

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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VOL. XLIX

LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 5, 1914.

No. 1154

EDITORIAL.

Make the cattle comfortable.

Oh, where is all the "culture"?

One touch of winter makes the wood pile shrink.

The barnyard fence is not the best roost for the hen in winter.

Harvesting roots too late means cold fingers, wet roots and slow progress.

The man who draws his stable manure to the field each day as made saves time.

Box stalls for the colts are almost as essential as halters for the older horses.

It is not too late to sweep down last summer's cob-webs and whitewash the stable.

Remember, November weather cannot be depended upon, and every fine day should be made the most of.

This is a hard season on live stock. Feeding liberally now saves feed later on and keeps the stock up in flesh.

Militarism is tottering. The longer the slaughter lasts the stronger will become the feeling against the mailed fist.

Broken window lights in the stable are a drafty and inefficient form of ventilation. Glass and putty may save veterinary bills.

Judging from the way winter wheat made progress toward the end of the growing season, there should be no shortage next fall.

"Few, few shall part where many meet,
The snow shall be their winding sheet;
And every turf beneath their feet,
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre."

There may be a slight slackening in pork prices, but the future of the bacon hog is assured. He is quickly matured, and will surely be called for in large numbers.

Agriculture may not need a "Moses" just now to lead its forces, but a man with the capacity and ability of a "Kitchener" might solve some of the riddles of agricultural circumstances.

A winter of high-priced feed should develop skill on the part of feeders in compounding rations for their stock. Stop! Think! Study! Then use a maximum of roughage with a minimum of concentrates.

Help Canada to find work for all. A relief campaign can be successfully waged by buying Canadian-made goods to keep our factories running and our people employed, and pushing our agriculture beyond all previous attainments to find work for unemployed. All that is required is confidence. Canada has no reason to fear the outcome if her wheels of industry are kept running.

The War, The Farm and the Farm Paper.

Unless all those familiar with the situation are badly fooled, next season will be one of the greatest possible activity in agricultural circles on the American continent. Authorities are agreed that Canada is in the best position as a country during the present war crisis. Our broad acres are the best reinforcement for our fighters, of which we can supply thousands if need be; our fields and our live stock are the bulwarks upon which Britain depends for no small proportion of her food supply in times of peace, and much more so when her legions are on the firing line. While it is necessary that our manufacturers keep the wheels of commerce turning, it is imperative that our farms are farmed to capacity. This will help our manufacturers to keep going, and will ensure plenty to eat for our own people and those of the Motherland. It is a matter of getting enough to eat. The farmer must continue to "feed them all," and the farmer in a country not being devastated by the awful carnage and destruction of modern warfare, has a clear-cut duty and a golden opportunity placed before him. He is alive to the situation; the increased acreage of winter wheat sown this fall is evidence of this fact. There will be hundreds of new problems coming up as the remaining months of this year and those of 1915 sweep past. The farmer must be closely in touch with conditions to make the most out of his farm operations. "The Farmer's Advocate" stands ready, as it has always done in the past, to do its part. By special efforts it is keeping its readers well posted on "the outlook," and from the practical experience of a large number of well-known writers its pages will, as usual, be composed of valuable and timely information for all those engaged in any branch of farming. More wide-awake, practical and helpful than ever before is our motto in this time of nations' peril. Your farm paper, if carefully read, will as it has done in the past prove one of the most profitable investments of your farm equipment. It is not only profitable, it is necessary, and particularly so in a time when agriculture is being called upon to accomplish greater things. Help yourself, help your neighbors, help Canadian agriculture and the Empire by subscribing for and relating results of practical experience in "The Farmer's Advocate," a paper published, edited and written by farmers for farmers. You will need it in 1915.

A Loss Due to Carelessness.

In driving through the country in such trying times as those through which we are now passing, one is struck by the carelessness manifested in the large proportion of farm implements and machinery found outdoors exposed to all kinds of weather and consequent loss therefrom. Elsewhere in this issue is a short note from the Agriculturist on the Conservation Commission commenting on this very fact. In the West an exceedingly large percentage of farms make no provision for housing implements whatever, and the figures given in that statement should arouse many to action. Even in Ontario, older settled and more advanced, we see on every hand implements and machines left out in all kinds of weather, needing paint and in bad repair.

While, according to our correspondent's statement, almost every man in certain districts in

Ontario houses his implements, the fact remains that hundreds of farm machines and implements stand out summer and winter, exposed to all kinds of weather, conducive to rust and decay. Housing has been proven capable of doubling the life of such machines as mowers and binders, and in some cases, binders have been known to last three times as long with proper care as others have done under slipshod methods. The life of the average binder exposed to the weather is said to be about seven years, many, we believe, do not last this length of time, and some less than half as long, while others carefully housed, kept repainted and in good repair, have been known to cut twenty consecutive crops and still be in fairly good running order. Which would you rather have, and which is more profitable for you, a ten-year-old binder worth fifty per cent. of its original value or a five-year-old binder good for nothing but scrap iron? A little care and attention is the difference.

Most farms have buildings enough that all the plows, harrows, drills, cultivators, binders, mowers, rakes and other tillage implements and harvesting machines could be kept under suitable cover, the greater part of the year, and those with a special implement shed should be found with everything under cover summer and winter, in fact, on some of the best-regulated farms implements and machines are brought to the shed after the day's work, and are not left exposed even over night. Millions of dollars are lost annually in Canada through neglect of this one branch of farm work. Where is your binder, your mower, your rake, manure spreader, plow, drill, cultivator, and any other necessary and perishable implement and machine?

Financing Farming.

From a study of the situation the rural problem seems to be the main problem of the present day, and most writers agree that this problem is one of finance. As a general thing, the man in the city who is contemplating a return to the farm, or one who has never farmed but thinks he could better his position by doing so, has very little capital. Living has been high in urban centres, and people have been living, in many cases, beyond their means. If the return to the farm is to reach any considerable proportions, some means of getting easy money, or rather money at a lower rate of interest than that which prevails under the present system, seems to be absolutely necessary.

A correspondent in an article entitled, "Back to the Land," in this week's issue, draws attention to a system which has been worked in The Argentine, in Australia and New Zealand, whereby money is loaned by Governments to municipalities to be turned over to farmers in those municipalities at a lower rate of interest, the loan to be a first lien against the land. The British Government, on a larger scale, has worked out a similar scheme for tenant farmers in Ireland. The Port Arthur Board of Trade has a plan to empower the Government to loan a large sum of money to townships for five years at a nominal interest of 5 per cent., and the money repayable annually, much after the scheme followed in connection with borrowing money for underdrainage.

In newer Ontario money advanced in this way could be used for clearing up farms and starting settlers, but help is also necessary in the older portions of the Province where there is enough