

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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a few and if it does is good as far as it goes. It may also lead to something better in the form of larger loans to better farmers for longer periods at a fair rate of interest. And, by the way, November 1 is a bad date to have payment coming due. Farmers have enough to meet around October 1 and November 1. Rents, taxes, interests, notes, threshing, silo-filling—so many debts must be met then that the producer is sometimes forced to rush the bulk of his crop to market as soon as it is threshed, or, if it be live stock, before it is well finished. A farmer who has had to meet fall payments would never state November 1 for such loans, if he could help it. A start has been made. There is room for more work in this direction.

A Big Task for Big Men,

In the city in which this is written bread is just twice the price it was one year ago, and prospects are that unless something is done to curb speculation it will go still higher. The consumer is ready to blame the farmer for holding his wheat and forcing up prices. Such is not the case. While some producers held a few bushels it is a fact that eighty per cent. of Canada's 1916 wheat crop left the farmers hands at an average price of \$1.40 per bushel, or less. It is also a fact that upwards of 100,000,000 bushels of wheat is still in this country. Does it not seem a shame that the food speculator should be able to so toy with the bread of the common people?

Recruiting in Canada is practically at a standstill at the present time. The home defence force is not growing rapidly. The overseas forces are not being augmented to a sufficient degree to fill the gaps. There is no system yet. While one calls on the farmer to produce, another calls on his son to enlist.

Canada must grow food, and Canada must conserve food. National resources of all kinds must be carefully looked after. The world is not likely to produce enough food in 1917 to feed the people until the 1918 crop is harvested, and the reserves are running low. Canada needs a rejuvenated agriculture, a campaign of thrift in cities and high places. Only to-day we read that 5,000 hired men could be used on the farms of one county in Western Ontario. Thousands have left these

same farms for the city. What will take them back and make them happy on the land? If politicians do not know, it is their duty to make an earnest attempt to find out.

Canada welcomed Premier Borden back from the Old Land last week. He has a big task ahead of him. It behooves both sides of politics at Ottawa, at Toronto, and at every other Provincial Capital, to forget partyism and stop seeking party advantage at this time. Surely some of the men elected are big enough to put the country and its big affairs ahead of their party and its littleness. A few have shown that they are, but alas, too many on both sides of the House have continued rank partisans, opposing everything the other side proposed. People are tired of petty, party politics. They are looking for bigger things from big men. Sometimes they wonder whether the men in political life, Liberals and Conservatives alike, measure up to some of the big men in private life. We are sorry that some indications would lead to the opinion that they do not. The opportunity to show their mettle is now before them. The situation demands radical and immediate action.

The following paragraph from a letter of one of our correspondents, a man who is in touch with conditions, should set all thinking:

"I have been very much interested in the production campaign, in the work of the Resources Commission, and I have also given particular note to the prospects of crops and products in almost every country in the world. I must say I view the situation with alarm. If ever there was a time that we needed action we do now, and according to my opinion, if it is not taken there is a very serious time ahead. There seem to me to be two salient features arising out of the present situation, first, there is no prospect of produce sufficient to feed the allies and neutrals this year; secondly, the carry-over of supplies from last year is very much less than any former year, and if we do not care for what we have and cut out all waste, the situation will be much worse than any of us anticipate. The production campaign is now one of next year and it seems to me the great issue is conserving what we have."

Things Worth While.

There was held in the City of London, Ontario, a short time ago the thirty-third annual banquet of the Baconian Club, the oldest literary club of that city. One of the guests of the evening was J.L. Payne, Comptroller of Statistics, Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, and the first President of the Club. His address entitled "Some Things Worth While" was so good that we thought it would be decidedly worth while for all readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" to peruse it carefully. Mr. Payne is not a stranger to Farmer's Advocate subscribers. His most excellent article "Romance and Reality in Canadian Railway Enterprise", published in the half-century special Christmas number, December 9, 1915, was one of the outstanding features of that big historical issue. Read Mr. Payne's address which follows:

What a privilege to be alive in this year of grace 1917, when the greatest struggle in all history is in progress, and out of which must emerge a new world! Out of the chastening pressure of the war has sprung an insistent demand for two things: Production and reduction—the production of essentials and the reduction of waste.

The first has brought the consumer face to face with the problem of helping to meet his own need for food. Hence, vacant lot gardening, and much effort in other directions.

While engaged in this wholesome, though perhaps wearisome work, the pensive citizen may begin to enquire with a new interest into the why of some things. That it will do him a vast amount of good, because he has hitherto paid the bills without doing any analytical thinking worth mentioning. He will not have to probe very deeply until he will find that the unprecedented cost of flour, butter, cheese, eggs and so on has little to do with the operations of the law of supply and demand in the legitimate sense.

The thing we call a market, has for a long time really ceased to be. There is certainly no place where the actual producer and the actual consumer can meet. What has happened will all become quite plain to the man who investigates. Prices are high simply because the many producers have parted with their products at a nominal figure to a highly organized few middlemen, who store them and proceed to bid them up among themselves on what they call the Produce Exchange. The genuine demand cannot have increased in the face of the fact that at least 5,000 consumers are being killed per day; but the supply is in the hands of a relatively small body of greedy and unscrupulous men who have capitalized the abnormal difficulties of transportation to their personal advantage. The so-called market price merely represents the triumph of organization over

disorganization. The controllers of supply are highly organized; consumers are without a trace of organization. It will be worth while for consumers to get together and make this legalized piracy illegal. Incidentally, if the pirates can be made to disgorge it may prevent buccaneering in the future. The philosophy of the thing is quite simple. On one hand you have the producer; on the other the consumer. Each is dependent on the other. Therefore, simple prudence and sanity demand that they should co-operate. The consumer owes to the producer a fair measure of profit on his investment, skill and labor. He is under no obligation whatever to the producer for having produced. If a shortage occurs or any hindrance arises, their interests are still mutual. The producer has no right to get a higher price. If production is prolific, the consumer should still continue to pay a reasonable price. That is fair play. It is hideously wrong to tamper with the bread of the common people. Wheat at \$3 per bushel represents somebody's crime. It is the result of getting control of the available supply—which, by the way, is just now more than adequate—under abnormal conditions. There is no shortage; there is simply the interference of war between the owner of the wheat and the consumer abroad. No one has a right to capitalize such conditions. It is worth while being aroused to a full appreciation of the cause of high food prices, and then control will be asserted. To say otherwise, is to assume that some men, with interests in common, are incapable of co-operating.

The call for reduction of waste was much needed to a people gone made in reckless spending. At one stroke it has given us all but Dominion-wide prohibition—a thing which would probably not have been brought about for a very long time by the old campaigning methods. Men who are not abstainers have recognized the fact that alcohol is opposed to efficiency, and efficiency is the slogan of our day.

This campaign, however, deals for the most part with material things. Very good. But there is such a thing as saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung. The life of a nation is not wholly centered in business, nor can all that is real prosperity be reckoned in dollars and cents. A sound sense of proportion demands that regard shall be had for other things that attach to the well-being of a nation.

No nation is stronger than the aggregate of its basic unit, and that basic unit is the home.

What has been the conspicuous social phenomenon of our time? To my mind it is the restlessness of women. Not only in extravagance, in feverish searching for novelty, in departures from the ordained order has it been given play. It has insisted on the elimination of the limitations which have for all past centuries attached to sex. It has reached out for the franchise, and practically got it. It has asserted very loudly that the existing status of the sexes is adverse to women. As a man such a reproach against men grieves me. It ignores the inestimable value of chivalry and deference, as well as the service which all good men cheerfully give to good women. What was that chivalry worth to every woman on the Titanic?

The vote is but a primary step. Logically, if women vote they must also help to administer and make the laws. This will mean a tremendous addition to their responsibilities. I do not for one moment raise the question of right or of capacity. Both are frankly conceded. But I do raise the question of expediency.

It is worth while to pause right at this supremely critical juncture and seek very earnestly for a clear sense of real values; and this question is at once suggested. Is the home in jeopardy? I think it is.

We have been plunging fiercely ahead in many wrong directions, and I identify a great many things that are regrettable with the manifest desire of women to elaborate their engagements and activities. God bless them for what they have done in connection with the war. It has been splendid beyond praise. But the things I have in mind began long before the outbreak of war. What we need above all things, in order to restore the power and divinely ordained purpose of the home, is a reversion in many respects to the simple life. Our hope in this regard is wholly in our women. If they fail us, then God help us!

My next thought carries me to perhaps more exalted, yet co-related, ground. I have said, wholly without pessimism, that some movements which have taken place have been in the wrong direction. There is at least one which fills me with profound satisfaction, because it is very much in the right direction.

The battle of the creeds is fast ebbing. The war has silenced much of the clashing of tongues. For centuries men cut each other's throats over such abstract questions as transubstantiation. You could not get up an argument to-day on any subject of that character. Nobody cares.

By a happy process of development the truth is surely gaining acceptance among the Christian nations that all true religion is expressed, not in creeds, but in terms of service.

The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man is being recognized as the foundation of all that the Divine Master taught.

As that idea takes full and positive possession of the consciousness of the people at large it is certain to bring marvellous changes. Denominationalism, with the sad spectacle of a divided Christendom, will crumble. Unity will succeed to separation. The organized forces for good will grow in power.

It is worth while to see in the working out of this vast Christian democracy the solution of our gravest troubles. Wars will be impossible. Socialism will cease as a disturbing agency in many of its irrational forms and become a thing of safe application. Capital and