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EDITORIAL

Have the feeders been placed in the stalls yet?

In important respects the farmer is a manufacturer.

Let us bear in mind that the cost of production on the farm has been steadily rising.

A few townspeople appear to be still laboring under the illusion that the farmer's own table is spread without money and without price.

Who is to till the soil for the hungry multitudes if people all persist in living in town where they can attend vaudeville shows six days in the week?

High-priced feeders must be fed low-priced rations to make the most profit. Feeding problems give the stockman plenty of scope to exercise his ability.

Reports from Saskatchewan state that the increasing interest in stock raising in the West is likely to cause a keen demand for good breeding horses next spring.

While the farm population of England has enormously fallen off in recent times, there is little comfort in remembering that the army of gamekeepers has risen from 9,000 in 1851 to 28,000 in 1911.

Platform economists sometimes tell us that we cannot regulate prices—all the farmer has to do to make good is by better methods to pull down the cost of production. This is one of those half-axiomatic statements calculated to keep the farmer's eye solely on his own grindstone and not to worry about parliaments, railroads or financiers who are all the while putting fresh spokes in the wheel of production.

Scientific investigation with all its great achievements and all its labor-saving devices has so far failed to very materially lower the temperature of the farm kitchen. Men's appetites do not diminish generation after generation, but female farm help grows scarcer and scarcer. The brains of inventors and scientists could find ample scope for further sensational and useful findings in appliances to lighten the work of the woman on the farm.

The county fairs are over for another season. Most of them were favored with good weather this fall, and reports indicate that an unusually large number of people attended these fairs. Well-conducted agricultural exhibitions, managed by local men in each county, are deserving of patronage, and the man possessing stock or farm products sufficiently high-class to make a creditable exhibit, should bring them out that the sightseer may be the better repaid for coming to the exhibition. This season and last have brought home the fact that weather is one great limiting factor in fall fair success, but fine weather, big crowds and increased entries, as was the case this year at most of the smaller fairs, should stimulate exhibitors and fairgoers, and ensure more enthusiasm and greater success next year. A good fair deserves support.

The New Farm Power.

With the development of engineering skill and the extension of electric transmission lines, it looks possible that the whole country may, in the near future, be served with electric heat, light and power. We are acquiring the advantages that older European countries enjoy without sacrificing, in the least, our democratic relations and freedom and independence of spirit which is so characteristic of the American. There are now in Ontario six systems where power of falling water is being converted into energy that will not only serve the towns and cities within the reach of the tentacles which they are throwing out, but the country may draw upon it as well to light their houses, thresh their grain, fill the silos, milk the cows, wash their clothes and cook their food, and warm their beds. What more should a farmer of the twentieth century ask? When the epoch of electrified farming is here in earnest, the cry of, "Back to the Farm" will meet with a hearty response.

Count the Cost in Feeding.

The cost of living soars and city dwellers look over long lists of possible menus with a close scrutiny to settle upon some diet palatable, nutritious and wholesome, and with this, moderate in price. The producer worries less about these things, for his granaries contain the wheat for bread and biscuits, the stables shelter the cattle, sheep and swine from which he may get his roasts, steaks, leg of mutton and pork chops, and his poultry pens are alive with busily scratching pullets—regular egg machines—while cockerels are fattening for the table, and cellars contain fruits, roots and vegetables in variety. The owner and producer of all this often does not fairly estimate its value, nor does he consider the cost as he should. The city consumer almost invariably holds that all these good things cost the producer practically nothing, but we know that they do. The cost of feeding the farmer's family depends largely upon the cost of crop production and the cost of feeding live stock.

The 1913 crop has been harvested and the problem now before the producer is how best to dispose of it. The stockman believes in feeding all he grows and often more. This is constructive agriculture—a building-up process. But live-stock feeding to be the success it should be must always be done with skill to show a balance on the right side of the ledger. Because the price of products of the farm is high enough to make the urban consumer feel the pinch of "the high cost of living" is no proof that greater profits may be obtained by haphazard farming or careless methods of live-stock rearing. The stock must be fed economically or the season's returns will not meet the expenditure for feed and labor. The consumer must ponder over the menu for the table; the producer must wrestle with the problems of feeding his stock at smallest cost and to best advantage.

The list of live-stock foods available is not as long as that from which the housewife chooses daily rations, but it is often more complicated. Market prices of the feeds on hand must be reckoned, their comparative values estimated, and besides this the feeder should have a price list before him of the feeds not on hand. It very often occurs that home-grown feeds may be sold to advantage and others bought to fill their place. This is in no sense "robbing" the farm. It is

good business to buy and sell at a profit. A careful survey of the whole situation should be made by every feeder at the beginning of the feeding season and from time to time throughout its entire duration. Now is the time to size it up. It is a complicated business, requiring knowledge ripened through experience. Prices of all feed stuffs must be known or carefully estimated, values of various feeds must be understood, this demanding a knowledge of their composition, intimacy with all market conditions and likely fluctuations is essential, and with all this a liking for the work sufficiently strong to develop an interest in each individual animal is necessary to greatest success. This knowledge and ability is not cheap. Men rightfully boasting it in high degree are scarce and have reached the high plane which they have attained through years of experience often expensive. Home-grown feeds themselves are produced at great cost in these days of high-priced land, expensive farm equipment and scarce labor. The high cost of feeding applies to the live stock as well as to the human race, and at this the commencement of another season of feeding, fitting and finishing farm stock for market the feeder should count the cost, consider the conditions, calculate the composition of each feed and the best combinations, select the most suitable keeping in mind the prices and production values, and feed these to the class or kind of stock which is most likely to make the greatest gains and command the readiest sale at highest prices when finished. Truly the high cost of feeding applies with all its force to live-stock feeding and truly the successful live-stock man requires a more than ordinary knowledge of feeds and feeding and skill to carry out what he knows.

Fight the Insect Foes.

Few seasons pass without the introduction of some new insect pest or plant disease. Each individual section of the country has destructive insects and plant diseases peculiar to itself besides having many of those common to all districts. Each new pest adds to the expense of crop production, adds to the troubles of the producer, and ultimately adds to the prices to the consumer, especially where such pests become so established as to destroy large portions of any crop. A few days ago we read that Canada is threatened with two or three more destructive insects, one attacking potatoes, one wheat and a third alfalfa. Fruit growers know how difficult it is to produce clean fruit and in some places where San Jose scale has gained a foothold they realize what care is necessary to save the trees. There are scores of insects and diseases of fruit; there are grubs, weevils, stem-maggots, midges, worms, bugs and beetles galore attacking farm crops, to say nothing of rusts, smuts and other destructive and common diseases which yearly lower average yields and sometimes almost entirely destroy the crop of large sections of fertile lands. Animal diseases are prevalent and must be guarded against at all times.

With the large number of scourges now known the producer seems to have plenty with which to contend. But still they come. They spread from district to district notwithstanding that a large number of trained men do everything in their power to stop them. Many are very effectively kept in control by State laws rigidly enforced. Investigations by biologists have rendered invaluable service in keeping some of the most destruc-