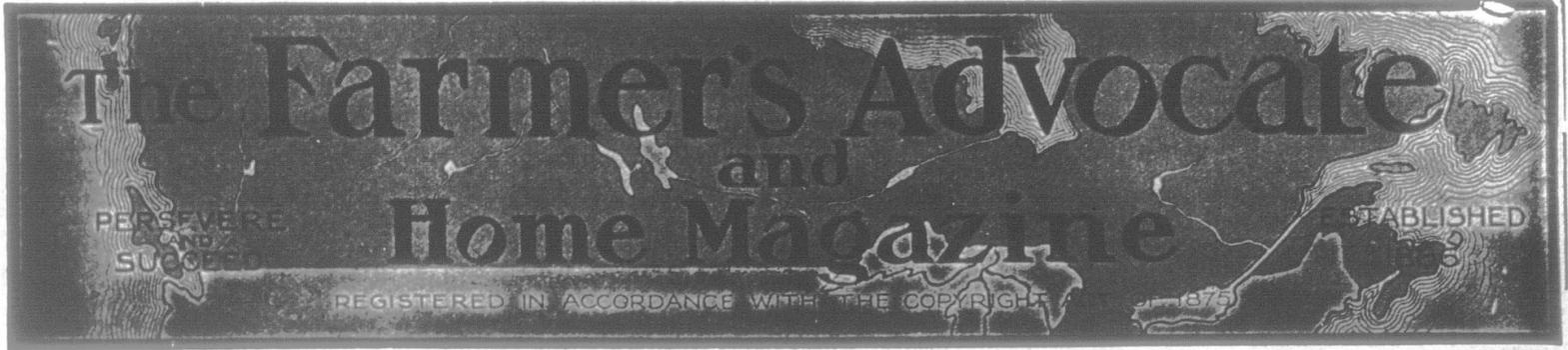


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## EDITORIAL

Winter is a season of preparation.

The cost of production on the farms is also soaring.

If we only had some of those big steers now that we sold a few years ago for four cents a pound.

The most successful farmer is the man who farms his land just as though he was to be in possession of it for all time to come.

Selling all the raw material off the land is not farming, it is robbery, and the victim is, in the end, the man that practices it.

The housewife who keeps the "house running" on butter and eggs has a better opportunity than formerly to have a little "nest egg" of her own.

If the same interest in municipal matters continued throughout the year as is in evidence during the election period, improved conditions would result in most municipalities.

Party politics loom up large in many municipal elections which is indeed unfortunate. When electors get so hidebound as to bring their party politics into council elections they generally get party rule.

The cost of living is soaring, but the man who lays all the blame at the farmer's door is barking up the wrong tree. True, the producer gets a little higher price for his products now than he did a few years ago, but his profits have not multiplied in proportion as the price to the consumer has advanced.

Before all the best grain has been fed would it not be advisable to get a sufficient quantity of the choicest ready for next spring's seeding? There is plenty of time now for screening and fanning, and the grower should not stop until he has succeeded in obtaining the very highest possible uniform grade of plump, vital seed.

It is somewhat surprising how many men believe that the farmer is living a life of ease and luxury, making over-large profits and swelling an already fat bank account, and it is still more surprising how few of these "windy ones" ever try their hand at what, according to their stories, is the most remunerative business on earth. There is money made farming, but the successful one must use a good head and a willing pair of hands. The loud talkers frequently possess neither.

We recently heard complaints from a man interested in his public school that his neighbors did not show enough interest in the work of the school section—they failed to attend the annual school meeting, and other meetings of importance during the year. The education of the young is of too great importance to permit of three-quarters of the ratepayers in a school section neglecting or ignoring altogether the work of the teacher of their children, and the workings of the business end of the school's affairs.

### Does the Farmer Get Too Much?

A few years ago when nearly all kinds of products of the farm from the dozen of eggs, traded out at the country store, to the fat bullock, weighed out at the railway station, were much lower in price than at the present, was anyone outside of the producer frequently or occasionally heard to remark that the farmer was not being well enough paid for his work? It was in those days seldom indeed that the consumer or the city business man or business man's employee thought that the man on the land was underpaid, and if they did think so they did not rise up to help him to better his position. Now that economic conditions have evolved a different state of affairs, and prices have gone up to the farmer and still higher in proportion to the consumer, the producer's city cousins make bold to state that the farmer is getting altogether too much, that he is literally "hogging" it all, and he is the only man that is making any money at the present day. They were willing not so many years ago to buy eggs at a cent each and butter at twelve to fifteen cents per pound, and, in those days, pork often sold dressed for around \$5.00 per hundredweight, while beef cattle on foot left the farmer's stable at four cents per pound and often less, yet no city economist pointed out that prices for farm products were too low. Eggs now sell at from two to four cents each according to season, butter has doubled in price as have beef and pork and many other staples of the farm, and with it comes the cry that the producer is the hog. He is blamed for the high cost of living; he is charged with putting the price of his own produce beyond the reach of the average man in the city, when in reality he (the farmer) must take what he is offered for his goods and pay what he is asked for what he must purchase, being controlled solely by supply and demand, and because he receives a little more for it he must shoulder the entire blame, which is due to a wide complication of circumstances over which the man on the land has absolutely no control. Can the farmer be held responsible for the changes in our standard of living? Is it his fault if people persist in crowding into large centers of population, there to spend more money on dress, entertainment and luxury? Not at all. He has been more or less at the mercy of other industries and circumstances, until now the latter have developed in such a way that a growing demand and a supply which has not kept pace with it have pushed prices up, and, as some say, the farmer is getting his innings.

Does he not deserve all he is getting? He is still none too well paid for his work and outlay. The good farmer makes money but he earns it, and if fair interest were figured on his entire investment, wages reckoned for himself and the working members of the family, even the best manager owning his own farm would not be found to be making the large returns often reputed to be made by him, and his net profits would appear meagre if compared with some of those made by successful business men in towns and cities. Many of those who do not appear to know any better seem to think that it costs the farmer nothing to farm, and very little to live. They will tell you that his crop grows while he sleeps and that his live stock is always multiplying and growing into money, but they forget that it costs money to prepare land, sow and

reap crops, that the farmer is more or less at the mercy of the elements, that there is a risk in live stock breeding, that the best filly in the stable may die and the best cow may succumb to parturient apoplexy, or perhaps a contagious disease may work havoc in the herd. All these things must be reckoned with, and, while the man of the city knows full well what it means to him to get interest on his investment, he seldom thinks of this when calculating the farmer's profits. If a man on a one-hundred acre farm of choice land makes \$1,000 in a year he is considered by many to be getting rich fast, and yet if six per cent. interest is figured on an investment of \$10,000 and a fair wage for himself as farm foreman and general manager, with hours much longer than his hired man or his cousin in other business, his profits would not appear to be excessive. If a man gets \$100 for a load of hogs there are those who think such returns are wonderful. But they forget that it costs money to feed pigs, and they do not grow on air and water. The farmer's price is not too high; on many things it is still comparatively low. If the consuming public insist upon having everything delivered to their kitchen tables, after being handled by a small army of men each of which must have a living commission; if they insist upon this and upon still further swelling the ranks of city population, they must pay the shot. The farmer is not getting more than his share. If a cut is made anywhere, it must come from the other end of the stick.

### Why Not a Fruit Division at Ottawa?

The death of one of Canada's most respected public servants, Alex. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division of the Federal Department of Agriculture, leaves vacant one of the most important offices. Some successful and experienced fruit grower will soon be chosen to direct the horticultural policy of the Dominion and it seems an opportune time to make the Fruit Division a separate branch of the Agricultural Department. Heretofore the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner has had the arduous task of directing the horticultural work as well as the cold storage and dairying. Each one in itself is important enough to receive the exclusive attention of one man, and as time goes on it is self evident that development will break these departments up under separate heads.

We are not pessimistic regarding the future of the fruit industry in Canada, but unless distributing and transportation facilities keep pace with the ever increasing production there may come a time when fruit will not be marketed with the same ease as in the past. Those conditions will call for the best judgment of an experienced fruitman with no restrictions on his office and unencumbered by other unassociated enterprises. No complaints have arisen from any of the departments over which Mr. Ruddick, the Commissioner, has charge, but it seems unfair to burden one man with industries not altogether allied. It does not give just prominence to Canada's fruit industry, which is assuming unexpected magnitude at home as well as figuring in foreign markets to a large extent. To say the least, the horticulturists from the Atlantic to the Pacific are worthy of a department whose only care is that of fostering the fruit industry of the Dominion and extending the markets.