

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

It is not too late yet to sow rape.

Corn has gotten away to a good start. Encourage it with plenty of cultivation.

Where it is desirable to prepare a clover meadow for seed it will be necessary to remove the first crop for hay as soon as it is fit to cut.

While fighting "to make the world safe for democracy" we should maintain a democracy at home or the memorable phrase will be emptied of all meaning.

Anyone wishing titles should place their order early, for after the next session of Parliament it may be deemed necessary to prohibit the importation of such expensive luxuries.

The quality of Canadian butter and cheese will influence the demand for it on foreign markets. In this connection a Dominion Dairy Council could be of benefit to the industry.

The Kaiser values a mile of ground gained or a position won in the terms of human lives. This is war, but some countries appraise their soldiers higher than do others, and a German is apparently listed away below par.

Agriculture in Ontario is in need of a leader who can rally around him the representatives of all branches of the industry and present a solid front to the opposing forces. We have many organizations. Consolidation is the next step.

The prohibitory measures concerning the feeding of wheat will delay the marketing of hogs this coming autumn. It might be advisable, in the case of well-grown pigs, to purchase corn and get them finished before the heavy rush takes place.

Transportation must be in such a condition that our crops can be moved this fall on land as well as sea. The Government should see to it that a breakdown does not occur right here at home, or all this production they have been urging will be of little avail.

A great deal of misunderstanding arises out of the inability on the part of many classes to get the rural viewpoint. Clergymen with urban as well as rural charges could profitably attend the School for Rural Leadership, to be held at Guelph late in July.

The agricultural industry has been asked to "make bricks without straw," but the cause for which this country has been fighting since August of 1914 is such that farmers will carry on to the best of their ability in spite of the actions of those who have been empowered to rule.

With their usual acumen and farsightedness, the manufacturers have arrived in on the ground floor at the opportune time with the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association. Perhaps a sister organization composed of agriculturists and the taxpayers of Canada could help them considerably in the proper adjustment of affairs.

Canada stands first amongst all the countries of the world in production of foodstuffs per capita, and it is what the individual, not the acre, can produce now that counts. Our exportable surplus and our proximity to the seat of demand places the Dominion in a very responsible position in the prosecution of the war.

## Slander and Verbiage.

One should never condemn a class of people for the words of a few self-appointed spokesmen among them, nor should one attempt to correct a wrong through a personal attack on the party responsible for it. In any matters of importance there is invariably a principle involved, and that principle should constitute the main theme of any discussion or controversy. It is a characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race that one can appeal to their sense of justice, and in the end justice will be meted out. Many respectable citizens have been angered by a slanderous article which appeared recently in what has been considered to be a reputable Toronto weekly. This particular article discussed the farmers' delegation to Ottawa on May 14 in such a way that it was simply two columns of abuse and nothing more. Anyone who knew the author personally or by reputation wisely passed it by, but those less acquainted with the writer looked upon it as an expression of city sentiment. The latter view is altogether a mistaken one. This particular bit of slanderous verbiage was only the weekly contribution to a paper which has consistently misrepresented agriculture for no apparent reason. Urban people who think, hold sane views. Those who do not think are likely to entertain all kinds of opinions and make all kinds of statements. This is not a peculiarity of the city folk alone; all classes are alike in this regard. Nevertheless, it is a fact that while the farmer has pursued the even tenor of his ways, bearing no ill feeling toward any class, he has been constantly held up for ridicule by an element in the towns and cities who should know better, and to this element the article in question would especially appeal. However, that is a thing of the past and there is seldom any use in thrashing old straw. The future is before and the duty of all, whether they be farmers, journalists, legislators, professional men or day laborers, is to see that justice and equity reign, and that a feeling of good will exists among all classes in this country. The situation is such that we must appreciate the efforts of the other fellow and pull together. Class-feeling, strife, antagonism and petty jealousies are obstacles that should be forced aside rather than piled up on the road to hinder progress towards the common goal. Whatever our station in life may be, our aims should be constructive rather than destructive, and never in the history of Canada was unity more necessary to national existence than at the present time.

## Protection First—Win the War Later.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that we should go on and win the war first, and then with that job off our hands we may turn to domestic affairs and adjust any little family matters which require straightening out. Opposed to this view we find the Manufacturers Association firm in the belief that now is the proper time to build a higher tariff wall about the Dominion in order to protect infant industries which are in danger of being harmed by some ruthless outsider. Strangely enough our industries never grow up; they are always in the infant class, and whenever any free-trade breeze comes from the north-west they are tucked at once into the cradle, covered warmly and furiously rocked so the harsh winds will not blight them in their infancy.

In addition to the tariff wall to keep out big boys a guardian has been appointed in the form of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association, composed of men well known in industrial life. This watchman says in part: "The war may and possibly should bring new forms of taxation, but customs duties must continue to be the chief source of revenue. It is doubtful if all the new forms of taxation that can be devised will meet the interest upon the war debt alone, to say nothing of pensions and other heavy war obligations. Duties necessary to provide revenue will afford such incidental

protection as should enable us to create and maintain new industries and take full advantage of all that we have learned during the war of processes of manufacture, stores of raw material, and requirements of overseas markets. Much that we imported before the war we will manufacture in the future if we afford REASONABLE SECURITY in home markets and utilize our greater knowledge of the resources of Canada for the advantage of Canada."

Seemingly the policy of this new Association is adroitly set forth in the preceding paragraph, and it might be well to have an organization of the people, who really pay the taxes and afford this reasonable security, to guard the guardian. The President of the Manufacturers' Association was recently reported as declaring his faith anew in the policy of protection, and he is apparently determined to make the country safe for the manufacturer.

Why all this anxiety? The Western element at Ottawa is hardly strong enough yet to overthrow the forces that protect these infant industries. The parapets and barb-wire entanglements are still intact. The trenches are still habitable.

It will be interesting to watch the activities of the new Reconstruction Association, and with outposts well located to announce any threatening movements on their part, let us go on with the war.

## Agricultural and Industrial Training.

There seems to be a feeling lurking in high places that Canada must pay more attention to agricultural and industrial training if we are to meet successfully the strenuous competition which is likely to follow the cessation of war. No doubt a great readjustment will take place, but in adapting ourselves to it good citizenship should be the aim, rather than the fashioning of human beings to fit as a part of a big machine, and thus repeating the folly of a nation whose false doctrine and pernicious Kultur we are endeavoring to confine. The principle of vocational training is absolutely right so long as it equips the individual to carry on in his chosen profession or work, but when it attempts to make a tool of him for some particular industry, regardless of his abilities or desires for such a line of endeavor, it is absolutely wrong. Up to a certain age all children are entitled to the same training and the same opportunities in order that they may go forward in whatever directions they choose, fortified with an education that will enable them to become efficient workmen and good citizens in whatever occupation or profession they may find themselves in after years.

A recent address made by the New Minister of Education for Ontario, Hon. Dr. H. J. Cody, leads us to believe that matters such as these will receive the attention of his Department, and since mention was made of linking up the rural school with agriculture it is only reasonable to expect that an effort will be made to bring the educational system more in harmony with the popular demands. However, the teaching of agriculture in the rural school should be approached with caution and not until after a thorough canvass of the situation has been made. Furthermore, it appears that some preparatory work is necessary and, though this may at first sight seem strange, the initial work should be commenced in the urban schools. A very large percentage of our teachers are town or city reared and educated, and in no way qualified to interpret an agricultural text book to the pupils. Nor are they sympathetic enough towards the industry to create the proper atmosphere. The 200 teachers who attend the summer course at Guelph cannot radiate the spirit and knowledge they acquire to their teacher comrades who number almost 10,000 in the Province of Ontario. The task is too big for the present equipment and system