



Vol. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 18, 1915.

No. 1169

EDITORIAL.

Are Canada's stockmen downhearted? No!

The worst Spring the world has ever seen fast approaches.

Do not forget "The Dollar Chain." The money is urgently needed.

Are you ready to produce the most your farm is capable of in 1915?

What have the war lords accomplished for the benefit of the German Fatherland?

Six months of war cost \$8,575,000,000, to say nothing of death and destruction beyond conception.

In making up the balance sheets for the past year how many of our farms have been yielding ten and twelve per cent. dividends with an occasional bonus dividend thrown in?

Sheep breeders have decided to talk more "sheep" and less "dog" at annual meetings. This is a pleasant, and let us hope profitable, change. Much of the so-called "dog nuisance" is imaginary.

We are glad that it is admitted that the farmer must solve the problem of increasing production himself. The farmer knew this long ago, and all he asks is a little aid to secure the labor. Will he get it?

The farmer is urged to work hand in hand with other interests. He has been doing this long enough. The other interests have held both his hands until he has had no opportunity to assert his rights.

The "Financial Times" tells of answering thousands of enquiries mostly from town people about safe and satisfactory investments for their money. Were many of them turned in the direction of the slogan—"Back to the land"?

Unless a madman out and out or a fiend incarnate, what can the Kaiser be thinking in his hours of reflection, if he ever has any, of the dreadful havoc wrought by the war in which he plunged the world?

The Dominion Minister of Agriculture promises greater assistance to live stock at the larger shows. It seems too bad to let the smaller shows go down for lack of funds. Is it not possible for the Provincial Government to brace up with regard to this?

Unless all signs fail the city and town throngs that are daily and nightly crowding the moving picture shows and other resorts will have something more serious to do with their time and money before the great war is over and its bills paid.

The President of the Ontario Horse Breeders' Association hinted that some Army horse buyers were appointed on Government "pull." Is there anything strange about that? Government appointments are often made for the same reason, and the public gets the shot and takes the consequences.

The Contented Unemployed.

The towns and cities of this country have a problem to deal with for which they have no solution. The fact that 200 unemployed in the city of Toronto prefer the hospitality of the city soup kitchen rather than the honest employment on a farm in Huron County, is conclusive evidence that the unemployed are not a result of economic conditions which exist in this country. They are unemployed by choice, and will remain unemployed so long as they receive free meal tickets or free soup. Toronto does not stand alone as a city with this class of unemployed, they exist in every city in Canada, and the cities which harbor them are at present not altogether to blame. There is a certain class of manhood which has little ambition for work, and they are stealing from the working people just as much as the "honest" laboring man with a large family who steals a few bushels of coal with which to warm his home. The Provincial Secretary has initiated a commendable scheme in the northern part of this province where people out of work "may" assist in clearing waste lands and transforming it into productive areas. The word "may" should be changed to "must" in relation to these satisfied unemployed in our cities. They should be compelled to work or starve in a pursuit that will result in production in some shape or form.

Know, Then Talk.

Before a gathering of men representing diverse interests such as agriculture, transportation and finance, J. W. Flavell, of Toronto, remarked that every speaker should confine his words to the subject with which he was best acquainted. The speaker practiced his own doctrine in his few remarks that night, for the character of his speech revealed the fact that he knew something about finance, and that was the topic allotted to him.

Much has been said and much has been written by farmers and their friends regarding financial matters as they concern agriculture in general, and it may be easily seen that many of them are not any too well acquainted with the subject they make bold to discuss. The same is true, however, on the other side. Volumes and volumes of advice are handed out to farmers by people whose very words reveal the ignorance under which they are laboring, but exception must be made here for very often bankers or transportation officials make it their business to understand agricultural conditions. Their business depends upon it, and it is a part of their policy to understand the industries to which they cater.

At no time was the need of available money and labor more necessary in Canadian agriculture than it is at present. If farmers are to produce more they must be provided with two prerequisites, labor and money, and yet up to the time of writing there is no solution of the problems in sight. It will become the duty of some body of farmers to study finance as it concerns agriculture, and submit a scheme to the country and to the Government for approval whereby conditions may be alleviated.

It has been asked why do not the farmers of Ontario with \$100,000,000 deposited in the chartered banks lend it to their neighbors at a rate of interest much higher than what they receive from the banks. The apparently enormous sum of money which is deposited in the banks by

Ontario farmers is not money which one would expect to be put to this use. It is largely the accumulations of farmers who are now retired and who lack the ambition to invest it elsewhere, and who furthermore feel that the whole country will stand behind their deposit no matter what happens the bank.

The advice is sound that people should talk about that which they understand, but it is furthermore to be recommended that the farming element of Canada acquaint themselves with financial matters and draft some scheme whereby monies may be procured with which to finance agricultural operations. They need the money in their business.

An Important Parliament.

On first thought it appears rather far fetched to think of the meetings of the Live-Stock Associations, held recently in Toronto, as a parliament. But that term was applied to their deliberations with considerable appropriateness, and in normal times their actual significance and importance would compare favorably with many sessions conducted under more pomp and show, and whose doings are recorded in Hansard to be stored away in fire-proof vaults and carefully guarded in order to reveal to future generations the wisdom of their progenitors. The nation is first of all dependant upon its field crops and live stock, for on account of them or by them the wheels of all industries continue to revolve. There must be some governing body to control the destiny of the pure-bred stock industry, for upon it depends the entire enterprise which furnishes our tables with food or provides us with animals to do our work, and this body of legislators may well be termed the Live-Stock Parliament. The simile is all the more fitting when we consider the function of the Canadian National Live-Stock Record Board, which consists of representatives from all the various breed associations. It is in fact the Cabinet of the farmer's parliament. Their duty is to protect the live stock of the country and keep it pure. All the large breed associations in Canada except one are combined under a jurisdiction common to all, and the Canadian Records are the pride of all breeders of the Dominion, and an object of admiration for the entire world.

At a time when the Empire requires food no reasonable efforts should be spared to enhance the value and numbers of our live stock. This condition has applied to Canada for the last half century, but it appeals with more eloquence at the present time than ever before. Canada is particularly adapted to stock rearing, yet we have only one sheep and three cattle to every four of a population, and two swine to every five. We have, according to the last census, 2,000,000 sheep and 6,000,000 cattle. Roughly, Canada possesses 1-63 of the world's cattle, 1-47 of the world's horses, 1-28 of the sheep, and 1-58 of the swine. The United States boasts of a comparatively large number of the World's live stock, and the per capita number of animals in the neighboring republic exceeds the Canadian figures. It has been said that the Province of Quebec sustains fewer sheep than it did forty years ago, and the same may be said of Canada as a whole. However, this in itself does not indicate a falling off in all lines. In many cases sheep have been replaced by beef and dairy cattle, but the entire industry does not measure up to a standard which does justice to the country.