



The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Daylight saving does not help the farmer.

There should be some small specialty on every mixed farm.

It doesn't seem logical to take the men and leave the money untouched.

The Huns have been hanging the Poles and now the latter are organizing to pole the Huns.

We get hundreds of questions on holidays for hired men, but never one on holidays for the farmer.

The food controller in Great Britain puts food production on the same level in importance as fighting. A nation must be fed to fight.

The United States is going to send 100,000 aeroplanes to France and no one has yet suggested that Uncle Sam was "Up in the Air."

Some call sweet clover a weed. We have just harvested a field of it at Weldwood and it was about the most profitable weed crop we have seen in a long time.

Canada is fifty years old and quite a robust youngster notwithstanding a few doses of unpleasant political pills which from time to time cause slight derangements of digestion.

A certain section, or sections, of Canada may have had unfair treatment in enlistment, but that should be no excuse for objecting to a fair method by which to back up our heroes now.

It was gratifying to hear a member of Parliament state that all the brains of the House were not on the front benches. The so-called back-benchers have a duty to perform in helping to bring order out of chaos some of the front-benchers have succeeded in mixing up.

Some politicians are now attempting to reassure Quebec by stating that conscription would not hit Quebec as hard as it will other Provinces. All should understand that an unfair conscription will be resented much more strongly than an Act which applies to all men and all resources on a fair basis.

People seem to forget that high prices are in themselves the surest remedy for high prices in farm products. As soon as prices go up to a high level producers are encouraged to increase production of the particular product in demand, and when they have produced abundantly and sometimes when yields have not been high prices bump down.

The day cannot be lengthened by setting the clock ahead. Why not let those who want longer hours of evening daylight start work one hour earlier in the morning and stop one hour earlier at night, and leave the clocks as they are? The question is one for firms to decide for themselves. Agricultural conditions cannot be readily adapted to meet such a change.

The one big obstacle against a referendum on conscription is the time which would be lost in getting the mandate of the people. If it could be done quickly the voice of the people would strengthen the hand of the Government in whatever course they follow. Success can only come with the people behind the course taken, which we have no doubt would be immediate conscription.

Conscription.

For months we have believed that conscription is the only fair and democratic system of fighting any great war and we have favored its application in Canada if it is so applied as to take in all the resources of the country. Canada has a duty to perform—an honor to uphold and there is no time for hedging. But if men must go into the service of the country, money and all other resources should be organized to serve the country at this time. And there must be all fairness and system in the operation of conscription of men and all resources. It has been suggested by some that conscription would not hit the Province of Quebec as hard as it would the other Provinces at the present time because the young men of that Province had married at an early age and because most of them were farmers and production must be kept up. Everyone is agreed that production of food must not lag, and those who know how to farm and would be of more value farming than fighting should not be taken overseas. It is not a question of bravery or cowardice, it is a question of placing all eligibles where they will be of most service to the cause of democracy and of systematizing everything so as to throw Canada's greatest weight of men, money and resources into the fight. Every man who can do better work on the land than at the front should be left, but agriculture in any Province should not be allowed to be used as a safe retreat for men not needed on the land, or men who know little about it but leave some other work to escape being drafted into military service. The rural districts in Ontario and most of the Provinces have done well in recruiting as well as in production, and, stripped of men for farm work, they see no reason why all should slip by the military service officer in Quebec. Canada is ready for any law which will back up the boys at the front by organizing fairly at home, and it is a wise precaution to so frame laws that once passed public opinion will back them up to such an extent that they may be enforced without trouble. Universal service must fall equally on all Provinces, all people and on all resources. Canada wants a system fair to all, with the men from all Provinces used alike.

Fifty Years Old.

On July 1, fifty years ago, the birth of the Dominion of Canada took place through the union of Upper and Lower Canada, as then constituted, with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Nova Scotia was the real leader in the movement which finally brought about Confederation, then a big idea and still a big idea, growing bigger as years go by. Prince Edward Island did not come into the union at first but later joined up, while Newfoundland left the matter in abeyance and has not yet seen fit to throw in its lot with the other United Provinces. Now would be a good time to come in.

Growth has been steady. From four Provinces joined up at first and five later when Prince Edward came in, the country has developed and extended until at present there are nine great Provinces and the possibilities of the country reveal themselves as development gradually takes place. Who knows what the next fifty years may bring forth in this great Dominion of the New World and the North? Already we hear the Peace River District called "the Province beyond the Peace." Only the fringe of Canada's natural resources has yet been touched and the great union of Provinces may be added to in numbers and certainly will grow in strength as decade follows decade in the next half century.

The fathers of Confederation won the greatest peace victory in Canada's history. Cementing the Provinces of a young nation together was a problem which required the best efforts of real statesman and

Canada had them. The young nation created within the Empire—the great democratic idea has prospered as only democracy can up to the present stage where world war, waged at the behest of autocracy, finds Canada on the side of humanity and in the fight to the finish. These are the greatest and most trying times since Confederation and it behooves our present-day leaders in thought and action to emulate our statesmen of a half century ago and live up to the opportunity which is theirs. Canada's honor is at stake in this fight. Democracy must be upheld. The country must be bound together and the men already on the firing line must be backed up. Foresight and statesmanship should eliminate political intrigue and the young nation only 50 years old is on the threshold of rapid advancement in growth and affairs.

So-Called Daylight Saving.

Sir George Foster has introduced a Bill in the House of Commons calling for the adoption of daylight saving Canada over. Sir George has spent his life in Finance and Commerce. He never had to harvest crops in catchy weather. He never had to cultivate and hoe weedy corn and mangolds between showers, otherwise he would understand that the dew falls at night and doesn't dry off until well after seven o'clock as our timepieces now run, and that the best time to kill weeds is not early in the morning, one hour before seven, but after the sun is well up and burning on his way. The hour between five and six p. m. in haying, hoeing and harvesting is far more valuable to the farmer than the hour between six and seven a. m., which would be in the ten-hour day under daylight saving, excluding the hour from five to six p. m. as it now stands.

In any consideration of tampering with the clock as man has set it by the sun—people in rural districts should be considered. In Canada upwards of 50 per cent. of the people live on the land and agriculture is, this year even more so than ever before, the most important industry. Above all things it is imperative that farmers get all the help possible in harvesting their crops. Farm proprietors work from sun to sun for the most part and so the measure will not decrease or increase their hours of labor, but the hired help, considerable of it from towns and villages, will figure on starting in the fields at seven by the clock and quitting at six unless under special arrangements of hiring, and that seven and six should remain as for years and not be advanced one hour as suggested by the Bill. Surely city and town folk can find time enough with their one afternoon a week off and their shorter hours of labor to hoe their back-yard gardens without being fooled by advanced clocks into getting up one hour earlier in the morning that they may ring off work one hour earlier at night. Surely thinking people could get up to start work at six, seven or eight by our clocks, in place of seven, eight and nine and quit one hour earlier at night without changing the clocks. Tampering with the timepiece has no advantage only to fool people into believing that they save an hour daily without getting up any earlier in the morning and such fooling cannot work on the farms. The so-called daylight saving is no good for towns, as an Act or by-law, unless made Dominion wide. Dominion wide it will interfere with agriculture, therefore it should be left entirely to firms, and any who desire to start and quit work one hour earlier should make their own arrangements and leave the clock as before. There is just so many hours of sunlight no matter what any man in his wisdom may do with the clock, and he who would make the most of it must rise early and work late by the sun, no matter what the clock says. If daylight saving hours are to apply to Canada, agriculture should be excluded. It fools picnickers, joy-riders, lawn bowlers and summer-resort frequenters and occasionally a