

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Clover pasturage produces pork at greatest profit.

Plant your corn according to the story told by the test.

A small garden well kept is more profitable than a half-acre of weeds.

Grow what your land grows best, rather than jump to new crops all at once.

Sow the mangels as soon as possible, but put them in soil that is ready for the seed.

When seeding is finished, the drill would be better in the barn than in a fence corner.

Grow more potatoes if you can manage to do so. An article in this issue may help you.

What a pity the shell that demolished the Kaiser's car had not destroyed the War Lord himself!

The price of pork has been high enough that the feeder could afford to make hogs of his pigs.

Save the grass by keeping the stock stabled and yarded until May 10 to 20, according to district.

When laying out the lawn, remember that to be an attractive lawn it must be cut regularly. Make it small.

Sheep and lambs should be dipped before going to pasture. An outline of the methods and practice is given in this issue.

The horse business is not flourishing; still, if you have a first-class draft mare, you can ill afford not to breed her this year.

The Canadian farmer is ready to produce all he can under the circumstances. He cannot enlist and produce at the same time.

The German leaders seem to think Verdun is of great importance—otherwise they value the lives of their soldiers at very little.

Do not plow the manure down too deeply on corn and root ground. Its fertilizing ingredients will go too deep for the plants soon enough.

The call for greater farm production and the bugle call for overseas service seem to conflict a little. Can our Government not tell us which is which?

"Let us cease thinking so much of agricultural education, and devote ourselves to educational agriculture. So will the nation be made strong."—HERBERT QUICK.

Save the heifer calves. Fewer men on the farms means more grass, and more grass means more cattle. Get them the safest way by keeping the best of your own breeding.

If the time spent in displays of partizan distrust and political manoeuvring in parliament were devoted to the straightforward transaction of business, the country would be millions of dollars ahead, nine-tenths of the royal commissions would be out of business, and legislators would rise about one hundred per cent. in the estimation of the public.

What of the Rural School!

A country's most valuable asset is its boys and girls. Canada, essentially an agricultural country, should be most interested in the welfare of the boys and girls of the rural districts, because Canada has a preponderance of rural dwellers. The greatest need of these boys and girls is an education that will make thinkers of them and equip them to make a living and to get the most out of life. It is more important that the boy and the girl are able, through the training which their young minds should get, to go out in the world and use their heads, than it is that their early education be slurred over while father and mother work their finger nails off to get a farm for each of them. How many boys and girls are there but would rather have early training, or education, which would fit them to think in such a way and to act in accordance with their thoughts so that they could make the money to buy the farm themselves, than would do without the education and take the farm which father and mother had slaved and saved to buy and pay for! The question is: Are our rural schools, as at present organized, in the best possible position to give the boy and girl the training necessary to make the kind of thinkers out of them that will enable them to get most out of life financially and in every other way? If the rural school is equipped as it should be, then the city school must be over-equipped, and we would not for one moment admit the latter. City schools are graded schools, usually with a competent man or woman as principal, and who has a thoroughly efficient staff of teachers for all grades. The city boy and girl now have the advantage of an elaborate equipment for technical education, and what has the farm boy and girl to correspond with these advantages? Are you satisfied that your boys and girls be handicapped, as compared with the city boys and girls? Is it fair to the child of the farm that the little old red school house on the hill, presided over by a girl in her teens, who has the entire school to look after and who, very often, has very little sympathy for agriculture and very little time or opportunity to teach it, should be, as it is, the early training ground of the young minds of the country? Is it fair to the child to entrust his or her training to a person to whom the trustees are often unwilling to pay a salary as high as that which they give the man who feeds their milk cows for records at home, or fits their prize cattle for exhibition or market? Canada has universities, colleges, special schools, agricultural colleges, second to none in America. Short course systems have been devised and perfected. Technical schools of an elaborate nature have been built and equipped in towns and cities, but still our educational system is incomplete and inadequate. What chance have children in the rural communities of getting elementary instruction in agricultural science, in mechanics, knowledge of which is so necessary in this twentieth century, in domestic science, which the farm girl has just as good a right and just as much need to study as any other girl? The isolated rural school with its girl teacher and its fifteen or twenty-five pupils, as constituted at the present time, cannot accomplish what it should for the boys and girls of the farm. The only apparent remedy is consolidation, and we believe that if the fathers and mothers, particularly the mothers, living in the rural districts want it, they can get it. They can have their schools presided over by men and women who have had special training in their particular line. They can have graded schools and their children can have the advantages of training in domestic science and technical education on a par with that given in city schools, and, even better, for opportunities are greater in the country. It may or may not mean a little extra expense, but the best equipment the boys and girls of this country can get is a thorough, elemen-

tary education which trains them to think, and no farm father or mother should be satisfied unless their boys and girls are getting that education. Put a little of the energy devoted to saving money to add another farm to the holding into securing for the boys and girls raised on the farm in this old province a broader and better elementary education as a start in life, and the boys and girls will get the money to buy their own farms when they have sufficiently advanced in years, and will have an outlook on life which is impossible to the boy and girl who have not had such education. Will consolidation of schools do these things? Our columns are open for discussion of the subject, and we purpose elaborating upon it in future issues.

A Freshet of Frightfulness!

With the coming in of spring, when a dormant world revives to beauty and productiveness, the German Terror assumed, if that were possible, fresh frightfulness on sea and land. For long weeks and weeks, in one of the most desperate and stubborn battles of all history, a million men have been fighting at Verdun, and, amid the roar of 6,000 cannon, the soldiers of France have struggled, with undaunted heroism, against the invaders of the Republic. Military experts described it as a culminating effort to strike a fateful blow before the vast gathering armies of the Anglo-Allies were let loose upon the foe as the snows disappear and the earth hardens over the far extended battle lines. On the Eastern front, from Riga to Galicia, the Russian forces have been re-organized and re-equipped for another titanic conflict. In their mountain warfare, where the Italians have been taking point after point, but latterly snow bound, their advances are to begin down grade across the lower mountains and into the Austrian plains. Strong Anglo-French forces at Salonica are reported prepared for a drive, and, realizing that she would be assaulted simultaneously on all fronts, Germany struck at her greatest danger point of Verdun—where a spectacular success might rally the nation. She inaugurated a more terrible submarine warfare and Zeppelin raids, resulting chiefly, in England and Scotland, in the destruction of homes and the murder of women and children. If this be the Kaiser's conception of a prelude to peace negotiations secretly desired by Germany, leaving the War Lords with a navy intact and stolen and outraged European lands in their possession to dicker with, they surely misjudge humanity and the spirit and purposes of the Allies.

Let the Horses Do the Hoeing.

To the average farmer corn and root ground means extra work. The acreage of roots has dwindled during the past few years, largely because of the scarcity of labor and of the amount of work that was absolutely essential to produce the crop. Corn has taken their place. Some of our best feeders believe that cattle, and other stock, do better on a roughage ration which contains roots and corn silage than they do on either alone, but corn has gained prominence through the comparative ease with which it may be cultivated during the summer and because the silo may be filled by a little co-operative effort on the part of neighbors, and the feed is all cut and ready for the stock at short notice. In preparing the land for corn and roots this spring we would advise a little extra cultivation to do away with the weeds by horse power rather than leave them to be handled later on when the crop is growing. Mangels are generally considered a "dirty" crop. We have seen fields very well cleaned by being cultivated thoroughly in the spring and left lay about a week before the mangels are sown, then cultivated and harrowed again. To get rid of hoeing this year is a good practice, and it is well not to plow the ground in the