

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

The dairyman cannot afford to keep poor cows now. Weed the herd.

Plan to sow a little spring wheat this year. Marquis and Wild Goose are the best varieties.

Seed corn will be scarce and none too satisfactory. Secure your seed early and test before planting.

The hen that lays a large number of eggs never paid so well as now, while the poor layer never was so unprofitable.

The tuberculin test is a safe and reasonably sure guide in ascertaining whether or not the herd is free from tuberculosis.

In feeding cattle this winter use a maximum of roughage and a minimum of concentrates. In a time like this high finish may not be most profitable.

Prof. W. R. Graham, of the poultry department of the O. A. C., says, "Feed no wheat to hens." Replace it with screenings and mixed grains of the coarser kinds.

In the biggest hog-producing States of the Union, serum and virus are depended upon to combat hog cholera. Read the story in the live-stock department of this issue.

Lay plans to grow more grain than ever in 1918. Cereals of all kinds are the most economical human food and can be grown with less labor than some other crops.

Experts tell us that Canada can produce as good root seed as any other country can. This country must rely on itself in this regard in 1918, or the seed supply for 1919 may be practically nil.

The proposed increase in freight rates makes a difference of \$40,000,000 annually to the people of Canada, and the people will have this to pay as a further annual tax or increase in the already high cost of living.

For greater production without extra work, sow and plant the heaviest yielding varieties of all farm crops. Try O. A. C. 21 barley, O. A. C. 72, O. A. C. 3, or Banner oats, and Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain potatoes. There are other good varieties but these are among the best.

Canada could get along without some unnecessary industries in war time better than with 100,000 Chinamen, as has been suggested. This country has not yet reached the stage where it will tolerate Chinese labor in large numbers brought in in bond. Get them in and they will always be here.

Pastures will prove profitable in increasing pork production. Alfalfa, young clover, mixed grains sown thickly with red clover, are among the best for early feeding, and rape and corn may be used later in the season. Small pigs do not do as well on pasture as those weighing around 100 pounds or better.

The farm survey of a good township in Old Ontario has revealed the fact that the labor income of the farmer is not nearly as high as some who do not understand the cost of farm production believed it to be. Besides, it is clearly shown that good live stock is the great need of the district, and the small acreage is not nearly so profitable as the big farm.

The Greatest Producers of all.

A great many people living in this country fail to realize the importance of the Canadian farmer in a crisis like that through which we are now passing. There is no place on earth where the labor of the farmer returns a greater production of foodstuffs, or even anywhere nearly as great, as right here in Canada. Production per capita in this country is higher than in any other country, which means that the farmer here produces more for export than the individual farmer in any other part of the globe. This has a direct bearing upon the efforts which are now being put forward to increase production in Canada. It is possible that one man producing to the limit on a Canadian farm would be worth several of his kind in the fighting line at the present time, in so far as national service is concerned. The food problem is grave, and is growing more acute each day. What would those people in our country who complain of the high cost of living do if it were not for the fact that experienced, competent men are in charge of the farm production of the country? It is all very well to talk about alien labor and the inexperienced help for the farms. We should make use of all available help, but the fact remains that the experienced men on the land are worth more on the farm than in any other capacity at the present moment. Dr. Zavitz gave out some very interesting figures at the Experimental Union meeting. They are worth pondering over. According to the United States Year Book for 1916, for the three years previous to the war, 1910-11-12, for six food crops, including wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes and rye, the estimated production per capita of these in terms of bushels of wheat was as follows: Canada, 70.4; Argentina, 56.3; the United States, 45.3; Australia, 24.7; the German Empire, 21.3; Austria-Hungary, 21; France, 17.9; Russia, 17.4; Italy, 9.6; India, 7.8; Great Britain and Ireland, 5.6. Canada, it will be seen, is the heaviest producer per capita from farm crops of all the principal countries of the world. And further, Sir William Hearst pointed out in a recent speech that the farmers of Ontario have increased their acreage considerably during the past two years, and the field crops of all Canada were worth upwards of one billion dollars in 1916. The Canadian farmer is an important factor in the winning of the war. The Canadian farmer is the heaviest producer and is the closest of all available heavy producers to the Old Lands, which need these foodstuffs now when transportation is the biggest problem facing them. Worth more to his country here than on the firing line? Yes, many times over! This is no question of the individual. It is a question of the Empire, of the Allies, of Democracy, of the World. Fighters would not last long on the lines without food. The man who abuses the Canadian farmer who honestly produces all he can in the interests of humanity at this time is a traitor to his country and to humanity. Shame on the cowards wherever they may be who attempt to set class against class in this our hour of trial. United we must stand for the good of our land.

Organized Agriculture Objects to Increased Railway Rates.

As announced in last week's issue, an important meeting of stockmen was recently held in Toronto to discuss and protest against the proposed increase of fifteen per cent. on railway transportation rates. It was pointed out at that meeting that in view of the fact that increased production was being called for and that Canada must depend upon her export trade to meet obligations caused by the great war, anything such as increased freight rates, which makes a further tax upon the people is not justifiable. Moreover, Mr. Pepper pointed out that there were two sides to the question, and that the railroads were before the increase making a revenue sufficiently large to carry on their operations and leave them a reasonable return. He showed that

while operating expenses had increased, for the same reason earnings increased in some cases almost double the operating increase, and while the revenue per ton haulage decreased, and the cost per ton haulage increased the ton haulage per train increased fifty-eight per cent. from 1907 to 1916; and because the railroads worked more to capacity, the revenue per freight train mile increased from 1875 to 1916 two and three-quarter times, and the percentage to earnings per train mile ton haulage decreased twenty-four and a half per cent. which left the railway companies the losers. While the war has increased operating expenses, it has increased earnings by nearly double the increased expense. The advance in rates would mean some \$40,000,000 annually to producers and consumers of this country. The people of Canada, according to Mr. Pepper, have donated close to a billion dollars to aid in building our railroads, and many millions more in building up harbors which are a valuable assistance to the earning power of the roads. Readers will be interested in the figures which he gives in a letter in another department of this issue. Objections to the proposed increase of rates are being raised all over Canada, and no doubt a reconsideration of the whole problem will result. Producers and consumers should not have to carry a heavier load if it is not necessary.

Chinese Labor or do Without Luxuries?

A suggestion has been made that 100,000 Chinamen be brought into this country in bond for the purpose of increasing production until the close of the war, after which they would be shipped back to China. The suggestion does not and cannot meet with the approval of Canadians on farm or in factory. It would be a comparatively easy matter to get the Celestials into the country, but scatter them over Canada's wide areas and they would never be collected by any means for return to the congested centres from which they came. Canadian farmers would not take kindly to the idea and neither would the laboring men of this country. Moreover, we do not believe that employers of labor on a large scale would care to risk Canadian citizenship and Canadian ideals to such an extent. No, Canada does not want Oriental labor on such a proposition. True, it is necessary to produce all possible, but for this year the labor would be of little use in farm production, and we have more faith in other schemes to meet the situation. The President of the Experimental Union pointed out in his address before that body the fact that we have at the present time in this country too many unnecessary industries competing with those which are essential in the labor market. If we have reached the stage where Oriental labor in the scores of thousands is even contemplated, then we have come to that point where we can do without a large number of luxuries to which we have become so accustomed that we can almost fool ourselves into believing that they are essential. Food is necessary; munitions are essential; transportation, fuel and clothing are essential; and any industry which directly or indirectly furthers any of these should be maintained. We do not need to name non-essentials. If readers will stop a moment to think of the things we have now that our forefathers did without, and at the same time developed strong character and physique, they will be able to make a list which, if discontinued in use, would release considerable labor for those most necessary industries which must be pushed to the limit in order to bring the war to an early and satisfactory conclusion. Let us be as Sandy Fraser recently said of his forefathers, "proud of what we do and proud of what we do without."

As a general rule, it pays to do to the other fellow as you would have him do unto you. No man is so independent as to be able to get along without friends.