

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Boost the corn crop by frequent cultivations.

Don't forget that the haying and harvesting machinery require oil.

Little of real value is gained in country or city without a lot of hard work.

One weed allowed to go to seed may mean one hundred to hoe out next year.

The summer-fallow that is a summer-fallow requires regular attention throughout the season.

Cool the milk. Warm milk sours quickly and sour milk is not satisfactory for making cheese.

If more farmers would take their boys into partnership, there would be fewer farm boys craving city life.

The old herd sire will prove of more value to the country in another herd than on the butcher's block.

An occasional drink of water during the day is as refreshing to the horses as to the men working in the hay field.

Milk and meat cannot be produced without a liberal quantity of feed. Supplement the drying pastures with grain, silage or hay.

Carelessness in hoeing the roots the first time increases the work later on. Do a good job the first time, even if it does take longer.

Insects and bugs have come to no peace terms with the farmer. The latter must wage war every year against these robbers of his crops.

Prepare now for the show-ring. There is no excuse for showing a poorly-fitted animal. Start putting the finishing touches on in plenty of time.

Do not leave the care of the vegetable garden entirely to the women folk. Lend a hand in keeping the weeds in subjection and harvesting the crop.

If the municipality neglects to cut the weeds on the roadside, it will pay each one to cut the weeds adjacent to his property. A weedy roadside soon results in a weedy farm.

A German paper is reported as saying "The Peace Treaty is only a scrap of paper." May the guardians of peace see that the paper is not torn up and the world again plunged into the great abyss of war.

If continuing in the live-stock business, you require the good breeding females just as much as the other breeder. The herd will never be built up to your ideal by selling the good ones and keeping the poorer individuals.

Investigations have brought to light immense profits made by some firms during these abnormal times. May the authorities go farther than to investigate and force those making undue profits to disgorge some of these surpluses to assist in paying the country's debts, thus easing the load for less fortunate individuals.

## A Long Session.

It is expected that the House of Commons will have terminated its long session by the time this reaches our readers. Beginning February 20 and lasting through four months and a half, the second session of the thirteenth parliament of Canada has witnessed a most surprising waste of time by our legislators. This is not to say that the House has not passed some good measures during this time, but the fact is indisputable that the same amount of work could have been accomplished in far less time. Three whole weeks were consumed at the beginning of the session in debating the address in reply to the speech from the throne, while the budget debate was concluded in two weeks, and was infinitely more important from the standpoint of practical government. The latter occupied quite a sufficiently long period, and the former undoubtedly took up too much time.

The Government professed to think that members should be given every latitude on the floor of the House in respect of lengthy remarks on widely differing subjects. Sir Thomas White was not anxious, however, to bring on the budget very early in the session, and the work lagged further because of Sir Robert Borden's absence at the Peace Conference. A representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" sat throughout the whole session in the press gallery, and early came to the conclusion that while individually the members may be good fellows and intelligent citizens, collectively they average up about with the average Canadian. There are too many vote catchers and men whose personal prejudices sway them at every turn. Such men are responsible for nearly all of the time of the House that is wasted. There are, of course, some good men—the more should they be cherished—but sometimes it is very easy to forgive even a good man for taking the affairs of the House very indifferently.

What the average voter cannot understand, however, is that affairs of Government usually go on as he dictates, and that it is rarely, if ever possible, to secure a government that is much better than the electors. Farmers, particularly, have this to learn, because while most members hold their own opinions of farming in very high regard their actual knowledge of the industry is merely sufficient to make them comparable to a brake on a wagon travelling uphill. Many of the lawyers and doctors in the House could very well be replaced by representatives of agriculture, since, notwithstanding that "there is just about as much human nature in some folks as there is in others, if not more," the kind that represents farming could be more prominently displayed in the House to advantage. Farmer members will only be sent to Ottawa by farmers. Moreover, at present a man to go to Ottawa must be comfortably well off since a sessional indemnity of \$2,500 is at least \$1,000 too little if good men are to be secured.

## Teachers' Salaries.

Teachers and clergymen are indispensable in the rural life of the country, yet the financial reward granted them for services rendered is not in keeping with the times or the increased cost of living. Some clergymen have been receiving, during the past five years, only a very little more than their predecessors got twenty years ago, and teachers' salaries have not increased in the same ratio as the necessities of life and the cost of an education, such as is required for the teaching profession. Lady teachers are giving up their schools to go into offices as secretaries or stenographers, and many who would prefer teaching to office work accept the latter because it is less nerve-racking and more remunerative. Some sections pay good salaries to competent teachers, but as a rule the compensation for services rendered is not sufficient to attract and hold the kind of teachers who should be employed.

We understand the difficulties of the rural section. The number of pupils is small and the cost per child runs high, but it is the duty of every citizen to assist in the maintenance of the institution's value to the community in which he lives. Without schools and churches we would revert to pioneer conditions, and property would depreciate in value. Good schools and good churches are marks of progress. Country children are entitled to an education that will equip them for citizenship and a life of usefulness not to the community only, but to the nation as a whole. If the teaching profession is to be maintained at a high standard salaries must be made attractive or the best will leave it and our children will suffer. A good education is the best property the parent can bequeath to his child.

## Labor and Agricultural Interest Not Compatible.

There are rumors occasionally which seem to indicate that agriculture contemplates making advances to labor in the hope that together they may exert more political influence in the arena of Canadian affairs. The super-heated city breezes often waft the news countryward, too, that labor is ready to unite with the organized farmers of Canada that order may be evolved out of chaos, and that Right may displace Wrong. Such a combination would embrace a considerable majority of the population and link together two so-called classes upon whom the prosperity of this Dominion depends to an extent not yet recognized. In a national sense their aims are identical; both are striving for just and equitable legislation that does not favor the wealthy or oppress the poor. Agriculture and labor are similar in their demands so far as the broad principles of politics and government are concerned, but we fear sharply defined differences would arise when it came to the working out of their respective programs. Labor is demanding an eight-hour day, while farmers work nearer eighteen hours, and unless agriculture can be made so remunerative that more help can be employed and shorter days made practicable there can be little hope of a compromise on this plank of the platform. When farming comes into its own and we begin to cultivate our farms as they should be cultivated, farmers will have more help and be employers without any more desire than now to submit to union rules or the application of the union wage schedule. The question then arises, is agriculture justified in helping to establish conditions and laws which when applied to our own industry are neither workable nor acceptable. Farmers have produce to sell at the highest price the market will pay; labor is a large purchaser of that produce at the lowest price the market will sell it, and usually the farmer is denounced for the sins perpetuated not by him but by the market which handles commodities grown on the farm. There is a difference here that could be minimized by more co-operative trading.

Labor, as now constituted, is largely in the employ of protected industries, and the neutrality expressed in regard to the tariff by the labor convention, held some weeks ago in Toronto, is a warning that agriculture can expect little support in the direction of tariff reduction. Farmers to a very large extent are property holders, while the ranks of labor include great numbers who have no possessions beyond household equipment and, in some cases, the tools with which they work.

These and other important differences exist, and, after all, the free and proper use of the ballot-box is the very best means of putting just legislation on the statutes books in this country where we have the machinery for representative government. If labor and agriculture would elect representatives from among themselves in proportion to their numerical strength and importance, and have them meet representatives of other classes or