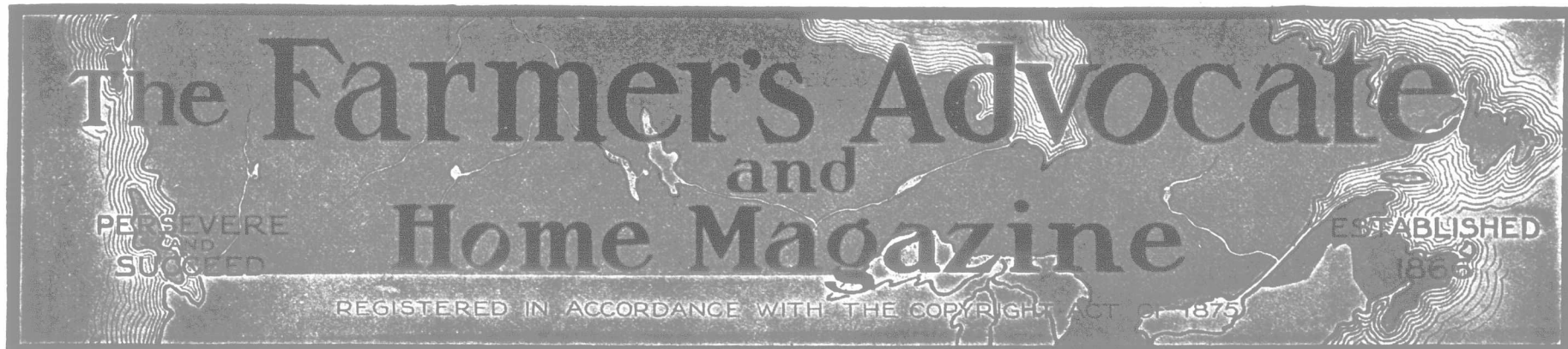




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EDITORIAL.

Have you put your ice in yet? It will be needed next July.

It is difficult to produce the best dairy products without nature's cooler, ice.

It is about time for the fellow "who has seen a thousand Januaries without a thaw" to begin to prophesy.

Walt. Mason says that some men are afraid to chop too hard for fear the noise will drown the sound of the dinner bell.

Spring means a return to life, but unless something unlooked for happens it will mean death and destruction in Europe on a scale not yet comprehended.

If the rush of farm produce to market at certain seasons could be spread over the entire year there would be less danger of increased production forcing prices down.

We have often heard it said that cutting feed makes it go farther, but judging from the way cattle clean it up it goes rapidly cut. One thing, however, of which we are sure, there is less waste and the cattle get all there is in the feed.

If you have ten cows you need at least thirteen tons of ice, a ton for each cow, and three tons for the refrigerator and other purposes. Of course, more ice would be advisable, and two tons per cow is not considered too much by some experienced dairymen.

When the "Increase Production" campaign is at its height is a good time to apply some of the energy to the live-stock branch of farming. We must not forget that live stock is the sheet anchor of mixed farming, and that without it increased grain production is not possible.

With all due deference to our worthy correspondent, Peter McArthur, this is a good time to patch bags, not with hay nor with binder twine nor yet with wire nails, but with real patches cut from other bags beyond repair and sewed on neatly. A man can do this between chores.

If ever there was need of well-attended, spirited meetings of live-stock men it is this year. Members of the various associations should attend their annual meetings. There seems to be a crisis approaching in the live-stock industry in Canada, and live-stock interests must be prepared.

The real help you may do another by relating your success with some crop by certain methods of preparing the land and cultivating it, can scarcely be estimated. In this issue a correspondent points out that it is the duty of farmers to tell others through "The Farmer's Advocate" how they achieve results. He had an experiment in potato growing, and all our readers are given the benefit of his findings. Volumes of valuable information, the kind our readers are after, might be told by these people. Every one has a different experience, and each has learned something by experience which another would like to know. Our columns are open to these articles which are deemed among the most valuable published.

Organizing the Selling End.

Stockmen and farmers generally will watch closely the success of the new live-stock selling association recently formed in London, Ont. This new association to operate in Western Ontario plans to sell by public auction in London all the good stock which its members and other live-stock breeders in Western Ontario consign to it for disposal. It has started right. The capital stock is being sold to stockmen; each stockholder no matter what amount of stock he holds has one vote and one vote only; the capital stock is set high enough to ensure sufficient capital to operate successfully, and the organization needs only the support of the stockmen and an efficient manager to make it a great success. It has already passed successfully over the difficult places which have been the undoing of many other organizations of producers. Too often such associations are formed with altogether too little capital, and the members fail to add to it to keep the organization alive. Each share of stock carrying with it a vote has also been responsible for the crowding of farmers out of successful organizations, a clique of big shareholders soon driving the small holders out, and then they run the business to suit themselves not to suit the farmer. Also, the stock is being sold to stockmen, and the object is not high dividends but a better selling organization for the disposal of live stock. The next big point to get over is that of manager. Too many try to curtail expenditure to such an extent that they fail to see the value of a real good manager, a man who can command a fairly high salary but who is capable of earning that salary. It is better by far to pay a few hundred dollars a year extra towards the salary of a capable manager than it is to lose thousands of dollars through an incompetent, cheap man. The salary difference is simply the difference between efficiency and inefficiency. Of course, it is possible that a high-salaried man may prove a failure, but it is not so probable as with a low-salaried, inexperienced man.

We are glad to see a move being made to organize the selling end of the live-stock business, and hope that the doings of the new association will be such that many other like associations are formed in Canada.

Your Duty as a Member.

The first week in February there will be held in Toronto a series of live-stock association meetings which will be of vital interest to live-stock men this county over. As a member of an association, it matters not what that organization may be, it is the duty of that member to give the association his strongest support, and if it is at all possible, in his own interests and in those of the other members, he should attend such meetings. If every man would decide that the other members were no longer to do his business and that it was something which he should look after himself there would be a much larger attendance at annual meetings and each association would be strengthened thereby. This is not speaking depreciatingly of the business as done by those who do attend, but all that possibly can should come out. "Two heads are better than one", one hundred are better than twenty-five, and one thousand are better than one hundred. Let there be big meetings of stockmen this year. The live-stock industry must "buck up" on the "Increase Production" propaganda

will starve it to death by growing wheat which will in turn starve the land and the land holder until the land will no longer grow a profitable crop. What is true of the live-stock meetings is true of all associations. If you are a member it is your duty to attend.

The Council and the Future.

One is wrong to a certain extent and correct to a very large degree when he says that all community improvement is brought about through the individual's efforts in his own interest on his own holding. This statement does not pertain so much to educational and social institutions in the district. It relates to the fact that such and such a township is the most fertile, the most thoroughly drained, most heavily stocked with desirable animals, and has its farms and farm homes comfortably and conveniently arranged. It is gratifying to a citizen to be able to claim as his birth place a township that is prominent amongst sister districts as a fertile or beautiful community. The majority of public speakers allude to their respective counties, townships or ridings, only to be challenged or refuted by an associate speaker in favor of his own birthplace. We glory in the forwardness of our own little school section in proportion to the amount of pride we have in the nation or our flag. A feeling of patriotism and loyalty permeates the human being and follows the gamut of various steps down to our own farms and homes, and the man who is most loyal to his home is usually a good citizen and a loyal subject.

While our farms should be improved and made homelike, for homes they are as much as a place of business, there should be a mind in the council that could see beyond the next election day and conceive of a more beautiful township twenty years in the future than the one whose destiny he controls for the brief period of a year. Bridges should be built to last and roads must be improved, but beyond all that there is the general appearance of a township as seen by the passer-through. If we can please the super-critical eye of a stranger we may rest assured that the surroundings will satisfy the native of the community whose home and all are there. The corners in the highway intersections might be ornamented with trees. Weeds and underbrush should be cleaned from the road allowance, and cleanliness made a motto as it should be in the home and on the farm. Councils should include some good farmers who realize the bad effect of noxious weeds growing beside and sometimes up to the very wheel tracks of the highway; men with some conception of what such a practice means to the farmer contiguous to the road who is trying faithfully and diligently to grow a clean crop to re-seed his own fields or those of his neighbors or brother farmers. There is nothing more discouraging to a grain grower than to observe the seeds of thistles and other weeds blowing like down over his fields and lighting here and there throughout the growing crops with the promise of succeeding infestation. A few dollars expended here and there to maintain a road or repair a bridge is not the sole duty of our representative in the council. He should be able to view the whole township as one farm. He should endeavor to keep it clean, to improve it and enhance it as an agricultural district, so when he retires from office there will go with him the knowledge that he has done something to make his community a more livable place and a richer inheritance for the next generation.