

# Farm and Dairy

## Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."  
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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.  
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

Read not to contradict and to confuse nor to believe and take for granted, but to reach the truth.

## The War is Over

THE war is over. How inspiring was the glad announcement. With what joy we delight to repeat it. How it has changed the face of things! With what new hope and confidence do we look forward to the future. Great are the national and international problems that confront us. Yet now that the ever-present burden of the war has been lifted we are conscious of a new hope and renewed faith in the future. We almost delight in the thought that at last we are free to grapple with them now that the long, dreary Premier Lloyd George took a similar stand in Great Britain. We now know that about that time the pestilence broke out among the German forces and helped to hold up their offensive. The tide of victory quickly set in on the side of the allies and has since been unbroken ever since. To-day, months sooner than we then had any reason to expect, we are rejoicing in victory. This is more than a coincidence. In the midst of our thanksgiving then let us give praise to Him to whom we turned in the hour of our darkest need and remind ourselves that He has answered our petitions even more speedily than our poor faith at that time enabled us to expect.

## The Problems of Peace

THE great world war, with the changed international relationships that it has effected, has created new world problems, the magnitude of which cannot be fully grasped. The mere suggestion of a league of nations to maintain world peace and

promote better relationships among nations is wonderfully attractive and appealing, yet the problems it creates are stupendous. Such a league would be an international standing army. How is the size of that army to be determined? What proportion of it shall each nation maintain? How will the league raise the funds to meet its requirements? Such dissension arises among any group of nations over the decisions of the Parliament or Council of Nations, what is to prevent their uniting to defy the other nations concerned? What relationship shall such a League of Nations have with the yellow race of the east? Will they be admitted or excluded? These are only a few of the problems that confront us as we face the future of the new civilization of the world.

Our own national problems are, in proportion, no less great. One of the tragedies of the war is that in spite of its awful cost in blood and suffering, and in its wastage of wealth, it has done nothing to solve the issues that distracted us before it began. The differences between capital and labor are even more acute than before. Rural depopulation is continuing and with it the menacing, because unnatural, growth of our great cities in which social unrest is ever becoming more apparent. Fortunes are still being piled up by the few, while the poor are still suffering. There poverty is being increased by the solution of the increased cost of living has been found. Strikes on an ever increasing scale are becoming more frequent and far reaching in their effects.

Farmers, as a class, should lose no time in facing these increasingly important issues. It is fortunate that the Canadian Council of Agriculture is to meet this month to discuss them. Experience has shown that we cannot safely leave their solution in the hands of others not so well posted on agricultural conditions as a farmer without danger of our interests being overlooked. Wise leadership is needed at this time as never before. Let us recognize the responsibilities and difficult character of the duties the leaders in the farmers' movement have undertaken to face and give them the loyal united support they need at this time.

## Are Farmers Well Organized?

THE approximately 70,000 organized farmers of Canada believe that through their various provincial associations, headed up as the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the farmers of Canada now have a national organization that adequately meets their needs. This claim is being disputed in some quarters. Recently there was gained a Canadian Live Stock Council composed of representatives from the leading breeders' associations of the country. There are organizations representing the cooperative wool growers, poultry producers, fruit growers and other similar branches of farming. It is now being claimed that a league should be made for these various organizations to affiliate with the Canadian Council of Agriculture. This proposal is being supported in influential quarters and soon may have to be considered carefully.

Farm and Dairy believes that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, as constituted at present, meets our present needs. Any breeder of live stock, wool grower, poultry producer, or other person interested in any special line of farming, is at perfect liberty to join their local farmers' club, or to join the provincial association identified through it with the provincial organization and the Canadian Council of Agriculture. One objection to including some of the organizations that it is suggested should be affiliated with the Council of Agriculture is that they receive government grants and in many cases have government officials holding prominent positions on their boards of management. The organized farmers from the start have aimed to keep themselves entirely aloof from any government of any kind. In this we believe they have acted wisely.

Were the various groups that have been mentioned to be allowed to affiliate with the Council of Agriculture, it would mean that the people associated with these groups would have double opportunity to bring their influence to bear in the control of the Council of Agriculture. Should they find it impossible to bring their influence to bear through their local clubs they would then seek to establish a connection through their breeders' or other organizations with the Council of Agriculture. It is to be expected, and we believe does, represent all classes of farmers. Why breeders or any other class of men should desire to receive special recognition and not be willing to identify themselves with the movement through their local clubs, we fail to see. Very strong reasons will have to be shown why the Council of Agriculture as at present constituted, fails to meet the needs of all classes of farmers before it will be wise to change the existing form of organization. In expressing this view we have no thought of disparaging the ex-

cellent work the various classes of organizations mentioned are accomplishing. They are all working along important lines and in special fields of their own. These fields, however, are radically different from that of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, which includes in its membership all classes of farmers and therefore deals with excellent reason to have the right to represent their interests in the field it covers.

## Lack of Machinery Retards Production

WITH the cessation of the great war it is estimated that 250 million extra people in Europe alone will be more or less dependent on the allies for food. The feeding of these millions of semi-starved people is bound to increase the demand for food stuffs from this continent. Conditions there will still exist for another year or more as great or perhaps greater demands for increased food production. Every possible means will be employed to produce to the limit.

Man power is not the only limiting element in food production. Of almost equal significance, are horse power and farm machinery. To supply food production we must maintain the usual number of kinds of machinery used on the farm, and above all repairs. Horse power, however, has not seriously affected production, as its lack has been largely offset by tractor power. There seems to be no danger of a horse power shortage, but there is a possibility of a serious shortage of the supply of farm machinery.

In pre-war days, farm machinery was comparatively cheap and plentiful. In the rush and stress of farm work, it was often thrown aside in every way to discard old machinery when it broke down, and a new one rather than lose valuable time waiting for repairs to come from the shop or factory. Consequently, many a valuable implement has been sent away for the fence corner, under a tree in mud and rust while its successor goes on with the war.

It is not the cost of the repairs that tempts us to discard their old implement and furnish the replacement for buying now; but simply the desire to avoid delay in work. Once the new machine is on the job it is easier to use it to repair the old and so rule only one machine at a time is required. Consequently the discarded machine which was perfectly good, except for some insignificant part, sometimes costing but little, is unintentionally discarded for all time.

It is said that the life of a binder is three or four years. Supporting the war we have to take six years as an estimate, there are few farms that can binder more than ten days each season in the actual cutting of grain. According to that contention the actual working days of the average machine was 30 or 40 days, eighty or ninety days of use under the two or three thousand days of lifetime is a heavy charge against the farmers cost of operation. This is even more true now than before the war when binders cost \$150, as against \$350 or more now. A binder could be made to last at least eight or ten years. Eighty or ninety days of service do not justify the expenditure. Not many farmers would see costly buildings if they did not last any longer proportion than the binder.

The time has come when it is not only costly to place worn out machinery, but it is even doubtful if it can be replaced to the extent necessary to maintain production. Careful housing and repairing during the winter months will add years to the life of farm machinery. War industries have been manufacturing almost all of the machinery available for labor and it would be a pity if production were retarded, through avoidable wastes of farm machinery.

## What Victory Loan Means to the Farmer

THE 1917 Victory Loan enabled the Dominion Government to advance—  
\$100,000,000 to finance last year's wheat crop also  
Nearly another \$100,000,000 to finance the sale of live stock products to Great Britain; also  
Nearly \$40,000,000 to finance exports of cheese to Great Britain.

The 1918 Victory Loan will enable the Dominion Government to finance the sale of the wheat crop to Great Britain; also  
To finance the sale of beef, pork and other live stock products.  
To finance exports of cheese, butter, eggs and condensed milk to Great Britain.

Great Britain will take Canada's agricultural products, but cannot pay cash. The Dominion Government must finance the sales.

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