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EDITORIAL.

Maintain the drive in the corn.

A colt that will not lead is not fitted for the show-ring.

Keep the show cattle cool, contented and well curried.

Responsibility is the fairest test of a man's efficiency.

There is one line that cannot be broken—the line held by the British fleet.

It might pay to practice a little head selection in the grain crops on the home farm this year.

Every weed allowed to grow and mature means less grain and less feed this year, and more weeds next season.

The stockman should rejoice. The tendency of feeds is downward, and all kinds of live stock command good prices.

We are told that the fighting on all points gradually approaches the more open order, but the war is still a war of machinery.

A great deal of the trouble between hired men and farmers is caused by misunderstanding. Every farmer should be a student of human nature.

In England, Lloyd George is accused of everything, offered everything, and let do most things that few of the rest want to or could do.

When the boy asks why you do certain things in a certain way, tell him if you know. If you do not know why, you are missing the most interesting part of your occupation.

And now a medical officer of health says that cow's milk never was intended for human food, and that it is bad in every way. Evidently he has no money invested in a dairy farm.

There has been good weather for hay making, and a big crop of well-cured hay will surely help solve the feeding problem next winter. It generally pays best when fed on the place.

Those who blame the bombardment in Europe for the wet spring will have some trouble explaining how it happened that a dry period started with the heaviest of all bombardments in the world's history.

The search for good, light horses for war purposes has revealed the fact that Canada has a comparatively inferior and nondescript class of light horses. Who are to blame, the mare owners or stallion owners, or both?

The prairies would buy Ontario apples if the people out there could be sure of the quality. The good Ontario apple is preferred every time, but so many bad ones have been sent out that the Western fruit will find the most ready sale unless the Ontario grower and packer are very careful, and Ontario cannot afford to lose the Western market.

Costs More—Worth More.

We sometimes wonder whether the Canadian farmer really thinks he cannot afford to properly educate his boys and girls in the rural schools, or whether he is indifferent or just abhors change. The little, old, red school-house on the hill was not good enough for father, neither is it good enough for John and Mary, particularly if it is badly lighted, ill-ventilated and poorly equipped both in regard to supplies and teacher. What chance has the boy and girl in the average country school, as now found in Ontario, to get a right appreciation of agriculture and rural home-making? The rural public school falls down in efficiency. In many cases the ratepayer gets poor value for the money expended in school taxes, and so he kicks at any increase or proposed increase. Recent articles in this paper have shown that consolidation of schools is the right road to better rural schools, and, consequently, a better rural education. They cost more, but the best is always the cheapest. The Canadian farmer can afford to pay a little higher school tax, if, by it, through the better organization, more efficient teachers, and wider facilities, his children get their public school education completed two or three years earlier than they would by the present system, and get a more practical education too. The parent is always proud of the child who does well at school. Consolidation brings the continuation school to the farmer's door. The public school curriculum, covered in two or three years less time, generally means that the boy or girl gets a year or two years or more in advanced education. And with it all there is taught and practiced agriculture, mechanics, suited to the farm and domestic science. Surely all can afford a better education for the boys and girls. None can afford to withhold it. Consolidation costs more but is worth more—vastly more. It is cheap in the long run.

Straw is Worth Saving this Year.

Farmers of Ontario have been accused, and perhaps not without some reason, of working wrong end to with their harvest and threshing, in so far as caring for their straw is concerned. In this old province there is always a rush to get the grain safely housed in the barn, and when the barn is full the threshing machine comes and blows all the straw out in a more or less promiscuous heap in the farmyard, there to be soaked and re-soaked in the heavy fall rains. Some hold that it is much better to thresh from the field and blow the straw directly into the barn, where it will be well preserved for winter use. The straw crop of 1916 in Ontario does not promise to be a heavy one. Late seeding, and protracted wet weather, followed by a dry spell, will cut down the weight of straw per acre. No good stock farmer can afford, this year, to allow his straw to take its chances in a heap exposed to the rain. Those having straw sheds especially for the purpose can safely store their grain in the barn, and from it blow the straw to the shed. If straw is of sufficient value to make it profitable for many to build expensive straw sheds in which to house it, surely the man without the shed should plan to keep as much of his straw as possible under cover and the rest well stored.

When the weather is favorable, threshing from the field saves labor. Neighbors can, in this way, co-operate to good advantage in harvesting their crop. A concession line can soon be cleaned up so far as threshing is concerned if all decide to work together, to engage the same machine to do the work, and to go ahead to save the straw. This extra working of mowing away the grain and pitching it out again is avoided and the barn room is available for the straw,

which, on most places, could then all be kept inside. Of course, the system has drawbacks. If rains are frequent the straw is badly injured in the field before it can be harvested. At any rate the method is worthy of consideration, especially in a year like this, when labor is extremely scarce and straw promises to be fairly short.

Straw has a winter feeding value, particularly for cattle and horses on little better than a maintenance ration. Straw contains little crude protein and fat, but it has considerable carbohydrate material, which requires a great deal of energy to digest. The energy used in digestion appears as heat which helps warm the body in the cold weather, so straw is valuable in wintering idle horses and young cattle. For the latter it should be mixed, of course, with roots or silage or roots and silage, and a little grain to keep the cattle going ahead helps. Straw gives good results as a filler with silage and roots. Cattle do better when kept well filled. Oat straw, from a crop cut before dead ripe, harvested without rain and afterwards kept under cover will satisfy a well-fed steer's desire for roughage as satisfactorily as will most hay. Of course, this is speaking of a steer getting a heavy silage, root and grain ration.

Oat straw is most valuable of all. It is soft, and more nutritious than barley straw, which stands next in the list. Be careful in feeding wheat straw. Its greatest value is for bedding, and it is worth taking good care of for this alone. It is very fibrous, particularly straw from winter wheat, and horses have been known to starve to death on it when no other feed was available. With very coarse and fibrous wheat straw it uses up all the feed value contained in an attempt to digest the fibre. Spring wheat straw is generally a little better feed than that of fall wheat. Rye straw is of little feeding value, but is the best of bedding. Clean chaff from wheat and oats contains more food nutrients than straw, and is of value in mixing up roughage rations.

When possible this year try to plan harvesting operations to save the straw. Coarse feed is the feed upon which the average farmer, keeping live stock, makes most money. Thresh from the field and keep the straw in the barn or shed if practicable. Otherwise build a good stack. For those who put their grain in the barn and are forced to blow the straw outdoors, delay threshing if possible until after the fall rains. Straw put outside late in the fall is not so badly injured. Those who thresh in harvest should plan to keep all that straw under cover, as, if it is blown out in a loose heap, it is badly injured before winter. Save the straw. Feed may be none too plentiful next winter.

No Time to Slacken.

With the announcement that the Allies' "drive" has begun successfully, and that the cordon of steel is slowly but surely tightening and ever growing tighter on the enemy, there must be no slackening of effort at home. The war is not over yet. The Teuton is not finally whipped. The tide has changed, and all things point to continued Allied successes. But it is still well that preparations go on in all the countries connected with the Allied cause. Britain, France, Russia, Italy and the little nations which so nobly stood for justice must be prepared to drive home the advantages now being gained. More munitions than ever before! More socks and soldiers' comforts! More war material of all kinds! Greater production all around! More men! These should be the slogans. Canada will do her part.

Your feed supply for next winter depends very largely upon how well and how often the corn and roots are cultivated during the next few weeks.