

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Democracy can be led but not driven.

Spray the potatoes for "bugs" and blight.

If the sun does not shine how can hay be made?

The farm very often reveals the personality of the farmer.

Some grumbling is heard but on the whole crops are good.

The man who farms for fun generally pays for his pleasure.

Dirty, late corn can only catch up by more frequent cultivation.

The Kaiser can still make his Bosches fight but he cannot make them win.

The Crown Prince recently tried to pick the scab off that old sore, Verdun.

A farm well fenced is not necessarily a farm with a large number of fences; generally the contrary.

Evidently there are some in high places who do not see the folly of feeding good grain to cull calves.

Better no fence at all than a tumble-down affair which simply coaxes the cattle to break into the next field.

Parliament voted to back up the boys at the front. The people expect a fair, efficient and immediate enforcement of the Bill.

The man who puts a sufficient amount of business enterprise into his farming operations usually reaps a financial reward for his extra effort.

Kerensky has developed sufficient strength in Russia to convince Mackensen and his followers that the Galician front is not a good place to fraternize.

No gate will hang well and swing clear on one hinge, neither will the country. We need development in rural districts to keep pace with that in urban centres.

Judging from the number of patches of beans this year and the scarcity of pigs, the piece of pork in the can of beans will be reduced in size if such is at all possible.

The Food Controller has a big problem. If he can stop undue waste and can put an end to dealing in futures in food products the rest of his troubles will be light.

Elaborate buildings add to the investment and make it that much harder to make satisfactory returns from the farm. Buildings just big enough, warm enough, light enough and well ventilated and clean can be put up without the frills and without the needless expenditure that frills involve.

The July 9th issue of a leading Ontario daily paper carried the advice from a city man that every farmer in Ontario should sow from two to forty acres of winter wheat immediately. Most farmers will think they have it sown in plenty of time if they get it in the ground by the last week of August and from then up to September 20.

The Bread to Win.

The war gradually resolves itself into a question of men and bread and at the present time the United States is considering asking the people to do without bread or any products of wheat for one day each week. In Canada those who have studied the situation are already advising the use of whole-wheat bread, rye bread, or what is known in Europe as dark or black bread. True, we are far removed from the scene of conflict and see very little evidence in this country of any approaching food shortage. However, statistics which we get show that there is a shortage of wheat products, and food material in the Allied nations of Europe is not too plentiful. If the war goes to the limit it may be won on the question of food alone and while we have plenty in this country, and are likely to have, the more we can save for export to our Allies in Europe, and particularly to Great Britain herself, the better are our chances for winning decisively and quickly. It would be better to do without white bread one day a week and substitute other things of which we have plenty, or it would be better to come to the use of dark bread and thus release one or two hundred million bushels of wheat to Britain and France rather than go on eating extravagantly, while our armies overseas were being defeated for lack of the very foods which we could spare. It is difficult to impress the need for economy in foods in a country like Canada where there is plenty and no apparent danger of a shortage, and where waste is still far too great. However, we believe that the campaign for economy in foods is having a good effect and investigation shows that garbage collected in some large American towns and cities has fallen off thirty to forty per cent. since the campaign began. Waste not, want not. The Allies can produce plenty bread on which to win.

Will Food Control Remain After the War?

Over in Britain the Government has seen fit to set a minimum price for certain food products to run for several years to come, possibly for many months after the war is brought to a final conclusion. In the United States and in Canada food controllers have been appointed, and the press of both countries is filled with articles exhorting those on the land to produce, and suggesting different means by which the food administrator may fight the so-called food pirate. Some speculation has been indulged in with regard to the effect of food control on the farmer, and a difference of opinion exists, some believing that the farmer should be guaranteed an adequate price, others that the agriculturist would rather have the nation's food supplies controlled by the Government than by the speculator. One thing is sure, the eyes of the people are turned towards farming and the important position the man on the land holds as they never were before, and if the food administrators succeed in so putting a stop to speculation that the consumer and the producer both benefit then why not have a continuance of the administration after the conflict has ended and something approaching normal world conditions again exists?

A Western United States paper says in reference to the Food Control Bill introduced in Congress: "When the Food Control Bill finally passes, the middle Western farmer will demand that it shall remain after the war as a part of our National Policy; indeed most of the Socialistic devices now coming into our institutions as war measures will remain as a part of our National Policy forever. There will be no going back and if the food gamblers and coal gamblers and steel and iron industries desire to restrict Federal control, now is the last call for dinner. Next year will be too late."

One thing is certain if the people both producers and consumers are convinced through the action of

our food administrators that speculation in food products can be combatted by their system, these same people are going to ask a continuance of the administration after hostilities cease. Most producers would, provided they get fairness from the system, prefer having food supplies controlled by the nation rather than by middlemen or speculators, and the consumer stands to benefit as well.

If it is good in time of crisis to stop speculation or dealing in futures in food products, it should be worth while trying when peace is restored. Of course it all depends upon the success of the efforts of the administrators. We have never been in favor of too much interference in the way of price fixing and food controlling, but we do believe that stopping speculation in food products would leave the law of supply and demand to work unhampered in the best interests of producer and consumer, and any system which will ultimately put an end to dealing in futures in food and make it easier for the producer to deal with the consumer should live long after the last cannon has ceased to roar on the battle fields of Europe.

Buildings Should Not Overload the Farm.

In Eastern Canada there has been a tendency in many cases for farmers to put altogether too much money into buildings and elaborate equipment. We do not wish to infer that the farmer should not have things clean, comfortable, convenient and sanitary, but it is a mistake to construct elaborate buildings altogether too large and expensive to meet the actual needs of those in the home or of the outside farming operations. Many a farm house in Old Ontario is twice as large as necessary, which means if not double the expense of the structure which would meet all the needs of the farmer and his family a very large increase in original outlay, and an unnecessary amount of work for the busy woman of the house. The farm house should not be larger than to comfortably meet the requirements of the family, and the builder should plan it so that every part is in use practically every day in the year. By cutting down on the size of the structure part of the money saved could very well be used in putting in modern conveniences, such as running water, bathroom, facilities for sewage disposal, an up-to-date system of hot-air or hot-water heating, plenty of light, an efficient ventilating system, and the various handy devices for wash-room, pantry and kitchen.

The same applies to the barn. It is much more difficult to make reasonable returns on a large investment in buildings than it is to get an annual profit from a smaller money outlay. Farm barns and outbuildings should be neat and sufficiently large to meet the needs of the farm, but cow palaces, pig parlors, and elaborate sheep pens and poultry plants are not always built on lines of strict economy. One reason that there is not more clear money in the live-stock end of farming in Old Ontario is that a considerable investment is necessary for buildings to house the crop and the live stock. But even though it is necessary to build suitable shelters for the stock and suitable barns to house the grain, it is possible to meet the conditions without unduly jeopardizing the financial returns from the farm. It is generally cheaper to keep the outbuildings as compact as possible, getting as much under one roof as is compatible with good farming practice. Stables may be light, clean, and well ventilated without being too costly. Simple devices may be constructed at little expense to aid in making them handy. It is not always the most attractive barns that are the most economical, but in the long run those built on good foundations of first-class material and well-roofed and in most cases kept painted will be found the best business propositions. Open sheds for a part of the farm machinery