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VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MARCH 5, 1914.

No. 1119

EDITORIAL

It is always profitable to answer business letters promptly.

Get as much feed ready as possible before the land is ready to work and save chores during the spring rush.

When purchasing seeds for the fields do not forget the garden. No farmer can afford to be without a good garden.

It is worth while to note the change which has taken place in the relation of prices of cattle on Toronto and Buffalo markets since last fall.

Those depending on wind for power are not often disappointed in March. Cutting feed, grinding and sawing may be done in sufficient quantity to tide over the spring rush.

Will some of our readers give others the benefit of their experience in preparing a seed bed for various crops? State the different operations and why they are considered most practicable and efficient.

Convincing proof that the West is going into mixed farming was shown on some of the large markets of the East recently when large numbers of Manitoba hogs were disposed of at good prices.

Let every product, no matter whether it comes from the farm or factory, be as good as its name implies. Let it be what its label designates it, and not an adulteration or imitation, gaining favor through its name and not through its qualities.

One week of the first month of spring has almost passed. Where is the summer's wood? In what condition is the seed grain? In what repair are the seeding implements and machines? Time goes quickly at this season.

It would be just as reasonable and just as honest business to allow oleomargarine or butterine to be labelled "dairy butter" as it would be to allow syrup mixtures containing adulterations of one kind or another to be labelled "maple." We demand nothing but pure, wholesome butter, and pure, wholesome maple products in this country.

If the farmers of this country would stand together and uphold the needs of the rural districts, would keep "dinging" these needs in the ears of their respective members and would follow them up on nomination and polling day by casting their ballots in favor of the candidate who heeds results would soon come, the inertia of party rule would cease and a rapid march forward succeed the rule of marking time.

"If one man writes a better book or preaches a better sermon, or even makes a better mouse trap than another, he may build his house in the forest and the world will soon make a pathway to his door." To this we might add, if one man grows better crops through the use of good seed or better animals from the use of the best sires, a pathway will soon be beaten to his farm or stable. Sow the best and breed the best.

The New Act and the Maple Industry.

Last November "The Farmer's Advocate" devoted considerable space to a discussion of the Maple Sugar and Maple Syrup industry. It was then thought advisable to bring the matter before the people and the legislators just previous to the opening of Parliament. Now that Parliament is in session there is a probability that the Act governing maple products will be amended and with this probability there is a possibility that the new Act will not meet with the approval of those interested in the maple industry. It seems that it is a difficult matter to get the powers behind those formulating the amendment to the Act to relinquish all claim to the word "maple." They desire to retain this misnomer, this deceiver of the public, this, their best selling advertisement, in order that other substances less costly may be sold over the counters of the country and a credulous people eat a compound, an adulteration or a mixture containing little or none of the life of the maple tree, whose good name has been used in such a spurious manner.

In the amendment it is proposed to allow a syrup when adulterated to be labelled "Maple Compound." This does not look as if such syrup would be required to contain one whit of maple sap. A vivid imagination might with difficulty be worked up to the point of fancying that the "compound" contained maple or was pure maple. If this amendment is passed it will not help matters very much. The one thing which the maple industry needs above all others is the entire elimination of the word maple from anything but the strictly pure product of the maple tree.

Canada at the present time puts out annually about 22,000,000 pounds of maple sugar and its equivalent in syrup. During recent years, the industry has declined some 2,000,000 pounds, largely due to the masquerading of imitations under the good old name "maple." At the present time there are thousands upon thousands of maple groves in this country which if protected and extended would increase the industry immensely. Many young groves or woodlots are coming on and in a decade will be ready to tap. The maple sugar and syrup industry is a natural product of Canadian soil with over 50,000 farmers as producers. It is not right that any interests, no matter whether they be million-dollar glucose or cane-sugar industries, or any other monied corporations, should, by the deceitful use of the one word which should separate the products of the maple industry from all other "just-as-goods," place that industry in jeopardy. These upwards of 50,000 farmers should get the support of the remaining thousands of agriculturists and also the support of all consumers of maple products. "The Farmer's Advocate" stands for the rights of the farmers of this country and must wage war on anything which so flagrantly deceives to the disadvantage of a worthy industry which should be protected. Our Government should compel all imitations, adulterations and compounds to sail under their own colors and should make their manufacturers blot out the name "maple" from all labels and leave it unsullied for the exclusive use of those to which it rightfully belongs. Producers should interest themselves in this matter at once.

Reform at the Beginning.

There are few people in Canada who will adversely mention the system of prison reform as being carried out in the Province of Ontario as well as in European countries. The late investigation of the penitentiary at Kingston may lead to an amelioration of conditions, even if no outstanding cruelties are being perpetrated at the present time. Counties and municipalities are adopting prison farms as a means of entertaining the prisoners profitably during the time they are the guests of the municipality. It is a practical and common sense method of chastisement to make a delinquent earn his own board as well as return a small remittance to the family which is being neglected through his incarceration.

The mothers in benighted countries were casting their weakling babes into the Ganges, while England, a Christian nation, was casting her strongest manhood into dark and filthy prisons, there to eke out a wretched existence. So noxious were these confinements and so distressing were the circumstances that the unfortunate prisoners grew so like death in life that no one could recognize the hour when death finally claimed the victim.

These conditions now are changed, but only recently eight young men, between twenty-five and thirty years of age, were led in chains through the quiet city of London to the depot en route to the Central Prison Farm. What is the cause of the continual stream of violators of our country's laws to these institutions? The "Stay-in-Ontario Campaign" as waged by our daily periodicals cannot be responsible for all of it. We must look for a hidden reason, and in the search stop to consider one incident. Not long ago, in one of our Western Ontario towns, a mother fell dead from her bed upon the body of her infant child, and under such peculiar circumstances as to cast a cloud of suspicion upon the habits and morals of the unnatural mother. There were other children in the same house, being reared by these parents, one no better than the other. A home from which thought and intellect were exiled, and all good examples dissipated. "Would it be a wonder if these children eventually became delinquents in the eyes of the law? Prior to this a disgruntled youth deliberately committed homicide, and under such peculiar circumstances that he was committed to an asylum instead of to the gallows. Another instance where heredity and early training plead more eloquently for his life than all his counselors. Educated men and women often become criminals, but they do not have as good excuses, and should receive all the chastisement the law provides. The sympathy of the honest judge goes out to the offspring of unwise generations.

Charity begins at home, and there it should remain till our economic conditions become a model to those students from the so-called benighted countries who are looking for suggestions in Christian countries of the world. What an example we could present if for ten years all differences, beliefs and creeds were combined in one effort to clean up the slums of our towns and cities, and dam the streams which combine in the river of delinquency. Harping on individual rights and privileges serves a certain end, but there is a class of people who appreciate protection from the ravages of the feeble, untrained mind, and by them the laws should be adjusted.

The solution lies in education by the state combined with normal, healthy outdoor employment. Where schools and colleges are curtailed