

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Labor grows scarcer daily but the farmer is more determined than ever that production shall not wane.

Canada's total net debt increased over \$250,000,000 last year and at the end of November was \$958,000,700.

Both the Fuel Controller and the people would be better satisfied with a little more fuel to control.

Unnecessary industry, in a time like this, exists at the expense of those industries of vital importance.

Spring is still a considerable distance away, but it would be a wise precaution to secure all necessary seed supplies early.

Probably the most necessary and most neglected item in the general care of the breeding stock through the winter is exercise.

If you have a woodlot work up into wood all the dead trees and down stuff. The coal shortage may not be over with this winter.

Convention reports give thousands the benefit of the helpful hints brought out in discussion which would otherwise reach only a very few. Read them carefully this year.

As the months go by the situation in regard to the supply of choice breeding stock from a world standpoint grows more acute. Hold the good breeders and keep them busy.

Germany is finding it rather a difficult task to make peace with revolutionary Russia. There is no peace in Russia, and even a German-made peace could not last there very long.

In this issue a Huron County correspondent deplores the "whining and Rip-Van-Winkle" ways of some farmers' organizations. All should get down to business and make the best of all available machinery to help on the great work of agriculture.

"Allan McDiarmid", in this issue, outlines a plan whereby vast acreages in the West might, in his opinion, be brought under cultivation. The Minister of Agriculture, an expert authority on grain growing in the West, will know at once whether or not the plan is feasible. If it is, no doubt action will be taken.

The average man is not as careful in his reading as he should be. The other day we received a complaint from a subscriber that we had not reported a certain convention, when, as a matter of fact, the convention in question got two full pages prominently placed in our issue of December 27, under a three-column head in bold-face type.

Some papers are talking compulsory production on the farms. Who is to be compelled? Farmers have done and are doing their utmost. Perhaps compulsion might be applied to help for the farms, but the idea of compelling farmers to produce, intimating that they have been loafing on the job, would meet no favor with thinking people who understand the situation, whether they live on the land or elsewhere. Better results would come from giving the producers full credit for what they have done and then attempt to evolve some system to send help to carry on the good work on the land.

### The Experimental Union.

In another Department of this issue appears the report of the 39th annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union. The "Union", as those who know it best call the organization, has done a vast amount of experimental work in the years which have passed since the organization took shape thirty-eight years ago. The co-operative work in agriculture has been conducted for thirty-two years, during which time there have been 88,604 distinct tests made throughout the Province, or a yearly average of almost 2,769 separate tests for the entire period and each experiment took anywhere from two to ten plots. There has been a steady increase in the number of experimenters since 1886. For the ten-year period 1886-1895, the average number of experimenters per annum was 566. This average increased in the period 1896-1905 to 3,186, and from 1906-1916 it was 4,262; while in 1917 it was 4,299. These experiments, covering the different varieties of farm crops, different quantities of seed per acre, selected grains for hay and fodder, the application of commercial fertilizers, the eradication of weeds, the testing of cattle for tuberculosis, and the re-forestation of waste places have worked untold good in almost every community Ontario over. Ontario has had three abnormal years. Labor has been very scarce; yet, realizing the importance of getting all possible out of the land, farmers, in increasing numbers, have conducted co-operative experiments. They desire to know what is best for their own soil and are ready to experiment to find out for themselves.

The Convention just closed was a good one. Topics of interest to all farmers were discussed. You can reap the benefit of the discussion by reading the report on another page. You can help on the good work by joining the Union and carrying on an experiment in 1918.

### The Principles for Which the Allies Fight.

Premier Lloyd-George, in a recent speech at a British Labor Conference, made the frankest and fullest statement yet uttered in connection with Britain's war aims. Three conditions of permanent peace were outlined as follows:

"First.—The sanctity of the treaty must be re-established.

"Second.—There must be territorial settlements based on the consent of those governed.

"Third and last.—There must be created some international organization to limit the burden of armaments and diminish the probability of war."

Going further into the question, the British Premier held that the Allies are not fighting for the destruction and disruption of Germany, nor to destroy Austria-Hungary or Turkey, nor yet to alter or destroy the imperial constitution of Germany—the latter change would have to come from the people of Germany. The Allies are not trying to take Turkey's land from the Turks, and would be willing, according to the British Premier, that the inhabitants of the German African colonies be placed under an administration acceptable to themselves to prevent exploitation for the benefit of European capitalists and of European governments. The Allies fight, said Mr. Lloyd-George, for the complete restoration of Belgium; for reparation, as far as possible, of devastated towns and cities; neutralization or internationalization of the Dardanelles; reconsideration of the the great wrong done France in 1871—a direct reference to Alsace-Lorraine; establishment of an independent Poland; separate national conditions in Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine. The Russian question was left to the people of Russia to settle for themselves.

All these things should be sufficient to show the world that in so far as the Allies are concerned, the fight is not a war of aggression. Such a statement should strengthen

Russia; should show all neutrals more clearly than ever before the real aims of the Allies and should begin to penetrate the minds of the Germans and their sympathizers. There is no sign of aggression in the principles as set forth by the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The only objection to them the German can have will be that he doesn't want to repair the wrongs committed. He never can fully repair but in so far as is possible he should be bound to do it, and when the German people see the manner in which they have been misled a different story will come out of Germany. Lloyd-George's speech should start them thinking. It should prove a long step toward peace. It should strengthen the hands of the Allies and cause every citizen of the Allied countries to do all in his power to uphold what is right and must eventually prevail. When the great men of all nations are ready to act upon the principles laid down in this speech, then a permanent peace will be brought about.

### Fair Play For All in 1918.

As Canada gets down to business for 1918 the people realize more than before that the only thing that matters just now is the winning of the war. But to win the war a broad consideration must be given to all matters of national economics, and it may be necessary to make some changes. There may be need of more compulsion, although the general public hates the term. It sounds better to say "more universal service." A Toronto weekly says compulsory production must come, and in an article on this subject says, after berating stockmen who asked a reasonable profit on producing pork, that: "The sooner the Government makes it clear that every ounce of farm production must be delivered, irrespective of profits, the better it will be for the good name of this country. If the young men may be conscripted to fight, surely it is right and proper to commandeer every farm or ranch and all sources of food supply. There has been altogether too much price-fixing which invariably insures a handsome profit, and not enough compulsory production irrespective of profits."

Production from the farms of Canada cannot be materially increased without more men on the land. Just where these can be obtained without upsetting other necessary industries none of the country's officials have yet been able to decide. We quite agree that "every ounce of farm production must be delivered," but consistently maintain that in war as well as in peace the farmer must live, and to live must have some profit. Producing with no profit would not stimulate effort and compulsion applied on such a basis would result in absolute failure. The only means the farmer has of making a living is by producing at some profit. How long would any other industry or business stand for compulsion to produce at no profit? If it is necessary that the farmer work for nothing, or less, why is it not necessary to apply the same principle to all other lines of endeavor? Will munitions manufacturers produce without profit? Will makers of farm implements or machinery produce without profits? Will makers or doers of anything whatever increase production unless some profit is forthcoming? Not at all, and no one blames them. It is all nonsense to suggest such a thing. We agree that profits should be limited all the way around to a "reasonable" basis which will give all a living in the best interests of the nation. It may be possible, too, for the Government to take over thousands of acres of idle land in Western Canada and secure by "conscription for the farms" men from other callings to work the land. It has been suggested that a large number of foreigners of enemy countries might be used to work this land. It has also been suggested that unnecessary industries be closed for the duration of the war and the men now engaged therein sent out to work on the land. One thing is certain, little more can be expected from the men already on the land. They are doing their utmost and are ready to keep it up. They are competent and patriotic farmers and are not seeking to become million-