

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 13, 1917.

1303

EDITORIAL.

A fair win is an honor and a fair defeat is no disgrace.

Plowing should mean more to the plowman than just "blackening it over."

Farm power is of more interest to the farmer at the fair than is the flying machine.

If harvest had not been so late more farmers would have attended the Canadian National.

A young show-man who is a good loser has a fine start on the road to success in the live-stock ring.

There is plenty of plowing to keep laid-off munitions workers busy if they are willing to go on the farms.

Every farmer should be a horse breeder. Make your work mares raise colts as well as do their share in the teams.

"They're all good ones" says the proud possessor of a choice herd of pure-breds and his pride is not without reason.

It is only a very narrow-minded man who because you do not always agree with him brands you as a "kicker".

There is still time to sow a few acres to winter wheat. Give the spring work a boost by putting in a few extra acres this fall.

Judging from the crop of oats in Ontario this year those of Scotch descent will not be compelled to go without their oatmeal porridge.

The average farmer if he figures interest on investment gets no wages; if he figures wages he gets no interest, and the boys leave the farm.

There is a difference between offering and asking for peace terms and Germany must learn this before progress toward peace can be made.

The man who knows more about your business than you do yourself is generally neglecting his own affairs while he noses into those of others.

The National Exhibition idea is more easily worked out than is National Government; but then it does not have to contend with party politicians.

Canada is fighting to protect herself against Germany. This is the main reason, after which democracy and all the rest of the reasons may be considered.

The man who brings his stock out to the fairs in prime fit this year deserves credit. Feed has been high and labor very scarce, yet where there's a will there's a way.

The head of the American Mission to Russia says Russia is sound at the core, but, says the Chicago Tribune, if the Russians don't soon check the Teutons there "won't be no core."

National Government.

There is talk of a National Government for Canada, and whether or not the whole matter fizzles out in political hot-air, the fact remains that in a crisis such as the country is now passing through all classes should be fairly and adequately represented in the Government of the country. Even in normal times legislation which would work to the ultimate good of the country is more likely to be brought down when all branches of industry are represented according to their importance. Canada at the present time should know no party, clique, or class, and at any time legislators should legislate with a view to the welfare of the nation and not for any particular trade or class. Parliaments should be composed of a representative number of men from the various industries in the country. In the past agriculture has neglected its part. Farmers have not chosen from among their number to represent them in the Houses of Parliament as they should have done. The farming industry cannot hope to get what is due it in the matter of legislation so long as rural voters are willing to elect as their representatives men of the legal profession and of industries other than farming. When it comes to National Government, if such a thing becomes a reality in Canada, in view of the importance of agriculture in this country a fair number of leaders in agricultural thought and progress should be included. At present there seems to be an amazing lack of knowledge of agriculture and its place in our national welfare, in high places. No Government can be a National Government unless all industries, all parties, all Canadians, are adequately represented.

Teacher Training in Agriculture.

In a recent issue we made the suggestion that in so far as the country boy and girl were concerned, at least, it might be well to have our school text books carry a little more of the agricultural idea worked into the reading lessons and into the mathematics, that the children of rural districts might unconsciously get a better idea of things agricultural and a higher opinion of the country as a place to live, and farming as an occupation. Along with this step, it would be a decided improvement if teachers who are fitting themselves to teach in rural schools had more agricultural training. Before the teacher can instill the proper agricultural viewpoint into the young mind, he or she must have first obtained it, and can only get it through an advanced knowledge of agriculture and agricultural conditions. It may be that the time will come when teachers for rural districts, both in public and continuation schools, will be required to take a certain term in agricultural schools or colleges. Without proper teacher-training in agriculture, it will be a difficult matter to obtain the results desired.

A Short Course in Farm Mechanics.

This is an age of wonderful development in farm implements and machinery. Farm power is a vital question with every man on the land at the present time. The work must be done, not by hand as of yore, but by the judicious use of either horse or motor-drawn machinery. The average farmer requires to be something of a mechanic and engineer in order to be most successful in his farm operations. It is an age of farm mechanics. In this connection we might say that a great deal of help might be given the young men who could avail themselves of such a course through three or four-weeks' special training in farm mechanics at an institution such as the Ontario Agricultural College. The man who is about to purchase a tractor, or a gasoline engine, would like to know as much about operating his machine as possible right from the start. He should know where to look for trouble and how to remedy it, and the same is

true of all the newer types of implements and machinery for the farm. We believe in taking the Agricultural College to the farm in so far as possible, and to accomplish this Short Courses reach the greatest number, and it is surprising what young and even older men will pick up in the way of knowledge in a very short time when expert teachers, who have practical experience at their back, are the instructors. It might be worth while for college authorities to consider short courses in farm mechanics and agricultural engineering and in fact to give them a prominent place on the college curriculum.

Price Fixing Must Not Hamper Breeding.

Live stock improvement and the condition of the live-stock business generally in any agricultural country has a vital relation to the nation's food supply. Particularly is it important in times like these that a present supply of cereals and meat is forthcoming and also that the future be safeguarded. In the neighborhood of one-third of the nation's food bill goes for meat, and when milk and other dairy products are combined with this we find that we pay more than half of our food cost for the products of the live stock of the farm. It is true that meat and dairy products may not be the most economical foods, but they are absolutely necessary in building up the highest type of civilization. These are facts very well brought out by Prof. Charles F. Curtiss, of the Iowa State College, and they apply in Canada just as well as in the United States; in fact, they apply now to all the allied nations, and, keeping them in mind, there is no wonder that the work of the Food Controllers is watched with no small degree of interest by the producers and consumers of the products of the live stock of the farm.

For a moment let us consider the value of live stock in the growing of cereal crops. Invariably we find the heaviest production of cereals on land which is carrying a goodly number of well-bred and well-fed animals. Last year when Ontario crops were very light those farmers who had kept plenty of live stock for a number of years had work for the threshing machine when some of their neighbors who had been practicing grain farming had very little to thresh. A good illustration comes from Iowa, where ten of the best grain farms of the section were compared with ten of the best live-stock farms. It was found that on the latter farms the increased yield owing to the presence of the stock was 14 bushels of corn per acre, 7 bushels of oats per acre, and one ton of hay per acre. This meant an increase of 36 per cent. of the average yield of corn, 21 per cent. of the average yield in oats, and 85 per cent. of the average yield in hay. Thus we see that while the live-stock products themselves represent more than half our food bill, the live stock is responsible for no small increase in the output of cereals from our farms.

At the present time there is a great deal of uncertainty in connection with the market for meat and dairy products, owing to the action of Food Controllers. In Great Britain the Food Controller has fixed prices on a sliding downward scale until the first of January, which will mean a decline of practically \$90 on a bullock weighing 1,200 pounds, taking the prices which prevailed shortly before this food order came in compared with those set for next January. In fact, the prices set dropped fourteen shillings per cwt. between September and January. If we read the British agricultural papers aright, the farmer can do nothing but sell off his unfinished cattle as fast as possible and a scarcity is likely to prevail later on, or from January to May if a change is not made. Another order which stops the importation into Britain of Canadian bacon is likely to have some effect on the bacon-hog trade in Canada. We have been endeavoring in this country to establish a