

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties. It is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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spring, but to cultivate the top to get it cleaned before the mangels are sown, and then sow with the grain drill on the flat. The same could be done with turnips, only more cultivation should be given, as it is not necessary to sow turnips before June 10 or June 20. Turnip land is generally the better of being plowed once or twice and thoroughly worked and cleaned before the crop goes in. Corn should go in soon after mangels, but it would generally be advisable to put a little extra work on the field both from the standpoint of cultivation and from that of killing the weeds before the corn is planted, and if there is any danger of the field being dirty, planting in hills by the check-row system should be practiced so that the cultivation can all or nearly all be done with horses. There will be less time to hoe this year than for many years. Plans should be laid to do most of the work ordinarily done with the hoe with horse-drawn implements, and now is the time to make these plans.

All Together for 1916!

Our Scottish letter, this week, is written in none too optimistic tones. Natural conditions in the British Isles, particularly in Scotland, have not been favorable during the past winter. It has been a rough winter and at the time the letter referred to was written, March 28, the season was described as being from six to seven weeks behind and farmers in Scotland were becoming anxious. All spring operations were very much delayed and blizzards were still raging. The labor shortage is being keenly felt in that country, even more so than in Canada, and hay was described as selling from fifty to sixty dollars per ton, and was necessary to carry the flocks and other stock until grass was plentiful. We are simply mentioning this to draw the attention of readers to the importance of production in Canada this year. It may be that the Motherland will find great difficulty in producing a maximum crop this season, and it is the duty of Canadians to put forth every effort to increase, if possible, the output of their farms this year. We would also like to draw the attention of our military authorities to the importance of production in this country this year. There may be some food for thought, even for the most ardent military man in Canada, in what "Scotland Yet" said of conditions in the Old Land,

By growing more wheat, more barley, more oats, more corn, and more roots per acre this year to be turned into more flour, more beef, more pork, more mutton and more milk and its products, Canadian farmers may be doing a bigger bit than they themselves, and the military men as well, realize. Wars cannot be fought and won unless the armies are supplied and well fed. It begins to look more and more as if the men who are absolutely needed to work the land and who do their best on the land this year are as true patriots as those in the ranks. We have no time for shirkers, however, and the man who is not ready to do his best on the farm is just as much a shirker as he who hides from the recruiting sergeant. Uncultivated fields should be uncommon in 1916, but some men must be left on the farm if this is to be the case. The safety of the Empire may yet depend on food as well as men. Then, all hands together for 1916!

Work Together, and Grow Clover, Corn, Cattle, and Other Stock.

As the days go by, the farm labor situation becomes more acute. We published, last week, a question asked by a Wellington County subscriber, who has a two-hundred-acre farm, can get no skilled hired help, and wants to know how he can handle the farm to make it pay. How can he?

We are not familiar with conditions as they prevail upon this particular farm, but we have visited many farms during the past few months whose owners or tenants are in practically the same predicament as is our Wellington county reader. True, not all of them have two hundred acres, but most will be called upon to work anywhere from 50 to 200 acres, with the average running 100 acres or more, practically alone. As a general thing, sudden and radical changes in farm practice do not prove over-profitable, especially where a thrifty, steady going, thinking farmer who knows his land has been doing the best he knew to make it yield fair cash returns. A farmer, who called at our office a few days ago, when asked about the labor situation in his particular locality, remarked that he and his neighbors expected to get along very much as usual, because they had been without men so long that they had adapted themselves to the situation and were prepared to do the best they possibly could alone. As a matter of fact, it was his opinion that farmers could pretty well look after themselves. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, but during the last few years, help has been so scarce that many farmers have planned to do what they could with more horses, with more modern implements and machinery, and with working themselves, long days, and these are in the best position to face the situation this year. But the man on 200 acres obviously cannot do alone. He can scarcely properly seed the amount of land which should be in crop on a farm of that size. He cannot handle to the best advantage sufficient hoed crop, such as corn and roots, to provide a maximum yield of these crops to feed the number of stock such a farm should carry through the winter. He cannot alone harvest the crops were he able to produce them. It would seem that he must either "scratch over" some of the work in a slipshod manner, or must put forth a Herculean effort to do two men's work this year while he gets more of the farm under grass and plans to carry more stock through the summer. If he carries more stock, he must produce a larger quantity of rough feed for winter, which would mean a larger acreage of corn, planted so that it could be worked both ways with the horses to avoid hoeing.

But the crops must be handled, and we have many times this spring advised neighbors to early lay their plans to co-operate this year in the matter of harvesting hay and grain as well as corn. Silo filling has long been a successful example of the possibilities of co-operation amongst neighbors. This year in sections where large farms are the rule, about the only solution to the problem we can offer is for farmers to group themselves together and plan to handle their crops co-operatively. By working together in haying and harvest we believe that the owners and tenants could handle a far larger acreage than is often taken off even with the help of some hired men. Of course, large farms should be well equipped with implements and machinery. There will be little time this year to fool away with single-furrowed plows, narrow cultivators and drills, and pony mowers and binders. Besides, the barns and hay-lofts should all be equipped with tracks and the hay fork and slings used for unloading. Where a large acreage of hay is grown the hay-loader will likely be found profitable

Where a number of neighbors work together, two or three mowers could be used on the one farm to trim up the hay, and it could soon be run into the barn when the outfit could be moved to another farm. The many hands would make lighter work all around, and the men, all vitally interested, would not kick at working after six, if necessary. As a rule, we do not believe in or advise working too long days, but sometimes, to finish fields and to get work done which would be otherwise hampered by rain, it is necessary to put in a few extra hours, and where neighbors co-operate this could be done satisfactorily. The seeding we believe can be very well put in, even though men are scarce, provided farmers are equipped with wide implements and have everything ready the minute the season opens up. It means a little extra rush and tired legs for a while, but there seems to be nothing else to do. The only hope seems to be in a more elaborate farm equipment, making implements and machines do the work of men, a scheme which will also allow the farmer to make better use of his horses, and, coupled with this co-operation amongst neighbors or changing work, much as is done at threshing and silo filling time.

We have not solved the difficulties of any man alone on 200 acres of land. It is obvious that he could not go in to the dairy business, but we believe that by a liberal use of grass seed this spring, and by judiciously increasing the live stock, be it beef cattle, sheep, and pigs, and, by laying plans to another year, grow rough feed to feed this stock through the winter, and plenty of pasture and hay, the farm could be made pay. It is impossible to change farm plans in a few days. All conditions must be considered, but the hope of the Ontario farmer seems to lie in grass, the clovers, corn, and the necessary high-quality live stock to consume these crops on the place. Of course, some grain must be grown, and on some farms a few roots, but the basis of the farming operations should be corn, clover and cattle, or other stock.

Studies in Political Economy—VIII.

EDITOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Last week, in considering ways and means of stimulating Canadian agriculture, the noxious effects of speculating in land were pointed out, and it was also made evident that the appropriation of the *Ground Rent* by the State would effectually kill land gambling. As we said, it is generally admitted that Canadian agriculture needs stimulation. It is not, however, generally admitted that from an economic point of view agriculture has not been getting its just due; the decline of agriculture has been attributed rather to those incidental and accidental conditions of which mention has been made already, and which I maintain do not touch the root of the matter. I propose, therefore, to submit some evidence of a statistical nature touching upon this question, which evidence explains in large measure the recent relative decline of Canadian agriculture.

The production of manufactured articles in Canada for 1910 is given as \$1,165,000,000 (census 1911). The production for 1905 is estimated as \$718,000,000 (Canada Year Book, 1914, p. 252). The increase in production in the five years was therefore \$447,000,000. Assuming the same increase in the next five years, we have a production of \$1,612,000,000 in 1915, or an average of nearly \$1,389,000,000 per year for the last five years. As these figures are only approximations, as accurate as can be gotten under the conditions, let us say that the average production of manufactured articles, per year for the last five years, has been \$1,400,000,000, an increase of one-fifth over the figures for 1910.

The capital employed in manufacturing in 1910 was \$1,247,000,000; and it is perhaps fair to assume that this has increased during the last five years in a ratio corresponding to that existing in the case of the increase in production. The average capital employed during the last five years may, therefore, be taken to be \$1,500,000,000.

The cost of labor and raw materials in 1910 was \$842,000,000. Assuming a similar increase of one-fifth the average cost of labor and raw materials per year for the last five years may be taken as a round billion dollars.

Deducting the cost of labor and raw materials from the total product, we get an average balance of \$400,000,000 per year for the last five years.

Deduct from this a further sum of five per cent. on the investment, viz., \$75,000,000, and one per cent. municipal tax, and we still have left a balance of \$310,000,000.

The question now arises as to the value of the equipment in our manufacturing enterprises. I cannot find any figures dealing with this, but I submit that, with a capitalization of \$1,500,000,000, \$1,000,000,000 is a liberal allowance for equipment. Deduct, therefore, a further five per cent. annual depreciation on equipment, viz., \$50,000,000, and we have left a surplus of \$260,000,000.

Now, let us perform similar calculations for agriculture.

In 1911 the capital employed in Canadian agricul-

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ture was \$4, (1901-1911) per cent. per general rise. Making due rise in the somewhat average capital years cannot considerably

The total fruits and dairy products 000,000. Since increase in the very little increase stock has been value may have annual value 1910-1911 Year Book, 1911 was \$338,000, other products be over \$400,000 ever, and assume per year. On total of \$1,000 annum for the

We must costs of products 1910 some \$34 laborers. Since much increase, The rate of work that it is not of 000,000 has been the last five years include the labor In 1911 there were 714,000 farms the occupier his wife and children work. On some farms the work of a hired shares the income farms there are Now, what is the holding, exclusively The question is find any information turns. I feel safe at least two work at least 600 days plied to each farm labor for which How shall this wage paid work 1910 was about \$1,000,000,000, considering the quality of our farms, and do be grossly unfair less than those of great deal of the entitled to better safe side, and only then 1,500,000 work the 714,000 farms \$480 per year, the amounts to \$720,000,000 of \$760,000,000 per

Deducting labor value of the annual \$240,000,000. But form this, viz., the capital taxes, and a ment. Five per cent. and a municipal this figure in Ontario makes another \$50,000,000, buildings and improvements \$1,000,000,000. Increased value of annual depreciation makes another \$50,000,000 further deduction take from our balance of \$110,000,000.

The situation the following tabu

Manufacturing

Capital Investment
Value of Products
Cost of Labor, etc.
5 per cent. on Investment
1 per cent. Municipal
5 per cent. Depreciation
Total Costs

Surplus Profit

Farming

Capital Investment
Value of Products
Cost of Labor (Annual)
5% on Investment
1% Municipal Tax
5% Depreciation (Annual)
Total Costs

Deficit