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EDITORIAL.

Take good care of the straw; it will be needed before spring.

Fall rye makes early pasture for hogs in the spring, and is a splendid prelude to clover or alfalfa.

The exhibition and fall fair season is approaching. Have you anything that will help the local fair? Exhibit in the spirit of boosting local institutions rather than as an effort to win a few dollars.

Corn took another jump in Chicago recently, when it was learned that the U. S. Government would live up to its guarantee of \$2.26 for this year's wheat crop. Feed of all kinds threatens to remain high.

When travelling through the country we have seen many fields being put into excellent condition for wheat. Some commercial fertilizers added to give the crop a good start this fall might be a very profitable investment.

If governments on this continent and in Europe would abolish profiteering there would be no need of collective buying, for then the law of supply and demand could operate and maintain the equilibrium. Collective buying as practiced hits at production, which is the surest way of raising prices in the end.

The political pot has been heated to well beyond the boiling point, and those who have been longing for a return "to the good old party times" are likely to have their wishes gratified. Meanwhile, farmers are wisely cultivating corn and harvesting grain, awaiting election day, when their opinions will be expressed.

There was a time when farmers were practically independent of trade or industries, because almost all the necessities of life were produced at home. Nowadays we are obliged to pay high prices for necessities and the implements of production, while the price of what we have to sell is not based on what it costs to produce it. We have relinquished many advantages and got few in return. Civilization, so called, has carried farmers into a peculiar situation. Perhaps we have been progressing too fast.

President Woodrow Wilson is apparently the most outstanding apostle of daylight saving on this Continent. The fad has lost favor in the United States, and only the President saved it from destruction. "Wallaces' Farmer" sizes up the situation thus: "Congress has passed the agricultural appropriation bill, omitting the rider repealing the daylight-saving law. A separate bill to repeal this law has been introduced, and the chances are that it will pass Congress. This will do no good, however, if the President again vetoes it. Of course, it might be passed over the President's veto, but the chances seem to be against it."

A large Chicago banking institution seems to have some understanding of the farmer's present position, when they include the following comment in their annual report: "There is one feature in the labor situation that indicates cross currents at work. Farmers and ruralites, generally, are seriously perplexed at being called upon to exert themselves to raise larger and larger crops in order to reduce the cost of living for dwellers in towns and cities, while the latter seek to organize and strive harder and harder to reduce working hours and advance wages, thus tending to increase the cost of wares which the farmer must buy. This is one of the many anomalies cropping out in the return from the abnormal conditions of war time to a peace footing."

A Warning to Farmers Who Buy Concentrated Feeds.

Farmers who purchase concentrated feeds must take heed lest they be openly robbed by unscrupulous manufacturers, and their farms infested with noxious weeds. This injunction may, at first sight, appear startling to the average reader, but unless a warning is sounded we feel sure that many will be induced to buy feeds that are little better than trash in feeding value, and moreover run a great risk of introducing weeds that no progressive farmer wants on his place or in the neighborhood. A concentrated feed, the basis and substance of which is elevator screenings, is expensive at any price and likely to do irreparable damage to farms and the live stock which deigns to eat it.

An incident was recently brought to our attention which explains, in part, why this warning is sounded. An Ontario cattle breeder wrote to the Canadian Feed Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Fort William, Ontario, enquiring about their product and prices. In reply, he received three excellently prepared little pamphlets describing the different feeds, and a letter giving the following quotations, per ton, delivered at his station: Canadian Pioneer Molasses Dairy Feed, \$48; Canadian Pioneer Molasses Hog Feed, \$58; Canadian Pioneer Molasses Horse Feed, \$53.

Samples of the three feeds mentioned accompanied the reply, but the party who received them was so alarmed by their appearance that he proceeded at once to have an official analysis made of the contents. The Government analyst's findings are quoted below:

"In reply to your request for information in regard to the relative feeding values and general suitability of the ground food samples sent us, I am submitting herewith a report of my analysis of the same.

"Apart from weed seeds I find the hog feed to contain fine chaff, some tankage, a little wheat bran, and wheat flour, a trace of oat flour, and a slight indication of timothy, and ground flax. Among the weed seeds there is a prevalence of wild buckwheat, lamb's quarters, and stinkweed, some wild vetch and such mustards as hare's-ear, ball, tumbling, brown and wild. In addition there are also present traces of ground Russian pigweed and peppergrass; moreover, whole weed seeds of lamb's quarters, Russian pigweed and tumbling mustard are present at the rate of 172, 6 and 26 per ounce, respectively.

"The horse feed consists of weed seeds, fine chaff, some oats and flaxseed, with also a trace of wheat. Among the weed seeds present I find traces of campion, sunflower, peppergrass and Russian pigweed, some green foxtail and wild oats, some wild, ball, brown, hare's-ear and tumbling mustard, while lamb's quarters, stinkweed and wild buckwheat are prevalent. Whole weed seeds are present as follows: lamb's quarters, 60; wild buckwheat, 2; wild oats, 12; tumbling mustard, 18; brown mustard, 2; and peppergrass, 2 per ounce.

"In the Molasses Dairy Feed, besides weed seeds, there is to be found a considerable quantity of fine chaff, traces of oil cake, of wheat, oat and barley flour, with also a slight trace of wheat bran. The ground weed seeds consist of traces of wild vetch, wild oats, Russian pigweed and peppergrass, some wild, ball, hare's-ear, and tumbling mustard, and prevalent wild buckwheat, stinkweed and lamb's quarters. Whole seeds of the latter species are present at the rate of 82 per ounce of sample, also of Russian pigweed at the rate of 2 seeds per ounce, peppergrass 8, tumbling mustard 34, and wormseed mustard 2 per ounce.

"All these feeds are consequently seen to consist largely of ground screenings with probably some ground mill sweepings. In the case of the hog feed, tankage appears to have been added, and in the horse feed a small quantity of ground flax and oats. Many of the weed seeds found present in the samples are injurious, if not actually poisonous to stock.

"Feed in which stinkweed, for instance, is present in considerable quantity is usually refused by stock, presumably since the seed causes counter irritation because of its pungent properties. Peppergrass, too, is also a counter irritant. While the mustards are all suspected of being poisonous, wild, tumbling and wormseed have been proven so. Some of the champions are known to contain poisonous alkaloids."

The Government analyst concludes with the following significant remark:

"In view of these analyses, I think you will be able to form a fair estimate concerning the values of these ground feeding stuffs."

If these analyses are correct, and we have no occasion to question them, it becomes at once the duty of the Government to establish a vigilant inspection service to safeguard the agricultural industry against this fraudulent traffic in weed seeds dressed up, with a little molasses and other camouflage, in the form of a concentrated feed. Mill-feeds are bad enough, for the "Feed Act" allows too much latitude, and is administered by the wrong department to ensure its proper enforcement. There are cases on record where middlings, containing poisonous weed seeds, have been suspected of causing fatalities in live stock, and the evidence is sufficient to make the suspicion well-founded. However, when a firm can take such ingredients, as these analyses reveal, and compound them into a high-priced concentrate, it is time for some change in the regulations.

We are confident that many feed manufacturing plants in Ontario are putting out an honest product, for we have fed prepared mixtures to our live stock at Weldwood that we felt were worth the price charged. The basis of these, however, was not screenings; it was something more substantial and less injurious to live stock and farm.

Again, we would advise farmers to be careful in their feed purchases and deal with reputable houses having an established reputation for an honest product. Firms so unscrupulous as to embody poisonous and whole noxious weed seeds in feeding stuffs ought not to exist.

The Minister of Agriculture and His Job.

The new Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Tolmie, enters the Cabinet with a thorough knowledge of the outstanding needs of agriculture in this Dominion. Not only is he a practical farmer himself, but for many years he has been active in big organizations working for the advancement of the industry, and in this field he has enjoyed a splendid opportunity to become acquainted with conditions in the various provinces, and the larger Canadian issues such as markets, transportation, credits, obstacles to production, etc. His activities have not been confined to Canada alone, for he has figured prominently at events staged in the neighboring Republic where his ability is also recognized. However, Dr. Tolmie's task embraces more than the oversight of the Agricultural Department and the working out of its policies. The Cabinet Council must be impressed with the importance of the agricultural industry and made to comprehend the relation it bears to national prosperity. The present Minister and the present Government are not singled out on this occasion on account of any peculiarity or difference from former ministers and former governments. It has long been felt that our Canadian Governments have not paid ample attention to, or been sufficiently sympathetic with agriculture, and that our agricultural ministers have not been as important factors in the various cabinet councils as have the heads of some other departments of Government. The Food Controller said that our national debt will be paid out of the top