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AGRICULTURE



Why not an Agricultural Column? Yes, why not? So this new Department makes its debut among the pages of the BEAVER to satisfy the need among the Agriculturists of the Khaki University. Will it be worth while? Wait and see. We make no promises, but we suggest that you keep these pages.

You are interested in some branch of Agriculture? You are advised to look over the list of free publications from the Dominion and the Ontario Departments of Agriculture mentioned in the Khaki Kollege Klippings on page 6. There may be there some bulletins you want. The pamphlets from the Prairie Provinces have not arrived as yet.

The One Course to Pursue.

"Canada's future agricultural salvation is in livestock, not in grain," so says the "Farmer's Advocate." Livestock is the sheet anchor of Canadian agriculture. They are insurance against crop failures, they serve as security for bank loans, and further maintain the fertility of the soil—the value of the manure more than pays for the labour of feeding and caring.

Further, it is more profitable to feed grain than to sell it on the market. A feed Experimental Farm at Brandon interesting results were obtained in feeding experiments in this respect. For the years 1910-11 inclusive, the feeding value of oats 1915 barley was found to be 89½ cents and cents respectively. At the Experiment 63½ Farm, at Lacombe, Alberta, in the year 1910-11, the Superintendent found that whereas the market value of oats was 40 cents per bushel and that of barley 40 as 32 their feeding value to steers was 94 cents and \$1.32 respectively. In 1909-10, this and Superintendent fed frozen wheat to same steers. Reckoning 40 cents per bushel as his market value plus cost of grinding, he reported the feeding value of such grain as \$1.28.

Europe is depleted of live stock, and it will be years before these herds and flocks have been rebuilt. Meanwhile there will be a great demand for breeding stock and all animal products.

There is a great demand for cereal, but the grain shortage will be made up long before the live stock is. Australia has long accumulations of wheat; the Argentine can produce wheat more cheaply than we can, and European farmers will be growing their own grain. This means the price for grain is going to drop long before the live stock population of the world is restored to normal.

If we are to expand and develop the livestock industry, the scrub sire must go, and all non-producing members of the herd as well. This does not mean pure-bred herds on farms generally, but first-class commercial herds and flocks headed by pure-bred sires with the proper individualities. Replace the non-producers with good breeding females and with the suitable sire, build up the stock to your farm's capacity. As the stock increase, so does the quantity of manure added to the soil, and in turn a greater volume of crops are produced to maintain even larger herds or flocks.

Co-operative Success in Ontario.

The live Stock Shipping Association, organised at Indian River, Peterborough

Co., on August 19th, 1918, had already by the middle of December conducted the following business: They have shipped 8 carloads of hogs, the total receipts for which were \$18,000; 5 carloads of cattle which brought in a total of \$12,000. Farmers by shipping co-operatively have made for themselves about 4 per cent., and have benefited by this organisation to the extent of \$1,200. Their shrinkage on hogs has been from 4 to 5 per cent. They are all well satisfied, says F. McRae, in "Farm and Dairy," with this method of doing business, and doubtless more will be done by this organisation as time goes on.

Substantial Progress.

The steady and even progress being made by the United Farmers' Co-operative Co., Ltd., of Ontario, was revealed in the reports of the shareholders, held in Toronto in December. The meeting was satisfactory, but the chief cause for the satisfaction centred around the financial statement and annual report, covering the year's operations. This showed

Sales 1914 (part year)	3,300
Sales 1915	226,000
Sales 1916	410,385
Sales 1917 (10 months)	918,197
Sales 1918	1,765,378
Total profits for 1918 were	4,102

Of the profits, \$1,500 were paid out as 7 per cent. dividend; \$1,852.63 were written off for furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.; and the balance of \$750 was transferred to the reserve account.

During the past year \$83,225 of stock were sold, the capital of the company was increased from \$9,725 to \$92,950, of which \$42,931 had been paid in. A profitable retail and wholesale grocery business on King Street, Toronto, was purchased, giving the company a valuable trading connection.

In the future the directors have decided to purchase a seat on the Live Stock Exchange, and commence a vigorous campaign in the selling of young stock for the local clubs as soon as a capable manager can be found. Plans have been laid for the erection of warehouses at local points where the farmers want them, for the handling of supplies, the shipping of eggs and poultry, etc. The money for this is to be provided by the local farmers purchasing enough stock in the central company to make it possible. The establishment of a seed-cleaning plant is also contemplated in order to make possible more extensive operations in the handling of grain and grass seeds.

THE FLOOD.

A travelling man one night found himself obliged to remain in a small town on account of a wash-out on the railroad, caused by a heavy rain which was still coming down in torrents. Entering the dining room of the little hotel, he said to the waitress;

"This certainly looks like the flood."

"The what?"

"The flood. You read about the flood and the Ark landing on Mount Ararat surely?"

"Gee, Mister," she returned. "I ain't seen a paper for three days."