

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

He is careless who keeps a dirty stable.

This is a business war.—Buy Canadian-made goods.

Weed out the inferior stock at the beginning of winter.

Do not keep live stock but make the live stock keep you.

The farmer who depends upon "luck" generally has "bad luck."

Waste no time in regretting the past—make good now and in the future.

Remember that winter is a better time to cut wood than summer. Cut it now.

Peace may yet be just as reassuring in 1915 as war has been disrupting in 1914.

Straw is considered by good stockmen to be almost as valuable for bedding as for feed.

The cheese factory is proving itself one of the most dependable mainstays of the dairy industry.

Old timers tell us that our Winters do not come as early as they did years ago, neither do our Springs.

Give the boy a colt, a calf, a pig or a lamb to feed and care for this winter and watch him out-do his dad.

A mangel a day keeps the veterinarian away from the calf, and a turnip a day will do the same for the colt.

There are those who claim that Indian Summer always comes in November. We think it was a month late this year.

The annual school meeting and nomination for township council should divert some of the war interest to other channels.

This Christmas season will be robbed of much of the usual merriment but the spirit of giving is in evidence as never before.

The man who reaches the height of his ambitions rarely has his ambitions set on the top rung of the ladder.

The farmer "out of a job" is drifting into a dangerous current composed of carelessness, listlessness, laziness and inefficiency which may swamp him.

Get more light into the stables by cleaning up the windows on a mild day. It is not often there is too much glass but frequently there is too much dirty glass.

Some of the war correspondents said to be "eye-witnesses" of the fighting must have a long range of vision, for we understand that Kitchener and Joffre allow them within twenty miles of "the front."

Laying Plans for 1915.

The winter season affords an excellent opportunity for the man on the farm to lay his plans for next year's operations, and in this he has many chances to get new ideas from his reading and from winter meetings which are held in his own neighborhood. At the present time the Province of Ontario is fairly well covered with Farmers' Institutes, Farmers' Clubs, Fruit Growers' Associations, Seed Growers' Associations, and other farmers' organizations of which he should take full advantage. The winter season in most of these is given over to a series of meetings with prominent outside speakers to help out the local talent and the whole if properly conducted, and properly supported by the men of the district should help each and every farmer in that locality.

So often, after the chores are done at night, the farmer feels more like toasting his shins at his own fireside than driving from one to three miles to the nearest village to attend a meeting. However, it would be to his own advantage in most cases if he made it a point to attend every one of these meetings, and, when there, to take part in the discussions and help make the meeting interesting and of value to all in attendance. We have been at Farmers' Institute meetings and Farmers' Club meetings where only a mere handful turned out and where discussions were slow and draggy because the one or two particular speakers of the evening had to do all the talking. Nevertheless valuable information was given.

At these meetings the subjects discussed are generally those which directly affect the farmer, and the problems being threshed out are those which he is called upon to meet each year in his operations. He must have, from practical experience, learned something of value, which, were he to relate it to the others, would make the meeting more interesting and of more value to all, would help himself as well as the others, and would if followed out by all in attendance at all the farm organization meetings throughout this and other provinces give a direct impetus to agriculture.

When a meeting is announced to be held in a village, some are prone to make the statement that they know as much about the particular subject to be discussed as the speaker and do not think it worth while attending. This is a wrong conception to take of the matter and even though a man is well versed in the topic to be discussed he should be there to hear what the other fellow has to say and to give the others the opportunity of learning what he knows about it. During the coming winter a large number of meetings will be held throughout the country, all intended to help the farmer to help himself in the business in which he is engaged. You cannot get the benefit if you do not attend.

We are told that we must increase production. Every good farmer aims at this each year. If we increase production to a large extent we must have better systems of marketing or trouble will surely come. These two subjects are going to be of prime importance during the coming winter and no farmer can afford to miss discussions of the different problems which come up in working out the desired end. As a first step in planning the work for 1915 we would suggest that every meeting of farmers for farmers be attended by every farmer in the community in which it is held. We need farmers who can think and express their ideas. There is no place where they have a better

opportunity than at one of their own meetings. Let them avail themselves of the opportunity offered, and see how soon a mere handful in attendance will be swelled to numbers which will tax the capacity of the building and the lukewarm interest will be changed to a live and even spirited meeting with large numbers taking part and profitable discussions resulting invariably.

If the farmers of this country ever expect to make the most of their case they must get together and thresh it out. This winter is the time to begin. Regular attendance at such meetings, where all go, not to scoff, but to learn something and to help their neighbors, will surely aid in planning the work for another year, in fact it may so revolutionize the plans of the careless man that his 1915 operations will be a success in place of a partial or total failure.

And while on this subject carry some of this discussion to "The Farmer's Advocate." Give our readers the benefit of your ideas born of experience. All hands together for bumper returns in 1915. Our columns are open. We are anxious to help.

Short and Long-term Leases.

One of the most common sources of trouble between tenant and land-owner in this country comes as a direct result of short term leases. When a tenant rents a farm and gets a lease running anywhere from one to five years no one can blame him very much if he tries to make the most out of the deal and in the result robs the land. Of course, we do not believe that it is good policy even for a short-term lessee to run the land to death but if his lease only runs for a year or two one can naturally expect that he will crop all the land that he can get under cultivation and that he will use all the methods known to himself to stimulate the land to the greatest possible production during these two years, caring very little about the condition in which he leaves the farm for the next tenant.

Landlords almost invariably take exception to this form of mining the soil but many do not look in the right direction for a remedy by which the evil may be overcome. In the first place, a landlord should be sure he is getting a good tenant and then to be fair to himself, his tenant and his farm, he should by all means secure long-term leases on his property. True, some lands are rented in this country on ten-year leases but we have heard of very few longer than this period. A great many more are leased for a five-year period and thousands for one and two years, these latter being as a general thing, after a few years of renting, considered as run-down farms cropped to death. In Mr. MacNeillage's article in our Christmas number methods of leasing in Scotland were discussed in which he pointed out that the term of legal tenancy in that country is nineteen years and that a tenant who improves the land in that time receives the full benefit of his improvement.

If our land-holders who rent to tenants would get longer term leases and give the tenants full benefit from their efforts in improving the soil and farm standing there would be much less trouble between landlord and tenant, much better satisfaction for both and a higher state of fertility on rented farms in this country would undoubtedly result. No tenant can really afford to slight his farming operations, neither can he, if he be a long-term tenant afford to "run" the land because from this land he must get his returns in follow-