1,200 at eight per cent., and paid it all back the next year off the 150 acres we farmed. This is the same place my son, A. J., is now working. And we had money left.

HIGH COST OF LIVING

"We had about 40 acres of wheat that went 39 bushels an acre, and sold it over \$1 a bushel. I tell you, Mr. Editor, we talk about the high cost of living now, but I have seen it beaten. Farmers paid at Russian war times from \$200 to \$250 for a buggy and \$700 to \$800 for a double carriage, and from \$80 to \$120 for a double set of silver mounted harness. When it came to building churches

I know of farmers who signed \$300, \$500, \$750 and \$1,500, and paid it. It is not the high cost of living to-day; it is the high cost of extravagance, high tariff and bad voting, that makes hard times."

A CAUTION.

"My recollections of the time of the Crimean war, in the eighteen fifties, is that it was a time when some farmers got very high prices for their grain, and others held it until the war was over, and then sold for what they could get," writes Mr. Charles O'Reilly, of Peterboro Co., Ont. "A man in Seymour Township had a large crop of wheat, for which he was offered \$2 a bushel. He said it would go higher. When the war ended he

sold it for four shillings (80 cents) a bushel. Others did the same and sold for what they could get when the war was over. Prices came down suddenly, and times were bad for some time after the war. My experience has been that it is better to sell when the price is good and take no chance of a drop. The man who sells when he is ready to, if prices are right, usually is the safest in the end."

Farm and Dairy would welcome letters from others of Our Folks whose memories carry them back to the early fifties. We do not expect an exact duplication of conditions, but such reminiscences are most interesting to us of the younger generation.

A Corn Belt Opinion on Plowing

By H. H. Smith, Illinois, in Farmers' Review

CONTRARY to the opinions of some farmers it has long been my method to prepare my soil in the fall for the next year's planting. Some still cling to the belief that sod soil will do better for corn if it be freshly turned over in the spring time, but from numerous experiments along this line, I am convinced of the value of my system.

As late as possible in the fall I hitch to the three-horse sulky, and begin cutting off the ground in deep slices. I plow deep, but do not turn all the grass under. I try to leave it ridged in strips of uniform thickness. When the entire field has been thoroughly upturned, I leave it until the spring. During the winter the soil thoroughly freezes, which is of great benefit to the soil itself as well as an important factor in ridding the ground of grub worms and other insect pests.

I have often observed the unsatisfactory results of shallow working of the seed-bed. One year when I was plowing for corn ground across the field from a neighbor, he criticized me for cutting my ground, declaring that I was thinning my horses and putting myself to extra, unnecessary labor, when a four-inch fallow was quite sufficient. However, I went ahead, carrying out my principles, and in the fall garnered a third more corn than he.

I am also a firm believer in frequent plowing. Just for experiment we fall plowed a five-acre tract twice, re-broke it in the spring, and planted to corn. The result was a field that yielded an average of more than ten bushels per acre more than the adjoining field that had been fall plowed once, disked and harrowed in the spring.

I consider the value of fall plowing three-fold: first, as a means of absorbing moisture; second, as a factor in ridding the ground of grub-worms and other insects that infest the soil; and third, as a means of quickly decaying manure and vegetation.

Here is a Territory Not Disturbed by War

WHILE marching hosts are tramping down the crops of Europe, while their screaming shells are destroying villages and towns, prosperity reigns in the home of the Canadian farmer. His duty it is to produce the wherewithal to help feed the peoples of the world. And he will not do it unrewarded. Consider:

The Dominion Government will send 1,000,000 bags of flour to the British Government; the Province of Ontario 250,000 bags. The Province of Quebec will make a gift of 4,000,000 pounds of cheese to the Imperial authorities. Alberta will donate 500,000 bushels of oats to the same cause. Sir Frederick Benson of the British War Office estimates that 4,000 or 7,000 horses will be required from Canada. In addition to special gifts vast quantities of all foodstuffs will be required at the seat of war. These requirements must be met in large measure by the Canadian farmer. How will the war affect him?

Let the Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. White, reply: "To many of our industries," said he in the House of Commons, "and notably to agriculture there should be a PRONOUNCED STIMULATION and QUICKENING OF ACTIVITY." The enhanced prices of our grain, food and other products will give us GREATER BUYING POWER than we should otherwise possess from this source." Canada's best journalistic authority on trade matters, the Montreal Journal of Commerce, remarks: "It should be pointed out that the outbreak of hostilities will mean increased prices for the grain and cattle and the other produce which our farmers have to sell."

Whatever depressing effect the European cataclysm will have in Canada will be in the cities and industrial centres. It will not influence the rural community, except to create a greater demand for the things the rural community produces; and that means higher prices for farm produce, greater buying power and more prosperity.