

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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terms of the peace treaty. Protection must come largely through guarding our natural resources from outside exploitation, as has never been done before. Trade relations must be maintained so that we can freely trade the world over. With our natural resources guarded our opportunities should be unlimited. Tariffs, then, can not be set to meet the whims or ideas of any class; they must protect all. Tariffs must be considered from the effect they will have upon our export trade, which, we believe, may in the future assume proportions never dreamed of, providing we do not draw upon ourselves the enmity of other nations through an endeavor, by high tariffs, to practically exclude these nations from trading with us. Trade relations following the war will be one of the most delicate economic problems we will have to deal with and we may easily find ourselves outcasts in the trade world by adopting a policy that will have the appearance of extreme national selfishness.

Canada will commence a new era when the war ends, and we should be able to show greater development and growth than any other country. It is important that that growth be a healthy one. The need of the moment is a Canadian agricultural reconstruction association consisting of representative men who can meet with other branches of our national life and assist in formulating a policy so fair and so just to all classes that the uncertainties of the after-war period may be cleared up and a bright and prosperous future assured.

Selecting Breeding Ewes at the Stock Yards.

Anyone having in mind the purchase of breeding ewes on the Toronto or Montreal Stock Yards, will find it to their advantage in many ways in making that selection at an early date. Some ewes have been going to the shambles that should have gone to the breeding pens, and it is probable that at a later date the demand may make it more difficult to obtain good individuals. There is another advantage in having these ewes at home during this, the preliminary season to breeding. During October, if not earlier, the flock should be on extra good forage, or be receiving a little grain. It pays to have them in a thrifty, gaining condition during the mating season. It will be easier, too, to regulate the lambing season if the ewe flock is assembled at an early date where they will be receiving special preliminary care. Many farmers have taken advantage of the

free "Car-lot Policy" instituted by the Dominion Live Stock Branch. Their representatives are still active at these Yards and willing to assist.

Inspiring False Hope.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

Some weeks ago the newspapers reported Baron Shaughnessy as saying that, in his opinion, the War would be ended somewhere inside the next twelve months. He seemed so sure of it that his words were enough to put hope into the most pessimistic dyspeptic in the country. And the tendency in the case of the most of us was to take it for granted that His Lordship knew something of what he was talking about. We believe what we want to believe, if there's any chance of overlooking the facts. Baron Shaughnessy may be right and the war may possibly soon come to an end, but what facts does he give us in support of his statement, or prophecy? Not any, insofar as we have seen. It's just his "say so" and it is published all over the country. Baron Shaughnessy is a successful railroad man and the C. P. R. has kept on paying dividends since he took it in charge just as it had for many years before that time, but it doesn't seem probable that there is anything in the business of railroading that peculiarly fits a man for the position of war-prophet. Still, this is a fairly free country and we all have the right to give expression to our opinions so long as they are not likely to interfere with the Government's business and the carrying on of the War. His Lordship, having made a statement, any other man has an equal right to make his statement contradicting it. The fact that what he has to say is more or less guess-work doesn't count for any more in the one case than it did in the other. The expressing of an opinion or the giving of advice doesn't always indicate a knowledge of the subject. According to the old darkey the opposite may be nearer the truth. He said: "A man gives away on himself by too much braggin'. When I hears a man tellin' 'bout how easy he kin drive a mule, I knows right off he ain't no reg'lar mule-driver."

So it may be the same with any of us that start in to tell how soon we're going to bring this war to a finish. It may be that "we ain't no reg'lar" soldiers.

A certain French magazine writer has been giving some figures to one of the New York dailies, lately on this subject of how long it is likely to take us to beat Germany. He says that in 1914 Germany had twenty possible and actual soldiers to every hundred of her population. This would mean a total of 13,600,000 fighting men at that time. Up to June 18 of this year the losses among them, according to a good authority, have been 4,800,000. About half a million wounded and sick are constantly in the hospitals, making a total of 5,300,000 out of action. Deducting these from the original number of 13,600,000 we have 8,300,000 left. But in the past four years Germany has recruited an additional army of 2,900,000, mostly from among those coming of military age. Those getting beyond the military age of normal times have, however, been retained in the army. So, according to the above figures, which are apparently reliable, it seems that we have still against us a Germany army of 11,200,000 men. Quite a mob to be disposed of in the comparatively short time of twelve months!

There is something else to be considered. The German military party will keep up the fight as long as they are in control and can drive a soldier into the field. They know what it means for them if they lose. There is no doubt that they would rather live in a state of continual warfare than to have to acknowledge themselves beaten. So we needn't waste our time thinking about the possibilities of a peace brought about in any other way than by beating them to a stand-still. It's hardly likely that we can point out to them the hopelessness of their cause and of getting them to realize it to the extent of laying down their arms a minute sooner than they think they have to. We have to win this war because we are better men than they are, as well as because we have a better cause to fight for. There is such a thing as physical degeneration in a nation's life as well as degeneration of the moral and mental nature; it's up to us to show Germany and the rest of the world that we are afflicted with neither one nor the other.

If it's going to take us several years yet to win this war isn't it better that we should realize it. We're surely not a lot of children that have to be coaxed along by the continual promise of victory in sight. What are we good for if we can't develop the patience that is willing to fight and endure till the end, be that end near at hand or far in the distance? Our men in France have a hundred times the hardship and suffering to put up with that we at home here know anything about, but according to all accounts they're putting up with it. And with no thought of quitting until perhaps they have to quit for good.

We all know the truth of the saying that "Hope deferred makes the heart sick" and if anything could bring about a heart-sick condition in our country it would be likely to be the continual predictions of "peace this year" or "peace next summer" and similar phrases that our newspapers periodically use as headlines for the purpose of "cheering us up."

Predicting peace won't bring it one minute sooner than it will come if we confine our whole attention to the other lines of endeavor that require, perhaps, a little more physical or mental effort.

We want our men that are at the head of affairs to be honest with us, and we should be honest with one another and with ourselves in regard to these matters. Nothing ever seems to be gained by hiding the truth, not, anyway, from those that should be able to stand it. And the most of the people of this country have given plenty of evidence of being able to do that.

If this war is teaching the world a lesson that she needed to learn and that, will in the end, help to further the progress of humanity, (as the majority of us now believe) we want to see it carried on to its logical conclusion and with no abortive peace measures or premature laying down of arms, such as came to Russia, with the result that is apparent to us all to-day.

Anyway we've had enough of those who, whatever their intention, are tending to slacken our efforts, in the one great purpose of winning this fight, by crying "peace, peace, where there is no peace," and holding out the temptation of present personal comfort rather than the ideal of future national welfare.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

Among the Vireos, the next commonest, after the Red-eye with which we dealt in our last article, is the Warbling Vireo.

This species is five inches in length. The upper parts are greenish with an ashy shade, this shade becoming deeper on the crown. The crown is bordered with a white line over the eye. The under parts are whitish with a faint yellowish, creamy or buffy tinge and the sides are shaded with olive. As may be seen from the above description the "identification mark" of this species is the white line over the eye and its lack of other conspicuous marks.

The Warbling Vireo is found as a summer resident from Nova Scotia to Alberta, being commonest in Ontario, particularly in central and southwestern Ontario. In western Alberta and British Columbia it is replaced by a very closely allied sub-species, known as the Western Warbling Vireo, which is common in the Rockies, and on the Coast.

The song of this species is soft and flowing and McIlwraith, the veteran ornithologist who gave us one of our earliest Canadian books on birds, most aptly compares it to "the murmuring of a hidden brook in the leafy month of June."

The Warbling Vireo is far more partial to the shade trees in cities and to orchards than to the forest. The nest is pensile, like the nests of all Vireos, being suspended by the rim in a fork. It is usually composed of bark strips, fine rootlets, wasp paper, paper and fine grass, but one nest which came under my observation was composed almost entirely of string. This particular bird evidently thought that it had found a building material of some value as the next year it came back and pulled the old nest to pieces, taking nearly all the string to weave into a new nest it was building in another tree. The nest is as a rule located at twenty-five feet or more from the ground.

The food of this species consists almost entirely of insects, and of these it eats a good many which are serious pests of the orchard.

The Warbling Vireo arrives in Ontario about May 8 and leaves about September 20. It winters in Mexico.

The Blue-headed Vireo is one of the handsomest of this family. It is olive-green above, the crown and sides of the head are a rather bright bluish-ash, and it has a white wing round the eye, and two conspicuous white wing-bars. It is pure white beneath with the sides washed with yellow.

This species is seen in the more southerly parts of Ontario and Quebec only as a migrant, but it breeds in the northern parts of these provinces and also in the Maritime Provinces and in Manitoba. It is the earliest of the Vireos to arrive, coming with the first of the Warblers at the end of April.

The song of the Blue-headed Vireo is very much like that of the Red-eye, but is a little more varied and always strikes me as being a trifle louder. It is, however, often mistaken for that of the Red-eye, and early records for the Red-eye, that is at the end of April or during the first week of May, are in all probability founded on this species.

The Cassin's Vireo, which resembles the Blue-head very closely, but is blue-gray on the back, as well as on the head, is a common species in the Rockies and on the Coast.

A striking bird is the Yellow-throated Vireo. It is rich olive-green above, bright yellow on the throat and breast and abruptly white on the abdomen. It has a yellow line over the eye and a yellow ring round the eye.

This species has quite a wide distribution in Canada, being recorded from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba, but it is common only in parts of South-western Ontario.

The nest of this species is similar in location and general structure to that of the Red-eye, but the exterior is covered with lichens intertwined with the silk of spiders and caterpillars. Its song is much like that of the Red-eye but is even more deliberate and it also sometimes utters a mellow trill.

The Philadelphia Vireo resembles the Warbling Vireo very closely, but is yellower beneath. Its song, however, is like that of the Red-eye but is higher pitched. The distribution of this species is more to the north and west than most of the Vireos, as it is not found in the Maritime Provinces, and has been found breeding only about James Bay, near Ottawa, in northern Leeds, in Manitoba and in Alberta. It is a regular but not very common migrant in southern Ontario.

The White-eyed Vireo is a good deal like the Warbling Vireo, but the white iris and the white ring round the eye distinguish it at once on a close view. This species is very rare in Canada, as it is typically a bird of the southern and central States. It has been recorded in Canada, in each case only a single individual being seen, from St. John, N. B., Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Woodstock, Ont., Listowel, Ont., Toronto, Ont., and Mount Forest, Ont.