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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED ESTABLISHED 1866  
REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 13, 1915.

No. 1181

## EDITORIAL.

- Grow more corn and roots.
- Bad fences spoil quiet stock.
- Salt the stock regularly and often.
- The harrows save hoeing in the corn.
- It is time to sow mangels and plant corn.
- When live stock sells cheap is the time to stock up.
- It is time to repair all fences and close all farm gates.
- Water is as essential as grass in summer live-stock management.
- The live-stock farmer should prepare for business better than ever.
- Casualty lists have brought home to Canada the most serious side of war.
- When in doubt about an extra stroke with cultivator or harrow always give it.
- It is cheaper to cultivate and clean the land before sowing roots than afterwards.
- Leaving farmyard manure in an open yard all summer is a wasteful practice.
- Potatoes have been cheap, but this should not cut down the acreage this year.

## Campaign Literature.

For a short time previous to a Dominion election the country is always flooded with the campaign literature of both parties. As a general thing this literature throws very little true light upon the affairs as they exist at Ottawa. Each side is an overdrawn account of the good that party has done and intends to do, and a scathing and always also badly overdrawn criticism of the other party, magnifying its weakness, corrupt practices and inability to manage the affairs of the nation. To read either side and believe it all is to be convinced that the other side is all wrong, and that under its leadership the country would be doomed. To read both sides and believe is to be convinced that politics are in a very bad state in this country, for indeed this party literature is not very edifying. The man who reads both sides must be convinced that neither sticks any too close to the truth, and that the great part of it is simply "mud slinging." After all, do the respective parties really gain much from all this literature? True, it makes work for publishers and printers, and is a good way, possibly, to spend some of the campaign funds, but does it change many votes? Certainly not if the literature of both sides reaches the same voters, and it does in no small degree, and even though the voter only gets one side of this questionable literature we do not believe that it will change his mind. The man who reads and digests is not so easily fooled into thinking that all the good men are on one side of politics, and all the bad men on the other. Then, why should the mails be crowded with this non-productive, useless trash?

Jellicoe and others complain of "slackers" at home who are not doing their duty in providing necessary munitions of war, it is the duty of every Canadian, and every Briton to put forth every effort to make it possible to hasten the end of the war. The sooner everyone at home does his duty to the utmost the shorter will be the conflict. Let us show the determination and patience characteristic of our race, and let us realize that we are at war with a mighty, relentless, aggressive, well-organized and resourceful foe who is not yet "on the run" or "starving," and it behooves all of us to do what we can to hasten, by our own best efforts, the day of final success of the Allied Armies and the restoration of peace, which everyone hopes will never again be broken by any clique of war makers.

## Attack the Weeds Early.

"The early bird catches the worm," and the early man catches the weeds at the time when they succumb most easily to the onslaughts of harrow, weeder, cultivator, spud and hoe. Anyone who has had turnips to hoe knows what it means to kill weeds as soon as they show themselves above ground, never letting them get a start. Sometimes seeds germinate slowly, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, or to the inferior character of the seed sown, and the weeds get a start. Hoeing is delayed and haying and harvesting press on, causing a few rows of turnips or mangels to be left to hoe "between times." Weeds soon form a perfect mat, and it takes as long to hoe one row as it did at the proper time to hoe three or four. Experience of this kind should prove to the man who must fight the weeds that getting them while they are small saves time and kills more weeds at smaller cost.

## Canada's Duty in the Situation.

Readers who follow "Scotland Yet's" articles in this paper will have noted the seriousness with which he looks upon the situation caused by the present great war. In each of his three most recent letters in our columns he has pointed out plainly that he does not look for peace in the very near future. In fact, he says frankly that he believes the war will be a long one, and that in his opinion it would be wise for the people of the British Empire and Allied countries to stand prepared for a protracted and desperate struggle. The advice seems sound. Notwithstanding the fact that the soldiers of the Allied Armies have been successful in staying the onward rush of the mighty legions of the German war lord there is still a great deal to be done, and the lines of battle have not changed very much since last November. Large head lines from time to time proclaim successes, which, when one realizes the nature of the obstacles to be overcome, are really brilliant, but many of these will be reported before peace is procured and militarism is crushed. Certain men prophesy an early ending of hostilities, some going so far as to say that they will be over in two weeks or a month or by June 1; but we heard just such prophecies last November. The Austro-German armies have not been driven to the desperate straits some would lead us to believe. In the beginning, Kitchener said it would take three years, and that was only a little over nine months ago. The British people stand calm, convinced and confident of the outcome. No one doubts for a moment the ability of the Allies to finally crush the worst monster this world has ever known, but too much cannot be expected all at once. When Kitchener, Asquith, Lloyd-George, Churchill,

What can be done now towards this? The corn land may be harrowed every two or three days after the corn is planted and until it is up and big enough to cultivate. The potatoes, ploughed down every third furrow, may be harrowed as often as desired until well up. It is surprising how many of the thread-like, silky weed rootlets will be pulled out and killed, saving after-work, and giving the crop the best possible chance. The working necessary to kill the weeds gives the crop cultivation when it needs it most, so is doubly valuable. The land being prepared for turnips or later crops may be ploughed and worked and allowed to lay a few days, and then re-worked after the weeds have sprouted. These operations are important, for they mean the difference between easy and difficult hoeing later on, and very often the difference between a good, clean hoed crop and a poor, dirty field.

Fighting the weeds must extend to the other fields, the fence corners and the roadsides as well. Sheep are great weed destroyers, and some good farmers give their flocks the run of the fence corners around fields while being sown and until the grain peeps through. They are permitted to pasture the fence corners in the root fields until the roots and corn are put in. It is surprising how they will crop these corners down and give the weeds a setback which destroys many of them. At the same time grass in the regular pasture field is saved.

Where fields are badly infested with noxious weeds they should be summer-fallowed or fallowed for a while and rape sown in drills. But a summer-fallow should be worked early. In fact, it is necessary that the best part of the summer's weed

Not all the foul German gas is shot at the Allies' trenches; some of it is distributed by ambassadors of the Kaiser to neutral countries. Fortunately the latter is a "laughing" gas which is not deadly.

The election talk will not down. The only people which would countenance an election under present conditions are petty politicians and wire pullers who think they stand to gain by rushing it on. One side seeks to blame the agitation on the other. Who is responsible?