

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 1, 1920.

1449

## EDITORIAL.

If you haven't yet swatted the rooster, swat him now.

The hens that lay well during July and August are likely to lay well next winter.

If all men were really neighborly, co-operation would be the simplest thing in the world.

It is going to take a lot of hard sledding and years of effort to oust the scrub bull from his position on the farms of Eastern Canada.

On many farms an extra silo is needed for summer silage, and on others there are no silos at all. Now is the time to make plans for building.

If milk producers for the city trade are to get an eight months' winter price, it will soon be time to think about what a fair price ought to be.

The Ontario Milk and Cream Testing Act cannot go into effect too soon. There are many complaints throughout the country of unfair tests.

The recent rains have meant a great deal to the crops throughout Ontario, although it is too much to expect that they will be able to bring the hay crop along as fast as if they had come earlier.

On June 17 we saw some alfalfa well up to 75 per cent. in bloom in the County of Peel. In that neighborhood a little alfalfa had already been cut, while in the Hamilton district cutting was quite general. The rains would not be of any benefit to these fields.

It is a source of satisfaction to know that the Provincial Government is at last about to put the practice of veterinary science in Ontario on a footing of equality with other professions. The day of the old-time "horse doctor" passed years ago, but its passing has just been officially announced.

If attempts have actually been made to bribe members of Parliament, those to whom the bribes were offered should not have mentioned the matter unless they were prepared to make known the names of the offenders. Treason is the only political crime more serious than bribing a government member or official.

Notwithstanding the remarkable development of co-operation by the United Farmers of Ontario and other provinces, its growth in individual localities is comparatively slow. The spirit of indifference and independence must first be overcome, and we believe that social gatherings, picnics, etc., will go a long way toward attaining this end.

The Federal Government may be doing a good thing in cleaning up some of the waste in the government service, but we cannot see that letting good experienced men go for the sake of a reasonable increase in salary fits in very well with this policy. A policy that provides for mediocre men at low salaries inevitably means a larger number of civil servants and less efficiency.

The Animal Diseases Eradication Board has a big task ahead of it. The control of tuberculosis, hog cholera and kindred diseases is one of the biggest agricultural problems of the day, and we are hopeful that the new board composed of producers, packers and representatives of the Federal Government will be able to act more effectively than has been possible in the past for government agencies acting alone.

## Alternative Milk Markets.

The rapid and comparatively recent growth in Canada of the condensed and milk powder business has added another factor to the milk marketing problem which has proven at times to be somewhat disturbing. The producer who forsook the cheese factory or the creamery for the condensery or powder factory has not found, in all cases, a bed of roses. The first thing he found was that he sometimes felt dissatisfied about the price he was getting, just as he used to do when the milk went to the cheese factory. He also realized later on that though he was only a cog in the wheel before, the wheel was bigger now and himself a figure of less significance than when he patronized the local factory. In other words, changing his patronage from the small community cheese factory to the large manufacturing firm with no particular responsibility to the community, threw him into a wider circle where he was farther from the centre of control and lessened his individual importance. In cases of dissatisfaction on any score, his individual protest had lost some of its effectiveness. The large volume of milk handled by the condensery or milk powder plant made his individual contribution of less importance relatively and unless he could regain or better his former status by joint action with other patrons, the only thing he could do was to "grin and bear it" or get out. But even the banding together of patrons into local milk producers' associations has been, in many cases comparatively ineffective so far as they have gone, for the reason that the demand for a large volume of milk has caused the establishment of receiving stations or subsidiary plants in practically all territory contiguous to the larger and original plant of each company. This has resulted in the acquiring or closing down of nearly every competing cheese factory in some districts, and the condensery or powder factory in such districts has become virtually master of the field—sometimes to the serious discomfiture of its patrons. We have in mind one plant which, deliberately or not, has by this method gained practical control of about 150,000 pounds of milk daily, leaving no desirable alternative market for its patrons, who probably number several hundred.

Whether this was done deliberately or not does not alter the fact that it was good business for everyone but the producer. He, however, can scarcely blame anyone but himself because other people cannot be depended upon to look after his financial interests to the detriment of their own. Condenseries and powder factories are carrying on important and legitimate businesses, and where a large volume of milk is required the most natural thing to do is to endeavor to get it and keep it. It is for the producer to remedy his own conditions, and we believe a remedy is available if it is adopted. Organizations such as the Ontario Milk and Cream Producers' Association are splendid and necessary, but they must be backed up by more permanent local associations than are at present affiliated with it. If producers are dissatisfied they must be prepared to market their milk elsewhere, but to do this effectively and to get the best market for the milk of a community, action must be co-operative or collective rather than individual.

An article in this issue (the fourth of a series now appearing in "The Farmer's Advocate") suggests co-operative milk distributing plants as the most practicable method for marketing the milk produced in a community. There is no reason why such a method of selling milk should not prove eminently successful. There is no reason either why the individual milk producer should not have within his reach several alternative markets. Not much of an investment would be required on the part of each patron to put the whole milk market, the cheese market, the butter market and the cream market within the reach of every milk producer in the community. Moreover,

the patrons could elect annually a board of directors who would handle the entire production of all members for the year, and these few men could handle the resulting large volume of milk to much better advantage than each individual member could handle his own small supply. There is no reason that we can see why the milk of the organization should not be hauled to the factory co-operatively, tested there, and delivered there to the purchaser if disposed of as whole milk. Co-operation is needed in the milk-producing business as much or more than in any other branch of agriculture. Co-operative selling of milk is the most business-like method of sale for the dairymen, and is also the most satisfactory way of remedying the conditions that now exist in some condensery and milk powder districts. The producers should never have let the cheese factories get away from them, but co-operation can still remedy this oversight.

## O. A. C. Courses.

Last week we announced a change in the courses which will henceforth be given in agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College. These changes we believe to be for the better, and we are glad that the Minister of Agriculture has decided to put them into effect. For forty-five years the Ontario Agricultural College has been materially contributing to the agricultural progress of Ontario and of the Dominion as a whole. In fact, its sphere of influence has extended over the whole world, for students have been drawn by the excellence of its courses from the four quarters of the globe, and a very large percentage of them have gone out to add further lustre to its previous high standing among institutions of its kind. Its graduates fill important positions all over the North American Continent; many of the colleges and experiment stations of the United States are directed by former O. A. C. students; and farmers and professional agriculturists in nearly every country lead the way in agriculture for their fellow countrymen by virtue of their training here.

However brilliant the success of the O. A. C., a change in the courses must prove an advantage. The primary function of the College was to give the Ontario farm boy an opportunity of coming into closer touch with the best of agricultural art, and with sufficient of the several contributory sciences to enable him to return to the farm at the end of a two-years' course better equipped to achieve success in animal and crop production, and to understand the nature of his problems as they developed. It was not intended that the farm boy should be lured from the farm by the hope of a degree and a professional position, but the combining of the two-year practical course and the four-year degree course undoubtedly did have a tendency to bring this about. The prospect now is for a two-year course designed to be as practical as possible, so that the boy who is going back to the farm will be given nothing that will afterwards prove unnecessary to him as a practical farmer and an industrious, intelligent citizen.

It is not, we hope, with any prospect of lessening the practical knowledge of the professional agriculturist that the four-year or degree course is separated from the shorter and more simple associate course. It would be wise rather to insure even more practical knowledge by requiring additional practical experience before entering. At least this would be advisable on the part of those who are to take the Agricultural, Horticultural, Dairy or Poultry options. Generally speaking, the requirement of Junior Matriculation standing will make it more likely that the graduate will take his place ably as a professional exponent of the world's primary industry, especially if it is strengthened by a strong course designed to teach the principles of agricultural science and organization. The men who lead the way in live stock and crop production, in horticulture, dairying, and poultry husbandry must be strong men

own cost?

downs are very ex-  
freshman. That's  
get good machinery  
that's why we build  
with such great over-  
ry part. That's why  
highest grade of ma-  
why we are so par-  
ne workmanship that  
First Quality Line."

tions we have made  
reshing Machinery,  
he reputation of pro-  
vide machinery. It is  
st to see the White  
chines and White  
you make your in-

ent on request

, Limited

Tractor

LONDON,  
ONT.

Moose Jaw,  
Sask.

Brandon,  
Man.

"THE  
FIRST  
QUALITY  
LINE"

lightning  
d

reds of dollars  
ut and has to

ARNS

r. John Slee of  
e in the midst of  
fter the fire, Mr.  
w Preston Steel

SC LIMITED  
DING COMPANY  
ONSBY CO. LIMITED  
AL - TORONTO  
N - GALTARY