

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

The steel ring around the Teuton tightens.

Keep the sow and save her litter. Pork pays well.

A good plan to follow is to buy only when you can pay.

The man who gets ready for next year's crop the fall before generally has a crop next year.

The school trustee who holds office simply to keep down taxes is wronging the rising generation.

When the harvest is in, take a few days off. The farmer and his wife and family earn a short holiday if any one does.

Next week our annual Exhibition Number will be published with special articles and illustrations interesting to all.

Horses will get more hay than oats this year. There is no need, however, to waste the former because it is plentiful.

Harvest time always demonstrates that the earlier-sown grain outclasses late-sown crops, provided the land is at all fit at sowing.

After all, crops are largely what the weather makes them, although the weather can be aided by fertility and judicious cultivation.

Plans should be laid to save all the straw possible under cover this year. It is a short crop and will be scarce before grass comes again next May.

Scarcity of labor and the advance of King Corn have driven the root-crop acreage into a small corner. Stockmen can always use roots to good advantage.

From the essays which the boys wrote for the competition which has been running in these columns some of them are teaching the older men how to farm.

It looks like high prices for feed this winter, but one thing seems certain, prices for live stock will be still higher. If at all possible keep the stock.

Canada will be a country of problems after the war. Just now there is only one question—the winning of the conflict—but everyone must be prepared as best he can be for the big questions which will surely come up after it is all over.

While farmers struggled short-handed to harvest their crop, that they might live and that the nation might be fed, thousands of able-bodied city men enjoyed a vacation at their favorite summer resort and growled to one another about the high cost of living.

There should be more work for the representative in parliament than shaking hands with all party voters, promoters and heelers and being an all-round good fellow to those on the party's patronage list, and there is. What the country wants is men who will do its work.

## Seeing the Fair.

Next week Canada's greatest exhibition will be in full swing, and crowds will pass eagerly through the turnstiles in the morning and reluctantly out through the wide-arched gates late at night. This opens the fall fair season in Eastern Canada. Sometimes people wonder whether or not fairs are worth while. We have always believed that they were, and have supported them and sought to strengthen them through constructive criticism. Outside the efforts made by the fair management the fair is largely what the fair-goer makes it. If he goes for fun and fun only he will carry away with him very little of value. He will fail to see the best part of the fair. If he goes to improve his knowledge of things in general he may or may not have a good time. If he is too busy studying and working while at the fair he'll miss the fun. Every farmer, farmer's wife, son and daughter deserves a holiday or two. We would make it two days at a big fair, and one at the local county fair. It is well to leave home cares at home and go with the idea of having a good time. We do not believe that the trip should be devoid of edification, neither should it be bare of fun. Innocent amusement furnishes a restful change from farm work. No one can map out the rounds of the fair-goer. Some are interested in one thing, some in another. Every farmer should want to see all the live stock and watch the judging of his favorite breeds. He should also be able to learn something from the exhibits of farm crops of all kinds. Farm machinery, motors and special devices should attract him, and then there is interest in the exhibits of manufacturing firms and all the work of manufacture. Natural products of all kinds are educative. These are some of the things a farmer should enjoy and should profit by. The women folk are always anxious to see the work turned out by the hands of other women. They enjoy artistically arranged special exhibits. The products of the dairy and the breeds of poultry are educative and much enjoyed. Products of the orchard and garden bring new varieties as well as new fruits and vegetables before them. And then, after the day or days with the buildings and the stock, the spectacular and mirth-producing performance before the grandstand is always a feature to enjoy and never to miss. We would not advise anyone to miss the fun of the fair, neither would it be wise to miss the really valuable educative features. Have a good time when you go to the fair, and with it plan to learn something which may be of value to you on the farm or in the home.

## Stop Grumbling!

This is no time for grumbling about things over which one has no control. It would be far better to follow the system outlined by the mild old lady who never worried about anything she could not help than to go around with a grouch and a grumble about everything. In the beginning, the season was wet, and, being wet, was naturally late and people grumbled. Then all at once, as if to satisfy, it turned hot and dry—too hot and dry—and people grumbled again. Human nature is hard to please, and the farmer, depending directly upon nature for his crops and consequently all he has, is affected by every turn of the weather. Then haying came on, and there was so much of it that farmers were heard to remark that they were sick and tired of drawing out of the same field for so long, and there was so much hay that it wouldn't be worth anything this winter anyway. Besides, a heavy crop of timothy was hard on the land. Before haying was over, and the weather was fine but too hot, it was evident,

in most sections, that spring grains were going to be short and the grain itself on the light side, and again fault was found with everything. Many believed that there wouldn't be straw enough for bedding, and they were quite sure that the barley would be shoe-pegs and the oats mostly hulls, difficult to grind into good feed. The corn was late and would never mature and turnips came up unevenly and needed rain. Then, behind with hoeing and cultivating, still with several acres of a three-ton-to-the-acre crop of timothy and clover out the hired man left, as hired men often do in a busy time, for pastures greener and farther away, and the farmer was quite sure that he was "up against it" harder than anyone else had ever been. True, farmers have had all kinds of trouble this year, but it doesn't help any to grumble. As Sandy Fraser says in his article this week: "There's plenty ither ken as muckle as yersel aboot hardship an' maybe a wee bit mair." There are lessons to be learned and profits to be made from a year like this has been. No better demonstration of the value of early seeding and underdrainage was ever made than that supplied by natural conditions in 1916. The season has proven again, especially with corn, the necessity for good seed. Moisture and a degree of warmth are necessary to a good crop of hay, and this year Ontario has hay galore but it will be needed. Other feed is comparatively scarce but hay is abundant. Why grumble? The mixed farmer of Ontario always hits it with something. This was his hay year, and if straw is scarce and grain, corn and roots a little shy he has plenty of hay to fill the gap. Mixed farming is sure. With all the hardships, just think of the comfort, abundance to eat and wear, the ravages of the great war not on our fields, plenty and prosperity on every hand—prices for products high and demand keen. After all it is good to be a Canadian farmer in 1916. One man can, in a pinch, do the work ordinarily allotted to two. The Canadian farmer has done it in 1916, and yet for the most part he sees with Sandy that others have had greater trials than his own and he stops grumbling.

## Immigration—There's No Hurry.

All kinds of ideas are expressed with regard to the outlook for immigration after the war is over. These prove one thing—thinking Canadians are beginning to have some conception of the problem immigration is in this young country. There are many difficulties in the settling of a vast new country like Canada, and too often those at the head of affairs become over-anxious to fill up the country and too careless about the class of people they are endeavoring to make its good citizens. It is all very well, in bursts of oratory, to refer to Canada as the melting pot of the nations, but it is a vastly different matter to fuse the heterogeneous mass of people coming from the states of Central Europe, each with its own ideals, its own peculiarities of speech, race and creed, into anything approaching what is generally recognized as the true Canadian with Canadian ideals and the great New World Idea. In the past, governments have been very anxious to induce people to come to Canada. True, this country can give good homes to millions who are ready and willing to work. What Canada most needs is men and women, but they must be of the right kind. There is no use of establishing little colonies of all the different races of Central Europe here and there over our widespread lands. These people, in colonies, speak their own language and follow the customs of their home-land. They are not assimilated into the truly Canadian population, but stand apart. If anyone doubts this let him take a trip through any newly settled part of the great West. We were