

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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"What is required to make the Dominion great and prosperous and its population contented and happy is a spirit of co-operation on fair and equitable lines amongst all classes. We have suggested a means by which co-operation may be promoted; but the worker is looking forward to a changed condition of life and a new status in industry, and we must be prepared to meet the changing conditions as they arise, in the same spirit of co-operation and good will."

"The nations of the world by the Peace Treaty have adopted principles which until now were but ideals. As Canada is just entering the stage of greatest development, we have an opportunity unique among the nations for growth in harmony with those new principles."

The word "worker" contained in the above lines may take on a wide significance and embrace classes not associated with the factory or the mill. Practically all are looking for a changed condition of life, and in our efforts to ameliorate conditions we should not banish the spirit of "co-operation and good will." This is the foundation of peace, happiness and prosperity.

Make Ready for Peace.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

These days that are following the War and the signing of the Peace Treaty don't show very much indication, as yet, of bringing us into that "desired haven" of good-will between all men, that so many have been looking forward to as the natural outcome of all the world has gone through during the past five years. It's likely that we will have to exercise patience and give Nature her time and further opportunity. The quality that characterizes the present generation above all others is impatience. Everything has to be done in a hurry or we get restless. When the members of the different delegations to the Peace Conference were at work on one of the biggest jobs ever given to any body of men, we were all wondering when they would have anything to show for all their deliberations and the weeks of what we called "wasted time."

When the Treaty was finally formulated and signed, we couldn't help wondering how much had been accomplished, after all, in about half a year. We feel now that there must have been two or three hustlers in that Conference, even if the majority were a bunch of loafers. For my part I can't help wondering, every time I think of it, how such an appalling number of problems of every imaginable description could have been settled in such a way as to give anything like satisfaction to the

parties directly interested, and that in the time mentioned. I think the world should "take off its hat" to the men who had the responsibility of bringing the League of Nations into existence, and had then to draw out a treaty of peace that would be accepted by the Allies as well as Germany herself. No doubt in the latter case it was accepted under protest, but at the same time we are inclined to think that future generations will look on it as a just peace, as favorable to the beaten nation as her past record would justify. And one quite as moderate as she would have framed for our benefit had she been the dictator of the terms.

So now that it is all over, even to our Peace holiday, and the "tumult and the shouting dies," we can't help wondering, as I said, that so much could have been crowded into so short a space of time. Our attitude changes as does that of the young person starting out in life. It's a "long, long way" when the look is forward, but when it comes to looking back things seem very much shortened up. And we are in a much better position to make a true estimate of the relative value of time and accomplishments, besides.

It's up to us now. Our leaders and representatives have drawn up a set of "rules and regulations" which we have practically accepted for our future guidance in international affairs. If we live up to them the war will probably have been worth while. If we don't live up to them we will be like the man we read of, whose "last state was worse than his first."

And our failure will have been due to the one characteristic that marks the human race in particular. That is selfishness. As individuals that is where we show our weakness, and it is individuals that go to make up a nation. When thinking for others and working for their welfare gets to be a national habit, the destiny that has been planned for humanity will be within sight. The "thousand years of peace" will have begun.

But it seems to be easier and more natural for us to accuse the other fellow than to set him a better example. At present, for instance, we who are making our living on the farm are busy defending ourselves against the charge of "profiteering" that some of the dwellers in the city are bringing against us. They say we're overcharging them for our produce, which they are compelled to buy, or starve. In other words, they say we're selfish.

So far as that goes, farmers are doing what they always did; taking what they can get for what they have to sell. When some price-fixing commission doesn't step in and interfere we are usually subject to the law of supply and demand. And as to the question of what share of these prices may be "profit," we can form some conclusions from the statements made by the Department of Labor of Canada during the past year. This Department keeps track of the rise or fall in the price of the different manufactured and natural products of the country, and publishes these findings every month. Making an average from their figures for the past five years we find that the cost of forty of the principal products of the farm has risen eighty per cent. in that time. Of the other two hundred and twenty commodities, mostly manufactured in the city, that are catalogued by the Department, we find that the cost has risen in the same time one hundred and seventy per cent. So the only conclusion we can come to from this is that to-day the farmer is paying an advance of one hundred and seventy per cent. for what he buys, while at the same time selling his own produce for an advance of only eighty per cent. That ought to clear us of the charge of "profiteering." If our town manufacturers and middlemen can put up as good a defence for their side of the case, everybody ought to be satisfied.

But this is getting away from the point. What we would like to see would be a spirit among the people that would do away with this fault-finding, accusing tendency of the times, that creates nothing but bad feeling among neighbors and between the dwellers in the city and in the country, without in the least tending to relieve the situation.

If the rise in the cost of living is a national calamity why can't we sympathize with one another. It might create friendship where, at present, a good deal of enmity is developing. Everybody would feel better, they would be better, and no one any the poorer. The world seems to be readjusting itself to changed conditions at the present time, and some hardship to individuals is bound to accompany the process, but we will come through it all right if we develop a little of the spirit of appreciation of the difficulties of our neighbors and show our sympathy, instead of ill-will and a tendency to retaliate for imagined injuries.

As farmers we find our consciences pretty clear, I think, on the score of profits, and it's quite possible that the profits of the majority of those in other trades and businesses are no larger than they used to be. We may as well give them the benefit of the doubt anyway and make them out no worse than necessary, for we're all in the same boat, and in the long run will have to sink or swim together.

It has been said that to know all is to forgive all, and it is also true that if we look only for the best in our fellow-men we are much more likely to find it than if we make a habit of searching for the faults that are so easy to criticize in others, but so hard to correct in ourselves.

The Peace Treaty has been signed, but peace has not yet come to the world. What is taking place in some of our larger cities these days seems to indicate that we are still far from it. And can anyone say that there is anything at the bottom of it all but plain human selfishness. The ideal held up for the Roman nation a few thousand years ago might very well be adopted by the world of to-day. They were taught to look forward to the time "when none are for a party but

all are for the state," and why can't we of the present age make this ideal real? Who ever had a better chance?

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGE, M.A.

Wayside Flowers.

Late summer and early autumn is the season of wayside flowers. Earlier in the year there are comparatively few flowers to be seen along the wayside, except in places where the road passes through the woods.

An abundant plant of the wayside is the St. John's wort. This species grows to a height of about two feet, has large yellow flowers, and rather small, oval leaves with small, transparent dots, which show very plainly when the leaf is held up to the light.

In certain sections of the country there are two plants, both of them rather bad weeds, and hence not highly desirable denizens of the road-side, but which contribute a good deal to the color effect of the wayside—the Chickory and the Blueweed. The former is a much-branched plant growing to three feet in height, with rather scraggly stems and large, bright, light blue flowers, which stand like stars on the stems. The latter is a rough, hairy plant which bears a spike of blue bell-shaped flowers. Sometimes individual plants of the Blueweed occur in which the flowers are pink or white in color.

Very common wayside plants are the four Fleabanes, plants which somewhat resemble an Aster, but have leafless flower-stalks and very narrow rays. The Daisy Fleabane is from two to three feet in height, has entire leaves, and white rays. The Large Fleabane reaches a height of about four feet, has the leaves coarsely and sharply toothed, and has larger flowers than the preceding species, and, like it, white flowers. The Horse Fleabane is a tall, wand-like plant with small heads with inconspicuous rays, and has the upper leaves linear and entire, and the lower leaves cut into lobes. The Rosy Fleabane has flowers with rose-purple rays, and the upper leaves clasp the stem with a heart-shaped base.

The Elecampane often occurs in large patches along the road-side. It is a plant from three to four and a half feet in height, with very large leaves which are woolly beneath and large golden-yellow flowers.

The Common Milkweed is another inhabitant of the wayside, its umbels of pinkish flowers exhalant a delicate perfume, and providing a feast of nectar which is most attractive to a great many species of insects.

The Blue Vervain is a slender plant from three to six feet in height, with taper-pointed, serrate, opposite leaves and narrow spikes of violet-blue flowers.

The Ox-eye Daisy and the Common Buttercup are almost everywhere abundant wayside species, and, in many places, the White Sweet Clover and the Yellow Sweet Clover are very common along the road.

Many species of Goldenrods occur on the banks by the wayside, some with large, rich golden panicles, some with flat-topped clusters of flowers, some with long interrupted spikes, and, in many places, they are so abundant as to convert the road into a golden-fringed highway.

A good many species of Asters also grow by the wayside, one of the commonest and, at the same time, one of the most attractive being the Heart-leaved Aster, with its heart-shaped leaves and panicles of light lavender-blue flowers. Another beautiful species is the New England Aster, which has a rather rough stem and large heads of rich purplish-blue flowers. The little Diffuse Aster with its white flowers set along its almost parallel branches is an abundant species. All three of the above-mentioned species occur in dry places.

It is in moist ditches and in damp places by the road that some of our most attractive wayside flowers occur. Here grow the Blue Flags, with their sword-shaped leaves and their flowers beautiful both in form and color. The Joe-pye Weed with its tall stem, large opposite leaves and flat-topped clusters of light purple flowers is another handsome denizen of these damp places.

The Boneset, a near relative of the Joe-pye, has a white, flat-topped flower cluster and opposite leaves which clasp about the stem.

The Turtle-head is another common plant of moist places. This species is from two to three feet in height, is very smooth and has white flowers which bear a considerable resemblance to the head of a turtle.

The Brilliant Cardinal-flower, a species with flowers of a more intense red than any other of our flowers, is sometimes to be seen in ditches which are fairly well shaded.

Several species of Asters also occur in damp places, two of the commonest being the Purple-stemmed Aster, with its tall, rough purple stem and its large, mauve flowers and the Panicked Aster, a tall species with large panicles of white flowers.

One does not see many fields of clover left for seed in some parts of Ontario. Those who can produce their seed for next year will probably have reason to consider themselves lucky next season.

The use of sweet clover seems to be extending. Many fields are now being grown for seed and as a pasture crop and soil improver this crop seems to be gaining in popularity.

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