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## EDITORIAL.

The winter draws to a close. Are you ready or getting ready for spring?

Have you the summer's wood up? And remember that now is the time to cut it.

There will be some mild days soon—a favorable time to oil and repair the harness.

It has not been a very favorable winter for putting in ice, but every farmer should have enough stored to cool his milk next summer.

Plan your little neighborly co-operative associations for next summer now. They will be necessary if a big crop is to be harvested.

It is not time to plant corn, but it is time to think about it. Perhaps the special corn article in this issue may help you in your thinking.

What have the Farmers' Institute authorities been doing to develop home talent and promote a co-operative spirit in your community?

Anybody about Ottawa who does not happen to be engaged on a Royal Commission might be enlisted for the approaching spring farm campaign.

It is a mistake to offer unfinished cattle to the butcher. The feeder is always forced to accept a smaller price than the cattle are really worth where such is the case.

It is time to clean the seed grain now. Read how in this issue. It will be time to treat it for smut a little later, and we will describe various treatments for our readers.

The Canadian farmer should aim to help offset the danger of smaller production this year by sowing better seed than ever before. The seed may be prepared now while there is time.

The Minister of Militia is down on "snobbish" officers—and rightly so. There is no place for "snobs" in Canada, whether in the Army or out of it. A Canadian is a Canadian.

"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is getting bigger and better all the time." So writes a subscriber who has taken it over thirty years. More accounts of readers' practical experience will help it to grow still faster.

Many a promising co-operative association has failed because an attempt was made to start on too large a scale. In any business it is generally advisable to begin in a small way and grow as the business is learned.

When wool approaches the half-dollar mark and lamb sells from 10 cents to 12 cents per pound on foot, farmers should not despise the sheep. Read the article dealing with ewes and lambs at the yearling season in this issue.

In planning new buildings be sure to allow for running water. The water supply, when properly installed, is one of the most valuable labor-saving and comfort-promoting accessories to the farm home and the farm stable.

### Is Universal Service Coming?

A correspondent in this issue gives our readers some strong views on the conduct of the present war, and goes so far as to favor conscription in Canada. He is a practical farmer, grappling with the increasingly difficult problems with which the Ontario farmer is now face to face. At many of the farmers' meetings recently held in this country resolutions have been passed suggesting that something be done to save a few of the men of military age for farm work during the coming summer, and at one of these meetings the resolution passed favored the appointment of committees upon which should be some men who understand the farming situation, to go over the country, and to those young men considered by these committees as indispensable to the best interests of our country give badges indicating that they were doing their duty at home. There are many thinkers in this country who believe that the only fair way to fight a war of this magnitude is by some system of universal enrolment. This resolution, if put in operation, would be a step in that direction. It certainly seems, to the man who has followed the war as closely as possible from the beginning up to the present stage, who has watched with interest the development of recruiting schemes in the United Kingdom, and who is cognizant of the fact that only about one in every ten of population is available for military service, that the present call for 500,000 Canadians to join the army, presents a situation serious enough to warrant some action toward universal enrolment, or something of that nature. Under it every available man could be placed in that form of service to which he was best adapted, and if it were considered necessary that young men remain on the farms to aid with the farm work, these young men would then be in a position to justify their remaining at home, and would not be the objects of scorn or ridicule on the part of over-zealous recruiting speakers. When it comes to taking one in fourteen of our population, we believe that something a little beyond the voluntary system is necessary, that certain patriotic men of more value to the country at home than at the front, be kept at home while certain other men, young men if you like, doing little or nothing for the country at home, and not having the sense of honor strong enough within them to enlist voluntarily, should be forced to go in their proper order. Under such a system no man would be waiting for his neighbor. It would practically be Lord Derby's scheme applied to Canada. It seems certain that something must be done, and in justice to all men of military age the sooner the better.

### A Live-stock Ready Reckoner.

How often it occurs, at auction sales, that the disposer of the stock does not know the exact date of service of some of the animals offered, and consequently is unable to give the buyer the date that offspring may be expected. In many cases, too, the farmer who is not selling out keeps a very unsatisfactory record of dates of service and dates of expected parturition. The kitchen calendar generally serves as the only guide, and as the leaves are torn off from month to month, and are used to light the morning fires, the record is very often lost, and consequently there is some danger of loss amongst the live stock through not being acquainted with the exact dates of service, and expected parturition. Any farmer if he does not know when to expect his colts, calves, pigs or lambs, as the case may be, may lose some of his stock, which if saved would pay him many times over for the little trouble of keeping strict tab on the breeding dates of all his live stock. To make it easy for farmers to do this, we are publishing in this issue, all compiled on one page, in the handiest form possible, a complete list of possible dates

of service and probable dates of parturition for the four prominent classes of farm stock, viz., horses, cattle, sheep and swine. We would advise every reader to keep this paper, or to remove the page containing the gestation table, paste it on a cardboard of proper size, and keep it in a convenient place where all records of the live-stock breeding operations may be kept thereon. For those who do an extensive business in pure-bred stock, it is necessary to have books in which more details may be given; but, for the average farmer, this gestation table should prove very handy and valuable.

### Three Things Your House Should Be.

In this issue we publish some house plans, which should interest our readers, particularly those planning the re-modelling of their old houses or the building of a new structure to take the place of the house which has done its duty and served its time on the farm. Many mistakes are made in building, and few are they who would not change something about their house, had they the opportunity of building a second time. The first farm houses in the country were too small; the second generation of farm houses, however, have been in many sections altogether too large. When the farmer accumulates money enough to replace his old frame, or log house, with a modern frame or brick structure, he very often puts too much of the money into the size of the house and not enough into modern conveniences, such as are common in our city homes, and which would save many steps for the hard-worked women of the farm. The first thing which should be considered in the building of a house is comfort. The house should be so constructed as to be warm in winter, and cool in summer. This means that plenty of material put together by good workmen is necessary, and provision must be made for proper ventilation. It always pays in a cold country to build a house which will be warm in winter, and to add to the comfort no modern farm house should be built without a furnace, and in putting in a furnace always get one plenty large enough to heat the amount of air space in the house. No twentieth-century farm house should be built without running water in the cellar, kitchen, and bathroom, at least. More farm women have their health injured through carrying wood and water, and other like work, than in any other way. Plan a laundry in the basement, a fully equipped bathroom, the waste from which runs to a septic tank, and plans for which have been described several times in this paper; put a good sink in the kitchen and add greatly to the comfort of the home, as well as lessening the work in the house. We said in the beginning that many houses are too large. There is no use of planning for several rooms which will not be looked into only on sweep-days and at house-cleaning time. The real value of a farm house, as of most things, is its utility, and no rooms should be provided which are not necessary. They all make extra work and worry. Above all things, make the cellar and kitchen handy, for it is in these two parts of the house, or back and forth between them, that most of the work is done. Put in a fair-sized pantry, handy to both dining room and kitchen, and, above all things, arrange the kitchen with a dumb waiter and other conveniences, intended to save steps. Do not forget to put in a clothes closet off every bedroom. If living where there is any chance of ever getting electrical energy, have the house wired for lighting purposes. But, above all things, remember in building a house to build it warm, to build it small, to build it handy.

The work of our brave men at the front should encourage all to greater effort at home.

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owing all Styles  
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