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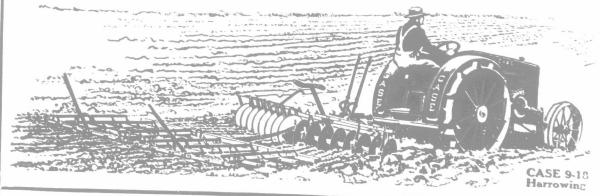
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Agriculture in England.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE": March has been a beautiful month so . far as the weather is concerned. It has been much drier and less windy than is the custom. While that factor has contributed to the success of the German efforts on the Western front and they may have assumed a totally different aspect by the time this reaches you-it has also given the farmer a better opportunity of getting his land ready for the spring crop, than he would have had in different circumstances. The result is that the plows are still busy turning down the grass lands for spring cropping. Of course, this cannot continue much longer and even now one sees the seed drill at work preceded by a drag harrow, but this is rather an uncommon sight as most of the grass land is properly laid up with the plow so that the seed may be scattered broadcast and carefully covered by harrowing. In many places the grain is already growing nicely, and some fields are becoming rapidly green. Every effort is being made to carry out the program which I referred to in a letter many weeks ago. It is falling somewhat short of what was desired, but that was inevitable. The advice given to the farmer has changed rather rapidly at times, and has certainly resulted in much confusion and delay. Just now, the authorities are asking particularly for increased production in hogs and potatoes. The Board of Agriculture has issued stirring appeals to this effect. The Prime Minister has addressed a stirring appeal to the whole nation to increase the production of potatoes, in which he has particularly addressed himself to the man who can only plant a small allotment in any case. The counties have, then, taken up the campaign and have posters and pamphlets, showing the production and consumption of potatoes in the country for the year 1917. In this manner the people are shown the deficit in production as compared with consumption, so we are get-ting on. Intelligent and well-directed propaganda is what is required, not educa-

The campaign for the increase of hog production has been largely due to the Daily Mail, and has assumed some very funny aspects. To begin with, the fixing of prices and the prohibition of certain foodstuffs as live stock foods, has almost driven many of the farmers out of the live-stock business, and driven a large number of the remainder to despair. The Northcliffe press was quick to see what was about to happen, and so commenced a vigorous campaign to save the hog. Accordingly, we have, through that press, been given an education from amateurs and experts on the gentle art of hog raising. The titled women have contributed their share and many of the gentry have taken a hand. Lord Chaplin is especially enthusiastic and assures a doubtful people that a good sow will give one anywhere from 20 to 30 pigs a year. He even cites a case where he knew of a sow, which had, within 13 months, three litters of 14, 18 and 26 pigs, respectively. No doubt he will in this way arouse many an amateur to great enthusiasm, which enthusiasm will be greatly reduced when he counts his returns at the end of the first year, but nevertheless the effort put forth will certainly increase the pig proproduction of the country. Pigs and potatoes, so say we all. All the papers advise them, everybody talks about them, and presumably every one is lending a hand in redoubling the efforts of the country.

The live-stock situation is rather doubtful here, owing to shortage of food supplies. In one particular respect, however, this has been improved by the fine March weather. I refer to the lamb crop. Reports from all over the country state that it is one of the best for many years, and the flocks that I have been able to see certainly look very thrifty. As the pastures improve, flock masters will find less difficulty in keeping their flocks thrifty, so that I believe the sheep industry will not suffer such a severe setback as some other branches of the livestock industry have. We must be prepared to expect difficulties, however, until the obstacles caused by the war are removed by the cessation of hostilities and a return to peace conditions.-F. W.

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