

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

We had April in January. Let us hope that January will not demand its season in April.

The farmer's duty is to take an interest in politics, but not to be married to any political party.

Organization is the strength of many institutions; it could be made the strength of agriculture.

Our first duty is to win the war, and in this, economic production at home must not be lost sight of.

And now the Kaiser proposes to release prisoners and force them to fight in his lines. Such crime and folly!

It now appears that the young men of Britain, by enlisting voluntarily, will make the Compulsory Bill a dead letter.

Sandy Fraser believes that the best way to get rid of bad habits is to form and encourage good habits to take their place.

It is the plain duty of every municipality and every individual to give liberally to the Patriotic Fund and to the Red Cross.

Many a good farmer is not a successful manager. There is room for more training on this phase of agriculture in our agricultural colleges and schools.

Feeders tell us that it requires more care to keep the stock from going "off its feed" in a mild spell than in cold, snappy weather. Possibly a little more exercise would improve their appetites when the weather is mild.

The Hon. Geo. E. Foster hit the mark squarely when in his recent Massey Hall address he advised better organization for recruiting, so that Canada's efficiency in field and factory be not impaired too greatly.

Peter McArthur's advice in last week's issue should be heeded. It is well to know what a patriotic concert is going to cost before staging it. There is little use of putting on such an event if the cost is going to balance the receipts from a big gathering.

Canadians are tired of the talk of shirkers, slackers, etc., which some men past military age seem to like to get out of their systems. Canada has done well. Canada can and will do better. It is a poor way to increase enthusiasm to cast reflections. True, there are slackers, but there are hundreds of workers to every shirker. There is more inspiration in listening to an account of what the workers have accomplished than there is in being bored to death by a long harangue about what has not been done by a few who do not see their duty clearly and act accordingly.

Charges of graft and misappropriation of public funds, hurled back and forth from the opposite political benches in the House of Commons, should not be taken lightly by the voter, even though the charges are sometimes made for political reasons. Such charges should always be investigated and the public should know the truth, and wherever crooked practices are exposed those responsible should suffer, no matter what their politics. Graft and money-grabbing should be driven out of Canada, so that there would never be grounds for accusations such as we have heard in the past.

"Better Stock and More of It".

"Better stock and more of it!" This was the object of all the live-stock meetings held in Toronto last week, and the breeders attending these meetings have done much to place Canadian live-stock husbandry on the high plane it now occupies. All the leading live-stock societies and associations represented in the meetings last week had experienced a prosperous year. The demand has been good and stockmen, with the exception of those overloaded with horses, have had a good year. When we stop to think of it, stockmen generally have a good year. We are glad that they were able to report a prosperous year 1915. However, none should feel satisfied unless he has contributed his share toward better stock and more of it. There is never too much of the best; there may be a surplus, at times, of the common and inferior class. Right now we hear a great deal about world shortages in beef and sheep, and about the great live-stock loss of Europe. Are our stockmen prepared or preparing to strengthen Canada's position? Read the reports of the meetings in this issue and be convinced. British stockmen see a boom ahead for good live stock. Canada should do a little "boosting", too, for there are in this country many herds from which the best of foundation stock may be selected. Let every breeder breed the best stock he can and then "boost." You know, the English stock breeder is said to be just beginning to find out that unless he "boosts" a little, Canada, United States, Argentina, New Zealand, etc., are going to get the trade. So much has the English breeder taken this to heart that the leading editorial in a recent issue of the "Live Stock Journal" was headed, "Stand England Where She Did?," and in it the writer made it plain that English stockmen must do a little "boosting" too. It is safe to "boost" when we have something worth while. Canadian stockmen have the goods and are endeavoring to improve them each year. Let us all be alive to conditions, advertise and "boost" the best business for the general farmer and sell nothing for breeding purposes but that which should do the buyer good.

Opportunity and a Responsibility.

One of the drawbacks from which agriculture has suffered in the past has been the lack of men who could go on the public platform and express their ideas clearly, logically, and with such force that listeners were compelled to think hard upon the subject under discussion. True, many of our ablest platform orators were born in the country, but most of them drifted cityward in early life, and there learned by experience to think on their feet. Now, most of Canada's intelligent young farmers and farm boys can, and do, think deeply into the questions of the day. They have clear ideas on many subjects which, in the ordinary conversation between themselves and their fellows, they express without fear or trembling; but, if called upon to express the same ideas from the public platform, the ideas are gone and the only thing the young speaker can think about is how quickly he can get back to his seat. The art of public speaking is not the easiest thing in the world to master, but practice will work wonders. Any young man who is a good farmer, who reads and thinks, can make of himself a public speaker, if he has the opportunity in his early life of getting the necessary practice in addressing meetings of one kind and another. And he can make the opportunity. We recently had the privilege of attending a banquet tendered by a Junior Farmers' Improvement Association, which has been doing a great work, not only in experimentation in farm work, but in practice in public speaking. At that meeting upwards of forty young men, every one a farmer and the son of a farmer, spoke—some for a minute, others for five minutes, and it was a treat to

see how well they had mastered themselves and could think on their feet and say what they thought. We venture to say that in a gathering of all the fathers of the boys not all could have been induced to get up and speak even for the short time of one minute. But father had not the opportunity that his son now has.

At the meeting were a few young men who had had some experience in a literary and debating society and some of these men, we venture to say, are the coming orators of Canada, if they keep up their practice. Every young man should accept every opportunity offered to get upon his feet and speak in public. Each time up makes it easier next time. Never mind the nervousness and possible breakdowns. Some of the best orators the world has ever seen are nervous when delivering their messages, but the nervousness is overcome by confidence, which aids them to think as they go along. They have mastered themselves. We have a good word to say for literary and debating societies, for Farmers' Clubs, for Junior Farmers' Improvement Organizations, and for all societies which train young men, and older men, too, to think and to speak. The young farmer has a duty to himself, to agriculture and to his country. He is the farmer of the future. He is the man who must in the near future take an important part in the affairs of this country. He can and should prepare, and now. We would urge that every farming community organize some sort of society or club for the men and women, particularly the young men and young women, and so arrange meetings that all must take some part. Nothing will do more to promote good feeling, neighborliness and the right community spirit. Nothing would cause the young people to think more and study deeper. Nothing would so prepare our young people for the duties of their older life. Our young people must take more interest in politics—not in partyism, but in the affairs of state which directly affect them in their every-day life. It is their duty to help eliminate the grafter, to prepare to take their places in the affairs of municipality, Province and Dominion. Canada needs young farmers who think and are prepared to vote as they think; not as the party leanings of "father" direct. In local societies the young people give themselves the necessary start in training. Nothing is more needed; few things are so invaluable. Begin now. What others have done you can do.

Be Timely!

Procrastination is said to be the thief of time, and yet many people go through life showing by their actions that they consider it not wise to do to-day what can conveniently be put off until to-morrow. On some farms this doctrine is in evidence, and is responsible for the farmer being always behind with his work, which leads to discouragement, in many cases, and finally to failure. There is a certain time when every operation on the farm should and can be done. To-morrow always brings its own work to require attention.

During the winter months, work is not usually rushing and there is plenty of time to have things ready for the busy days of seeding, when every hour counts. Now is the time to break in the colt that is supposed to do its share of work in the spring. By using it at light work about the place, the shoulders become toughened and the mouth hardened to the bit, thus putting the young animal in condition to stand steady work when the time comes. It seems hard for some farmers to get the seed grain ready before it is required to sow, consequently good seed cannot always be secured, and an inferior sample must be sown, resulting in a reduced yield at harvest time. Once the land is fit to work, no time should be lost in getting the seed in the ground, as delay means dollars later on.