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EDITORIAL.

Turn the sod down now for the fall wheat.

Mites in the hen-house mean fewer eggs. A tortured hen will not lay.

A pasture without water is a poor place for live stock. Grass is not the only consideration.

Do not allow the late blight to reduce the potato crop. Spray with Bordeaux mixture.

Farmers should organize, but any movement savoring of clique rule or partizanship is doomed in the beginning.

The United States celebrated the fourth of July in a very practical and significant manner when they let 90 new ships slide down the ways into the water.

We should have a registration of the dogs in this country and dispose of the useless ones in some humane manner. They consume good food and too frequently destroy good sheep.

The apple crop in the Annapolis Valley, N.S., may not amount to over 400,000 barrels, which is not one-quarter the production which the growers there could put out in a normal year.

The small fly which causes grub in the head of sheep is common throughout the warm weather this month. Provide a cool shelter for the flock to which they may retire during the heat of the day, and keep their nostrils smeared with tar.

Agriculture in England and Scotland has suffered another draft of men, and the prospect for harvesting the large crops now promised are none too bright. Britain will take chances with the food supply before she will with the enemy on the West front.

In spite of the reluctance of the Government to issue war-saving stamps the practice would be a good one. The small investor could purchase them when a War-Saving Certificate would be beyond his means. Thrift means more than the saving of dollars; we must squeeze the penny harder and put it also where it will help us to win.

The severe winter of 1917-18 dealt the fruit industry a hard blow, and the results are only now becoming fully apparent. Regrettable, indeed, is the havoc wrought in the old Fameuse orchards of Eastern Ontario and Quebec, in which those districts took no small amount of pride. Consumers will not appreciate the extent of the loss until they try to purchase a barrel of "snows," one of the most popular varieties in the dessert class.

At a recent convention of bankers in the United States, says a Canada Food Board circular, the question was asked, "How many of you grew up on a farm?" The count showed 90 per cent. Everyone present agreed to leave his bank and work on the farm for periods from ten days to two weeks. No doubt registration will show that a large percentage of our Canadian bankers were farm boys at one time who still have a pair of overalls and a smock hid away in the attic of their ancestral home. Now is a good time for them to renew old acquaintances.

The Scrub Bull Still at Large.

While travelling through one of the best dairy districts in Ontario recently, we observed a scrub bull running in the pasture with a herd of milk cows which, according to their color markings and conformation were well bred, if not pure-bred. The bull was apparently a mixture of several breeds which blended so well that one could discern no dominant color or breed characteristic. The fact that it was a bull was the only point concerning this animal that did not permit of doubt. We know full well that too large a percentage of the sires used are grades and scrubs, but to have the truth brought home under such circumstances was discouraging in the extreme. Last spring at the sales, pure-bred bulls of fair individuality and with good backing in regard to production sold, in some cases, little above beef prices, so no dairyman can rightfully complain that a pure-bred sire is beyond his means. The satisfaction derived from dairying comes not only from the size of the monthly milk and cream cheque, but quite as much through the appearance of the herd and the improvement which the young stuff show over their sires and dams. Where there is no growth or no improvement the business is stagnant, the interest wanes, and sooner or later an auction sale marks the close of an unsuccessful career on the farm. The use of a pure-bred sire is one of the cheapest and speediest ways of bringing about improvement in the herd and larger milk cheques. If the size of the herd does not permit the use of a good bull, the owner should co-operate with a neighbor and purchase one that is substantially better in quality and breeding than the females with which he is to be mated.

Keep Photographic Records of the Live Stock.

Over one hundred and fifty years ago Robert Bakewell, of Dishley Grange, England, began a systematic improvement of horses, cattle and sheep. He was really the pioneer breeder of England, and to him is much credit due for the remarkable excellence now found in the live stock of the British Isles. Others took up the work where he laid it down and adapted his methods to the tasks they had in hand. Bakewell kept more than written records of his work and results achieved. He was neither artist nor photographer, but he assembled a collection of bones and meat in pickle to show the improvement made in animals of his own breeding. Then came the painter, who too often idealized the subject he sketched, but who, nevertheless, contributed greatly to the annals of live-stock history. Invention has in modern times made it possible, through the use of the camera, for the average breeder to photograph his own live stock and keep a complete record of individuality and character along with his memoranda concerning production, color markings, etc., which may be interesting and valuable in later years. Any progressive breeder is interested in the history and development of his herds and flocks, and there is no better way of keeping in mind the characteristics of the sires used, the females which made up the breeding list, and the progeny of both, than with small photographs or snapshots. Still more interesting is a collection of these likenesses, showing several generations of the same breeding, and making it possible to compare animals still in the herd with their progenitors which have been disposed of through sales or on account of age or sickness. A camera in the hands of some junior member of the family can be used to advantage in this regard, and after a few years the collection of prints will be cherished almost as much as the family album.

Many experiments in breeding at public institutions would have been made more valuable if photography had been practiced in connection with the record-keeping. Happily experimenters are now awake to the importance

of this line of work and photographic records are being kept.

Live-stock photography is more than a hobby or fad. It is now a business proposition, the importance of which many breeders have grasped, and these have converted the practice into a means of conveying information and a description of what they have for sale. Many good breeders are poor salesmen and cannot reduce the enquiries received to a satisfactory percentage of actual transactions. The weakness often lies in their inaptitude for letter-writing, and their inability to give an adequate description of the animal in question. A concise and definite statement concerning production, where such is involved, with the desired information with regard to the breeding, will usually satisfy the enquirer when a good photograph or snapshot is enclosed. Buyers usually concern themselves about the individuality of anything they purchase, and a small print will often make a mail-order sale when otherwise the business would be lost.

Fitting For the Fall Fairs.

The act of loading show animals with a surplus of fat is hard to justify at any time, and under present conditions exhibitors should be content to bring their entries out in more moderate fleshing than is customary at the large exhibitions. Many breeders will not show because the competition they are obliged to meet forces them to fit extensively and perhaps injure the breeding qualities of some of their best stuff. Nothing is more harmful to the impression left with an onlooker than to see a breed represented by poorly-fitted, untrained animals just brought up from the bush. This extreme, too, should be avoided. Thrifty, well-conditioned animals thoroughly broken to the halter and in good bloom should be given the consideration they deserve by the judge. Surfeiting with fat does not bring out breed characteristics, neither does it reveal the actual conformation of the entry. On the other hand, a bad conformation is often concealed with flesh and camouflaged with deftly-combed hair. There should be a compromise somewhere between the way live stock is shown at the township fair and the condition to which they are brought before they have a chance in a fat-stock show. When this is accomplished breeders can work their show cows and show their work cows.

Keep the Corn Field Clean.

A general survey of the country reveals fewer dirty and grassy corn fields than existed last year at this time, but there is still plenty of work for the hand hoe and the cultivator. The season of 1917 was particularly favorable to weeds and detrimental to corn, so the task of keeping a field clean was more difficult than usual. This has not been an especially good corn year so far but the stand is fairly uniform, and with an even break in luck in regard to weather conditions we should, in Ontario, still have a satisfactory crop of silage quality. During the latter part of June and early in the present month the cool weather retarded the growth of late-planted corn and allowed the weeds in a good many fields to gain ground. Early corn did not suffer so much, but throughout the country there are many fields that require the immediate attention of a man or men with a sharp hoe. In Oxford County, Ontario, not long since, we noticed a woman and a boy doing their bit in a grassy corn field, but the task appeared too big for them. Corn, more than any other farm crop, requires a great deal of cultivation, and if weeds are allowed to grow up in it and go to seed, the hoed crop, as a part of the rotation, does not function as it should. Corn is grown primarily for fodder, but in a four-year rotation it affords practically the only opportunity to rid the land of weeds. Some of the inexperienced help which