

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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Liberal, who would make your own constituency a good representative and who would make a sensible and sane legislator for your country? Certainly there is. Every rural constituency has its able Liberals and able Conservatives but until they shake off a little of their ultra-partyism the party will see to it that these men are not able to get a nomination, let alone an election. It would be ridiculous for cities and towns to elect farmer representatives; it is just as ridiculous for country constituencies to elect men representing all manner of city enterprise, professions and business. Surely there is something wrong when agriculture, even to the heads of Departments of Agriculture, must look to other professions for leadership. Progress depends upon farmers themselves.

Two Questions,

We found two enquiries in the mail one day last week, one of a practical nature dealing with the operation of a farm, the other of a different class, probably a little more theoretical, and dealing with the operation of a Department of Agriculture. Here are the questions: "What would you do if you were a farmer on 150 acres of land in Old Ontario, with labor as scarce as it now is?" and, "What would you do if you were Minister or Commissioner of Agriculture in Ontario?" Now wouldn't that almost phase you? We started in to answer them in the order received. Having a liking for sheep and all kinds of live stock we advised the farmer to keep a large flock of sheep if possible. Of course it would be necessary to work into them gradually if his experience in sheep breeding was limited. We advised the keeping of as much good live stock as he could attend to and the farm would carry, and in every case favored well-bred, high-quality animals. For work horses we would have, in so far as possible, heavy draft bred mares to work and raise foals, and would plan wide implements so as to work four-horse teams wherever possible. The class of cattle would depend somewhat on the district and upon the inclinations of the farmer. Beef would be less work than dairy, but the latter might be the more profitable. In any case at least two good brood sows would be kept and their four litters of pigs raised each year. Then the farm

would have at least 100 hens bred to lay, whether they did or not. If they didn't we would change the breed or the strain of the breed. We went on to divide the farm into large fields, practice a short rotation of crops, put in all the handy appliances in the house and barn and to make the place a model farm at a cost of several thousands of dollars.

Then we looked at the other question: "What would you do if you were Minister or Commissioner of Agriculture in Ontario?" We had been telling the farmer to "keep" this and to "keep" that and we found that "keeping", or rather getting so many things to "keep", costs a lot of money so we thought we would try a change. We decided not to "keep" so much, or so many, we just forget which word we used, and started in to cull the flock thereby showing our amateurishness. We got along nicely. Several "heads" had already fallen when we suddenly remembered something. We had decided that the head of the Department of Agriculture in Ontario should have only one deputy or assistant, but we bethought ourselves. This would mean only one advisor. No. It could not be done. We would have to have more help than that to keep busy. And besides, what would be the use of a Commissioner of Agriculture with nobody to "commish?" So we kept the lot. Changes are not impossible. However, we got the questions answered satisfactorily don't you think?

Matters of History.

BY FETER MCARTHUR.

And now Russia has wakened up and rolled over. What next? We have become so accustomed to great events that we seem to have lost our capacity for feeling surprised. A few years ago the Russian revolution would have filled us with amazement but now it fails to stir. I even heard people laugh when they spoke of it. We have "supped full of horrors" and have come to expect world-shaking events in every day's news. It has been said that "history repeats itself" and it seems as if all the history there has been were repeating itself in these crowded days. It seems as if the great drama of life were now moving rapidly towards some smashing climax. Great battles, revolutions and the fall of dynasties merely excite our interest. We seem to have developed to a point where we can stand unabashed—

Amidst the wars of elements,
the wrecks of matter and the crush of worlds.

What is it all leading to? Where will it end? The forces that are at work are beyond human comprehension and no one can predict the result with certainty. Statesmen and leaders are hurled hither and thither by movements which they are vainly striving to control. Perhaps the most significant thing of all is that the plain people are aroused and more conscious of their power than ever before. In the British Empire it is the driving force of the people back of Lloyd-George, a man of the people, that is causing the war to be prosecuted with such admirable vigor. In Russia the people are now in control and in France they have been in control from the beginning. The overthrow of the Romanoffs makes clear the fact that this is a war of the peoples for democratic freedom and it is not impossible that the enemy may soon see that the one door of escape is to brush aside their rulers and let the plain people make peace with the democracies with which they are at war. It is possible that the Russian revolution is the greatest step towards peace that has been made since the outbreak of the war.

In all military organizations great stress is laid on the virtue of obedience. Obedience to orders is certainly necessary to military success, but in this war we seem to be developing a new kind of obedience that augurs well for the future. Our obedience is voluntary rather than compulsory. It is really co-operation, and the fact that we are able to co-operate in the gigantic operations that are in progress shows that the world has moved forward. Where the people co-operate every man is his own ruler and if he obeys orders he is simply supporting a power which he has helped to create and of which he is a part. By co-operating in this war the Dominions have not given up any part of their right of self-government. On the contrary they have shown themselves entirely worthy of enjoying the privilege, and when peace is declared they will go back to self-government on a surer basis than ever before. That they should offer to obey orders in this crisis shows that they understand the need of the hour and it is folly to suppose that they will be willing to take orders from an outside authority when the crisis has passed. They are showing obedience because they are strong, rather than because they are weak, and the work they are doing in the war will increase their self confidence instead of destroying it. Terrible as the time is, the outlook for democracy is better than ever before in the world's history.

Those who undertake to speak for the members of the Round Table have assured me that they have no scheme for the re-organization of the Empire. They are merely willing to discuss plans for a re-organization and are willing to consider anything. That is all very well, but I think they are making a mistake in assuming that

the Empire needs to be reorganized. Before asking for plans by which a change is to be effected they should prove that a change is necessary or that a large portion of the people want one. I have failed to discover any crying need of a change or anything like a popular demand for it. But since these public-spirited gentlemen are undertaking to grapple with the problems of a reorganized Empire there is important work that they can do right now. Let them devote their best thought to formulating a practical scheme for the settlement of the Irish question. Whatever is done about the Empire, whether it is reorganized or not, something must be done to solve the Irish question. It will be a part of the Empire in any case. If our friends of the Round Table can show themselves capable of grappling successfully with the Irish question we will be much more willing to listen to what they may have to offer regarding the Empire as a whole. The keynote of the Round Table movement is loyalty, but there is such a thing as being loyal beyond one's capacity. There is much more true loyalty in doing practical things than in dreaming dreams that no man is capable of working out. The people are showing their faculty for co-operating in defence of the Empire, and it strikes me that this is a surer guarantee of the future of the Empire than any all-embracing scheme that can be devised. In the meantime it might be a good idea for the Empire reorganizers to show us how they would deal with one detail of the great work—the pacification of Ireland. Everyone admits the need of such a plan right now.

At a time when history is being made so rapidly we have an opportunity to catch a glimpse of some of the principles that underlie the development of nations. Although history concerns itself chiefly with what a Swiss statesman once described as "The never-ending folly of ruling persons", the progress of nations depends chiefly on the conduct of citizens. The greatness of a nation depends on the quality of its citizenship and it is worthy of notice that during past wars, and even revolutions, the mass of the people went on with their work and everyday duties, much as usual. Because they did this, when the war was over its scars were quickly healed. As long as the plain people remain true to their ideals, no storms that governments may raise or confront can have a lasting effect. The people of any nation are practically unconquerable no matter what may happen to their governments. Even when conquered, a powerful nationality will in a short time absorb its conquerors and the established type will prevail. Of course the present war has come home to a greater proportion of the people of the various nations engaged, than any previous war, but it is probable that the same law will act. The fact that the people are called upon to produce and carry on their business as usual shows that they are expected to play their usual part and save the nation. Because of this no man, no matter how humbly placed, need despair of playing his part in winning the war and establishing the nation. For him the duty nearest to hand is still the paramount duty, in peace as well as in war. Our soldiers may win victories and protect our liberties but national growth depends on the honest efforts of the people who remain at home. This year both will do their utmost.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. FLUGH, M. A.

I have received the following letter from W. A. Grant, of Becker, Ont. "There has been a bird in the spruce grove around the house for the past six weeks, and I would like to know its history if you can make it out from this description:

"It is about the shape of a robin but not quite so large. It is crimson in color, the upper part of the wing being somewhat grey. It has a crest on its head, similar to the Blue Jay. It is the first I have seen in this part."

From Mr. Grant's good description it is quite plain that this bird is a Cardinal, a species otherwise known as the Redbird, Warbird and Kentucky Cardinal.

The Cardinal is a common resident in the eastern portion of the United States from Northern Florida and Texas north to Southern New York, Ohio and Iowa. The male is as described by Mr. Grant, the female being olive-brown above, the crest, wings and tail being dull red, edged with olive-brown, the breast buff, tinged with red, and the abdomen paler.

The Cardinal is a bird which is extending its range in Canada. It was first reported in Canada from Pt. Pelee by Dr. Brodie in 1879, then from Dunnville, on the southwestern border of Ontario, by Dr. MacCallum, about 1882, and about the same time Mr. Norval reported one or two at Port Rowan. Since that time it has been recorded from the following localities: St. Thomas by Mr. Foster; London by W. C. Saunders and Mr. Keays; Aylmer by Mr. Scott; Salem, Wellington County, by the writer; Guelph by F. N. Beattie; Kilworth by Mr. Thompson; Weston by Thompson-Seton; Penetanguishene by A. F. Young; Toronto by J. H. Fleming; Chatham and Rondeau by Mr. Keays, and Point Pelee by Mr. Keays and Mr. Taverner.

One notable peculiarity about these records, which are nearly all for single birds, is that they were mostly made in the winter time. This is true of the Kilworth, Guelph, Salem, Penetanguishene, and the two Toronto records. This species is, however, resident throughout its range, and it may possibly be that these birds had been present throughout the year but were not observed until cold weather brought them about the habitations of man.

There is undoubtedly a small colony of Cardinals at London, but the main habitat of this species in Canada is on Point Pelee. In "The Birds of Point Pelee" Taverner