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EDITORIAL.

We wish the producers of Canada a Happy New Year and a prosperous 1919.

Make up a supply of whippetrees and doubletrees; they will be needed next spring.

Read and discuss current topics at your local clubs; there are usually several sides to a question.

Obtain your supply of corn and grass seeds early. Red clover is sure to be high in price and scarce.

Plant trees in memory of our fallen heroes. Such will be a more fitting and lasting monument than stone or marble.

Live stock will be the sheet anchor of Canadian agriculture. Look well to the size and quality of your herds and flocks.

Breeders of pure-bred stock will probably find time during the winter months to handle the young stuff and make it tractable.

There is an insistent demand for consolidated schools in Ontario, to which the Minister of Education can well give consideration.

Finish the cattle and hogs before shipping them. Half-finished stock is a poor advertisement on any market, and bad for business.

Towns, cities, manufacturers and all have publicity agents, why not agricultural publicity agents to place unbiased information before the consuming public.

Turn out and vote at the municipal election. There is need of big, broad-minded business men in municipal affairs, and you cannot put them there if you don't vote.

The Packers are asking to be allowed to make more than 11 per cent. on their invested capital. Farmers have long been asking for the privilege of making even half that amount.

Go over the wagons and implements during the winter months; tighten up the loose nuts, replace the broken parts, paint the wood-work, and oil the metal parts to prevent rust.

Roads have been very bad in some districts this fall. If the road-drag had been used to fill up the ruts the water would have drained off, making a better road this fall, and the good effect would be noticeable next spring.

Now that the country is encumbered with a heavy national debt and production is of paramount importance, any monies taken out of the public treasury to provide employment should be expended in such a way as to increase the output. A through highway for long-distance motoring will certainly yield no revenue; it will be more of a liability than an asset, so far as returns are concerned. We need good roads, but we require them leading into the marketing centres. Long-distance travelling can be done more cheaply by rail and we have railroads well distributed. The railway stations and the market centres should be linked up with the side roads and concessions by good roads, but joyriders should not press their demands for an expensive thoroughfare that will not assist materially in meeting our financial obligations.

More Government Action Needed.

It seems necessary at this very critical period to urge upon the Government of Canada the extreme need of immediate action in regard to certain agricultural matters. The Cabinet, no doubt, is burdened with the stupendous problems of reconstruction, but it appears that the lack of action in one particular direction is bound to cost this Dominion millions of dollars and retard our agricultural development to a lamentable extent. We refer to the consideration (or rather the lack of it) which the Government has given to the live-stock industry during the last few months, and particularly during the weeks subsequent to November 11, when the armistice went into effect. Live stock is mentioned particularly for the simple reason that our prosperity as farmers depends upon it absolutely. Grain prices will come down considerably when the 400,000,000 bushels of wheat in Australia and Argentina begin to move freely towards the empty cupboards of Europe. Not so with meat animals and animal products, for the decrease of 6,506,000 cattle, 2,430,600 sheep and 24,710,000 pigs in six of the principal countries of Europe alone insures a strong and insistent demand for years to come. These figures were made public by the Food Controller, and they represent decreases that will require years to make up. The values of live stock and animal products will, no doubt, drop below their present levels, nevertheless there is only one way out, and that is to convert the produce of our farms into live stock and liquate our production through such channels as the stock yards and the packing house.

There is also another phase of the matter which is of paramount importance to every Canadian citizen. We have a huge national debt and enormous obligations which will require an unprecedented volume of exports to ward off national bankruptcy. This necessitates still greater production on the farms and in the factories. More than that, the products of the farms represent real wealth to an unparalleled degree, and of this the Government must be aware.

With these incontrovertible facts in mind, one cannot help but wonder at the little progress made looking to the upbuilding of agriculture and the stability of our markets. There will be competition, keen competition, and other countries have had commissions in England and Europe for weeks sending instructions home to their people. Dr. J. W. Robertson accompanied Canada's delegation overseas, but he must be introduced to the conferences as representing Canada's agricultural past, not her present. He has done a great work in years gone by, but Dr. Robertson is not the man the industry would have chosen at this time. There is a demand on the part of producers for an influential representative in Europe right now to take part in the deliberations going on there, and to follow him with a representative or representatives "to obtain the fullest possible recognition for Canadian agricultural products."

At the meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, held in Winnipeg, the last week in November, H. W. Wood, of Calgary, Alta., and W. A. Dryden, of Brooklyn, Ont., were recommended to the Government as suitable representatives to proceed overseas in the interests of grain and live stock, respectively. Mr. Wood found it impossible to leave and Mr. Maharg has gone in his place, accompanied by Norman Lambert, Secretary of the Council. Two weeks elapsed and Mr. Dryden had no request from the Government to serve his country in this capacity, and, so far as we know at time of writing, the request has never been received. Mr. Dryden would have been favored with the unanimous endorsement of the men engaged in the industry, but there was a hitch somewhere, and from all appearances the matter of a live-stock representative is still in abeyance.

Nine months ago there was being discussed an elaborate program embracing improvement in ship-

ping, railway transportation and accommodation at Eastern terminals or harbor fronts so that air-controlled space would be available in cars and steamships, making it possible to export chilled meats and compete with other countries who are already ahead of us in this regard. This meant a large abattoir and cold-storage facilities situated at an Atlantic port, and a year-round trade in animal products with the Mother Country and Europe. Besides bolstering up and stabilizing the whole live-stock industry in Canada, the move was destined to awaken the Eastern Provinces and give the vast territory lying between the city of Quebec and Sydney, Cape Breton, a market for meat animals such as has never been enjoyed before. If this program is ever carried out it will mean increased production amounting to millions of dollars in Eastern Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and the project will cost in the neighborhood of only \$500,000. The Live Stock Commissioner and the Canadian Live Stock Council have been working in harmony on this great scheme, and apparently the Minister of Agriculture was sympathetic, for at the Central Canada Exhibition, in Ottawa, Mr. Crerar, while not committing himself, made very significant public utterances, and the stockmen as a result were very optimistic. However, nothing has been done, and it seems that in some way or other the Government's attention has been diverted to improvements at Montreal. Work and money expended there will only have a local influence, and will not satisfy the live-stock men who have become enthused with the importance of the project farther east, at a port open the year round.

The Government has arranged for a certain amount of credit to France and Belgium to strengthen our market, but that will not satisfy the producers. There will be an appeal made to increase our live-stock holdings and improve the quality of our live stock, but this will be abortive if the Government does not take immediate action looking to the development of a permanent and extensive export trade in chilled beef and animal products. Producers must have a palpable guarantee of protection against the losses arising out of poor trade facilities and connections, and moreover they will demand protection from the powerful interests through whose hands the products will pass. The Minister of Agriculture must impress this upon his colleagues at once, and the Minister of Finance and Acting Premier will surely be interested (and he has already expressed himself as such) if he is giving proper attention to the future financial situation in this country. The Government must lead off, then the country will follow.

Breed Sows, Don't Sell Them!

Our hog population is more subject to fluctuation than that of any other class of live stock. It is easy to get into and out of hogs. However, when one follows the crowd, he is usually in when the price is low and out when the price is high. That is one factor that makes for high and low prices, namely, the flow and ebb of the supply. We have been passing through abnormal times. Hogs were increased, but the exceptional demand more than counterbalanced the offerings. Many are beginning to fear that the cessation of hostilities will soon cause the demand to lessen and prices to recede. Some thought should be given to this matter, for it is a complicated one.

No doubt when the stimulating influences of war cease to affect the market for hog products, the prices will drop somewhat, but on the other hand there is the effect of the war to be considered, and the terrible rent it has made in European swine production. Instead of curtailing our market, the armistice and coming peace have widened it. Germany's pigs have decreased, the Food Controller says, to the extent of 19,000,000. France has suffered a decrease of almost 3,000,000, and Denmark, our greatest rival on the British market,