

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL

Canada can do without circuses and side shows until after the war.

Good seed is a big initial step toward heavy crops. Secure supplies early.

It is to be hoped that a "steady" summer follows the present "steady" winter.

A spring stallion show might be made a benefit to Canada's horse industry this year.

Get ready to attend the Live-Stock meetings to be held in Toronto next week. Keep in touch with your own business.

Plan to control weeds with as little work as possible. Some methods of keeping down a few of the most destructive are published in this issue.

Campaigners for increased production this year must not fail to get the farmer's view point first. The rest of the road will be much smoother then.

Canada's big live-stock exhibitions have been of untold value to the industry, and should be strengthened in every way possible in these times of stress.

Canada has hundreds of thousands of staunch maple trees. Why not turn them to good account this spring by making more syrup and sugar when other sugar is so scarce?

If the war goes on long enough it will become absolutely necessary to close non-essential industry and place the entire resources of the nation at the disposal of the state.

Someone has proposed that the Government take over all the farms in Canada and pay farmers a fair wage as foremen, and fair interest on their investment. How many figures would it take to express the national debt in ten years' time?

A man looking for a farm to purchase recently remarked in this office that he would not consider one without a wood-lot. The coal shortage may lead to better care of the wooded corner of the farm. Cattle and trees do not do well in the same field.

The man who joins a co-operative movement through pure selfishness does not usually develop into a tower of strength in the movement. The cause is the thing and once backed up with this spirit will return the profits to the industry, and ultimately the individual will reap the benefit.

It is unfortunate that too often the various classes of society are estimated by some freak, or, at any rate, altogether non-representative individuals of each class. It is just as unreasonable to call all farmers hogs and incapable, because someone of their number has shown evidence of meriting these names, as it is to brand all city people parasites.

There are thousands of farm-bred and farm-trained men in our cities who would make satisfactory farm help if placed on the land. We have the land in this country and we have the men. All that is needed is courage to take the step that has already been taken in other branches of the service. If food is more necessary than luxurious living, steps should be taken to produce it with the largest measure of fairness to all concerned.

Forget Self in Organizing Effort.

At a recent meeting of representative stock breeders, one of the speakers brought out a point that is worthy of emphasis. The discussion was running along the line of the necessity for Dominion-wide organization of stock breeders and those vitally interested in the business with a view to strengthening the industry as a whole, and thus ultimately working much good not only to the live-stock industry but to agriculture and so to all Canada. It was pointed out that the real need was of men big enough to put aside personal selfishness and throw their weight into an organization for the good of the industry, forgetting for the time being the few paltry dollars it would cost to finance such an organization and the few they hoped to make by joining. The man who joins a co-operative or other movement with the sole purpose of making immediately a few extra dollars for himself and with no bigger and broader viewpoint of the work in hand is usually too small to be of any great strength to the organization. There has been too much selfishness indicated in many farm organization movements of the past. Too many have joined not to help others but only to get all out of it they could for themselves, forgetting that the strength of any organized effort lies in the measure to which the individuals composing the movement forget self and work for the good of the whole. Some farm organizations of the past, and we are not sure that some do not linger still, have been weakened by the selfishness of little men who joined not to pay in and strengthen the hands of those who represent the calling, but to get as much as possible out after paying in the smallest possible pittance. Organization, whether it be of live-stock breeders, fruit growers, wheat producers, dairymen or any other branch or branches of the farming business, is a success only when big men take hold and work for the good of the cause of organized agriculture first, and, in working, do not forget that other people are human and have some rights. Organization should build up something on its own account and should not attempt to rely wholly on pulling down something some other industry has, through organization, builded well for themselves. We are pleased to know that the stockmen see the problem in the right light. Strong organization means, in the end, a strong stock-breeding industry, but in the beginning money, time and effort are necessary to build up anything which is to grow big and carry weight in the country. It is necessary to put all selfishness aside and co-operate and organize, believing firmly in the principle, and then in the end all will be well. A big live-stock industry well organized will be good for all Canada. That is the proper spirit.

A Dominion Dairy Council.

Dairy conventions are held in the various Provinces of the Dominion each year, and the Canadian Creamerymen's Association recently held a convention in Ontario. Besides these there are a large number of producers' and makers' associations which hold meetings in the various parts of the Dominion. At each of these meetings subjects of importance to the dairy industry of Canada as a whole are brought up and discussed from the viewpoints of the various districts. Most of these conventions or annual meetings are more or less local and, of course, their recommendations have a more or less local bearing. Dairying is, on the other hand, a great national industry. There are over two and one-half million dairy cows in this country. The total value of Canada's dairy products was \$66,470,953 in 1900, \$109,340,024 in 1910, and over \$200,000,000 in 1916. An increase of well on to 100 per cent. from 1900 to 1910, and this followed by another 100 per cent. advance from 1910 to 1916 shows the growing strength of dairying. Since 1900 production per cow has increased 40 per cent, but with growth and prosperity there are problems. The bigger the business the more attention

necessary to stop leaks and to build to greater heights. Possibilities for increased output are many. Canada's milk production is small even for the area devoted to dairy and mixed farming. The average yield of milk per cow is still low and there is room for more heavy producers. The poor cow must go. The home demand for dairy products has increased rapidly, and the export market will take increasing quantities. True, the war has hit dairying harder than some other branches of farming. Feed and labor are scarce and high, and both are necessary in large quantities to push dairying to the limit. Prices of dairy products have not, in all cases, advanced in keeping with the increased price of other products and feed. Prices have been fixed for cheese, for instance, which have not encouraged cheese production. The dairy farmer is having his troubles. So is the manufacturer of dairy products. Problems must be faced and the people must be taught to understand the real food value of milk and its products as compared with other foods. Once the people understand fully the value of milk and other dairy products they will be willing to buy at a fair price. By "fair" we mean leaving a reasonable profit to the producer. Substitutes for some dairy products are now on the Canadian market and are likely to stay. Over in the United States a National Dairy Council has been formed to look after the interests of dairymen. In Canada the time would seem ripe for a Dominion Dairy Council. It has been mentioned by some prominent dairymen, and formed from delegates from the various local dairy bodies would surely make a strong central organization in which the various problems could be threshed out and a united effort made for bigger and better dairying as a national industry of sufficient importance to command the attention of not only the legislative powers that be but of the rank and file of the consuming public. Such a council should be formed immediately.

At the Mercy of the Farmer?

The Ottawa correspondent of a leading Toronto daily recently quoted what he termed "a Government official" as follows:

"The point is this, that this country is at the mercy of the farmer. To-day the farmer is getting rich. While that is not a matter for which he may be blamed, it is a serious matter for other workers. Taking all kinds of foodstuffs together it is the farmer who is drawing the big part of the profit on food. The very life of the nation is in his hands. If food is scarce, he gets high rates. If it is plentiful, he may hoard it or even let it waste rather than accept low rates."

The official quoted is reported, with others, to favor public ownership and operation of farms. It is no trouble to see that he knows nothing whatever about agriculture and so, no doubt, would be in line for a distinguished place on the Board of Management if all Canadian farms were to be taken over by the Government. No, Mr. Official, farmers as a class are not getting rich, are not drawing undeserved profits on food, and are not hoarding or wasting to raise prices. With the rest of Canada's economic system remaining as it is no Government, however efficient, could take over the farms of Canada, even with prices as high as they now are, and make them pay the low rate of 5 per cent. interest on their value and a fair wage to the farm foremen and laborers necessary. Fortunately the men who constitute our Government and the great majority of the officials employed recognize the valuable work the men on the land are doing, and are too sane and fair-minded to accuse farmers as a class of being lazy, indolent, wasteful, or get-rich-quick profiteers. The facts are too plain. If farming has been and is such a bonanza as some people paint it, why are those people and thousands of others not on the land? There is no monopoly. The land is available. Recent investigations of farm returns in one of the best Townships in a good County of Old Ontario reveal the fact that in