

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Spring came but she forgot to bring Seeding with her.

Grow plenty of silage crops. The long winters require large stores of succulent fodder.

Be liberal with the clover seed! It costs money we know, but you cannot afford to deprive the farm of it.

Had more overalls been in use during the last few years there would be less need of resorting to them now by way of demonstration.

Brighten up the buildings with a good coat of paint; it will preserve them and add wonderfully to the appearance of your property.

Many townspeople are getting into overalls for the first time, and the one result sure to accrue is that the price to those who have always used them will be considerably increased.

Practically every farm should maintain 100 hens, and the time to start building up a profitable flock is in the spring. One hen to the acre, and 100 eggs per hen is a good standard for the average farm.

There is an old saying that "lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place," and on the strength of this maxim many were expecting an early spring in 1920. The old maxims and signs are no longer reliable.

The farm survey report carried in our last issue shows that, on the average, 100-acre farms in Western Ontario are returning a labor income of \$802. A good many farmers might like to change places with the hired man and accept his income which is earned with labor only and carries no worry or responsibility.

He is a wise man indeed who has it definitely settled in his own mind just what he would do in case of fire in the dwelling or buildings. Many a small blaze could be extinguished if the proper equipment were at hand and everyone knew just what to do and how to do it. Every farmer is his own fireman, and should be prepared for any emergency.

It has been predicted that Ontario will be the first Province to make provision for the eight-hour day, for the reason that she is the biggest industrial Province and because the Labor party possesses the balance of power in the Provincial Legislature. What we need in Ontario is more work instead of less. Increased production is no longer a matter of patriotism, but it is the serious need of the country at the present time.

It is gratifying to know that the plans of the Ontario Department of Agriculture for the encouragement of butter grading in Ontario seem to be progressing fairly satisfactorily. Last year Canada exported \$8,000,000 worth of creamery butter, but this industry could be developed so that Ontario alone could export much more than this if we were able to compete on the world's market with a uniform, first-class graded product.

Those amendments proposed by the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature for the further protection of sheep owners are badly needed. Farmers will never make good legislators, however, until they can look at things from a viewpoint a little broader than is necessary to merely keep an eye on the dog tax revenue collected by the township council. The sheep industry in Ontario is far more important than a few extra dollars yearly for a few townships.

Bringing the Feed Act Home.

It is now altogether probable that the Act governing the inspection and sale of live-stock feeds will at last be handed over to the Department of Agriculture to administer. For several years there has been a Bill in the files of the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture waiting for a suitable time to present itself, and the Minister of Agriculture, Honorable Dr. Tolmie, is to be complimented upon taking the stand that this Bill should be brought to light and allowed to replace that unfortunate Act that has been kicked about from the Department of Inland Revenue to Trade and Commerce, and finally to the Department of Public Health.

There is no other logical place for an Act concerning feeds than under the protection and administration of the Agricultural Department. Furthermore, in the Seed Branch, under Mr. Clark, there has been developed an analytical service which no other department has, and the seed inspectors can at the same time be feed inspectors, thus reducing considerably the cost of administration and increasing its efficiency.

We understand that the new Bill is much more comprehensive than its predecessor, and that mixed feeds must undergo examination and be approved before going on the market. It will also likely provide for standard feeds mixed according to Government recipes, so it will not matter what firm prepares them they will be alike in contents and analysis.

There is another Statute known as The Fertilizers Act which should also be handed over to the Department of Agriculture. This Act, too, has been kicked about from the Department of Inland Revenue, and Trade and Commerce to the Department of Public Health, where it is a stranger absolutely. It is only reasonable to expect that the Department of Agriculture should administer this Act, and it is to be hoped that when the feed Act is properly adopted by the Department of Agriculture, its half-brother, The Fertilizers Act, will not be long in finding a home with it.

A New Use of the Strike Weapon.

One of the most encouraging statements emanating from the ranks of labor was recently made by Tom Moore, President of the Dominion Traders and Labor Congress, when he intimated that the time is coming when the strike weapon will be used to combat high prices rather than to obtain higher wages and shorter hours. Labor and capital have had the field largely to themselves, while farmers and the so-called middle classes have been obliged to take what fell from the rich man's table. Strikes without end have shortened working hours and raised wages, but the striker has awakened the next morning to find the living costs increased to such an extent by the concession he had gained the day before that the fruits of victory were plucked by others, and he was no better off. Agreements have not been worth the paper written on; uncertainty has prevailed everywhere and all the time; production has been alarmingly decreased, and as a consequence the cost of living has gone kiting skyward. More than half the population have been innocent by-standers, suffering all the time from the results of these industrial battles, but unable to intervene or escape the inevitable consequences of the struggle.

Whether the "overall" had accomplished anything or not, it indicates that the endurance of the buying public is just about exhausted; the limit has been reached; something is about to break.

The strike weapon should never be used when it is possible to adjust matters by arbitration, but if labor will agree to an honest day's pay for an honest day's work and then demand that prices come down out of the skies, they will have 95 per cent. of Canada's population right with them.

Men, Not Millions Needed.

A recent press despatch credits Honorable R. H. Grant, Minister of Education for Ontario, as saying that "instead of bringing in estimates for hundreds of thousands of dollars for educational purposes, we will have to talk and deal in millions." The Minister at the same time elaborated on the poor attendance of pupils at rural schools, saying that "in 1919 Ontario had, out of a total of 5,757 rural schools, 5 schools with an average attendance of 1 pupil; 12 schools with an average attendance of 2; 35 schools with 3; 46 schools with 4; 79 schools with 5; 479 schools with 6, and 1,400 schools with less than 10 pupils."

While the Minister is justified in putting forth every effort to improve educational facilities in the country schools, it should be borne in mind that these empty schools are more the result of unfavorable economic conditions than of poor educational facilities. To fill these schools we should have families in the all too many empty houses found on side-roads and concessions throughout Ontario. We need a rejuvenated agriculture; an industry to which young men are turning in pursuit of a life's occupation. In Hon. Mr. Grant's mind, probably, everything revolves around education, as in Hon. Mr. Biggs' mind everything revolves around good roads. It will keep the Premier and Hon. Mr. Smith, Provincial Treasurer, scratching to find millions of dollars where hundreds of thousands were found before, and our legislators should not forget that first of all agriculture must be made attractive. To this end the Provincial and Dominion Governments must co-operate. Millions may help to make our rural schools better, and there is need of it, but young families in the school sections are needed to fill the empty seats and put names on the registers.

Dehorning and Flesh Bruises.

The Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers calls attention to the great loss in meat products from bruises in the flesh, and points out that "over 70,000 pounds of meat a year are actually reported at inspected Canadian packing plants alone as wasted through bruises in the flesh." We are also told that "most of the bruises are caused by the animals' horns while in transit from the farm to the market and abattoir." Attention is also drawn to the fact that aside from meat actually bruised, the quarters from which it is taken are much reduced in appearance and hence in salability. "Probably one in every five cattle brought on Canadian stock yards suffers from injury which could be prevented were dehorning commonly practiced," we are told, and we are also informed that "the packer's buyer necessarily takes the loss into account and the farmer who sells cattle takes the risk and a lower price."

With much that is said by the Council we are in entire agreement and we certainly agree that dehorning is a profitable practice where animals are intended for slaughter. We are glad that Departments of Agriculture and the packers are beginning to interest themselves actively in this matter and feel sure that their efforts will meet with success, especially now that farmers themselves are actively engaged in marketing their own stock. With more acquaintance of marketing methods, farmers will quickly see the advantage of dehorning. But the packers, too, should give their attention to a bad practice on the yards that certainly must cause a great deal of bruised flesh. Anyone who has been on the yards and observed the unmerciful manner in which cattle are clubbed and mauled about can readily understand how part of the meat at least is wasted. In fact, the matter is referred to as follows in the annual review of the Toronto and Montreal yards by the Live-Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture: "There is also the inhuman and in-

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