

The Farmer's Advocate

PERSEVERE
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SUCCEED

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EDITORIAL.

Cultivate and hoe early.

Big weeds are hard to kill.

It does not pay to take anything for granted.

A late crop of corn may be rushed along by extra cultivation.

The Canadian lines still stand between the Kaiser and Calais.

Facts and figures are what count in connection with agriculture to-day.

A few acres of buckwheat might help you out with pig feed next winter.

Keep the mower knife sharp enough to cut. Bruising off the grass is hard on the machine.

The legendary King Midas Touch is nothing compared with the way grass grows into gold on the dairy farm.

All farm boys and young farmers who do things are invited to enter the competition announced in the boy's column.

There have been a lot of spoiled plans in the world war, and the Russians have done nobly at interfering with the Austrians.

Horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry—these are the hope of the farmer. No one is boosting wheat in Ontario this year.

"The war will end when somebody gets licked," said the late James J. Hill, "and somebody has got to get licked before it ends."

It is ridiculous that the country districts and rural population should be made the butt of all the uncomplimentary statements regarding recruiting.

This is a year which will put to the test all the farmers' powers to overcome adverse weather conditions. Too much rain is more difficult than drouth.

It is time to consider ways and means of handling the hay crop. It is to be hoped the weather brightens up in time to save one of the best crops of this feed Ontario has had for some time.

Dairymen whose cows break records tell us that they get good results from feeding roots in conjunction with silage. Swedes sown yet will, if the year be favorable, produce good yields.

We must not get so absorbed in plans for after the war that we fail to prosecute the war to the limit, nor must we forget that the end of the war will not be the solution of all international difficulties.

In a few words, the Cause of The Allies is this: That the integrity of smaller nations be preserved, international obligations respected, and the rights of humanity regarded. This program should commend itself to the World League to preserve peace.

Where Another "War Book" Might Do Good.

A few weeks ago the Canadian Department of Agriculture issued a 250 page war book entitled "Production and Thrift." Early in 1915 a similar book was published in connection with the "Patriotism and Production" campaign. The present issue may be had by anyone who applies for it and contains considerable information of interest and value. There are a great many facts and figures contained between its covers which it would be to the advantage of every farmer to know. While not agreeing with all phases of the campaign for patriotism, production and thrift, we cannot refrain from favorable comment on the agricultural war book. While it is never too late to talk increased production it is now getting past the season when the farmer can do very much to boost his 1916 output of cereals and general crops, outside of hoed crops. Thrift can and should be practiced at all times. There is a hint in another article in this issue that all the literature should not be directed at the farmer. We believe that, at this time, the farmer is working harder, toiling longer days and putting forth greater efforts to produce than is any other class of men in the country. Where is the greatest waste going on? Who are the people making most money out of the war? Where do they live who plan extra hours of daylight for automobiling, bowling, ball games and picture shows? Where do we find the most inconceivable mismanagement in civic affairs? Where are the war profiteers? There can be only one answer—in the cities. Some city men are grafting more, wasting more, working shorter hours, spending more time on pleasure seeking and practicing more mismanagement than could be found in any part of the country districts. If the farmer needs an agricultural war book there is certainly much more urgent need of a war book designed for and aimed at the urban dweller.

The average farmer knows more about thrift and has practiced more of it than the average city man ever dreamed of. If it had not been for his hard work, long hours and close saving he would not be in the position in which he is to-day. Whatever success he has had he lays to these. It might not do any harm for some city men to read a specially prepared book on how to eliminate waste, on the necessity of working longer hours and spending money wisely.

The statement is made on every hand that the farmer is making all kinds of money because of the war. Where and how? We are ready to admit that prices are good, but they are by no means exorbitant. The farmer has no chance at war contracts. In one Ontario city, action was threatened against dairymen if they attempted to increase the price of milk. The farmer gets what the other fellow will pay on the open market. If there should be a grave scarcity of any agricultural product, as with hay in the Old Land, the government steps in and takes it over at a price. Britain herself controls the meat markets of the world to-day, and the price of cereals is not out of the way when wheat sells at around a dollar per bushel. The farmer is just getting a fair price for what he produces. If anyone doesn't believe it let him try farming.

The farmer cannot limit his hours to ten, let alone eight. He is short handed and must use all the daylight there is in order to get work enough done to make ends meet. If some business men made as small interest on capital invested as does the average farmer, even when his goods are selling at present prices they would also have to use all the daylight hours or would change their business. There are no short hours on the farm just now.

And then for mismanagement of civic affairs,

councils of the larger centers put the township and county bodies completely in the shade. If the average farmer or businessman ran his business on the same basis as that upon which the average city business is done he would be out of business in short order. A speaker in a Western Ontario city recently called it a "fossilized system". It is strictly up-to-date in so far as getting away with the money is concerned. All the laboring man's surplus earnings must go for taxes on his little home. At least a part of this money should and could be saved for his use in later years.

And who gets away with war profits? Have you heard of real farmers being implicated in million-dollar war contract scandals? Not yet. It seems from a study of the situation that some department of government, if it is necessary to exhort farmers to put forth a greater effort for patriotic reasons, might well address a communication in book form to the business men and urban people generally. We would not have them slighted. We would not say that they do not realize there is a war on. Far from it. Thousands of their best and bravest have offered their lives on their country's altar. Other thousands have given freely of their earthly wealth. But why not show them why and how they should eliminate waste, why they should work longer hours in their own interest and in the interests of their country, why they should make nothing more than a reasonable profit on work or transactions and above all things show them how to eliminate waste in civic government. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

Make It Fair and Efficient.

At the same time, one day last week, that a mass meeting of the women of Toronto were passing a resolution demanding universal enrolment or national registration of all able-bodied men in Canada, a recruiting officer was asserting from the steps of the City Hall in the same place that Canada is about at the end of the tether in so far as voluntary enlistment goes. If what the officer says is true there is every reason why the resolution of the women of Toronto should be acted upon. There seems to be no good reason why enrolment should not be practiced any way. Under such a system there would be organized effort at home as well as in the army. The man who is of more service to his country at work at home would receive some badge of recognition which would protect him from the jibes of others. The man who could be spared for work in Canada would be sent where he is most needed. The man in the rural districts who is needed to work the land and produce food would not continue to be the butt of all the nasty remarks re recruiting. It is remarkable how propaganda, since the war began, has been directed at the farmer. He has been urged first to be patriotic, then to produce, and then to be thrifty. Then those who are wont to ride about in fine carriages, who work short hours and save daylight for pleasure, rise in meeting and tell their audience which knows nothing of the country or country conditions that the rural people do not realize there is a war being waged in Europe. Not long ago the writer travelled up and down the concessions and sidelines of two of the best counties of the province, one county about which the statement was recently made that several parishes therein did not really know there was such a thing as a great war on, and what was the condition of affairs? Hired men and farm boys had gone to the war or were in training. Farmers, many of whom were getting on in years were doing the best they could alone or by working together. Old men were forced to work a hundred acres or more alone and were being urged to and felt the need of producing more. And yet there are those who still say the country districts do not know there is a war. True