

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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1866

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LIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 27, 1918.

1344

EDITORIAL.

Get rid of the rooster and break up broody hens immediately, both are non-producers of revenue.

Haying has commenced and farmers will have to depend on mechanical assistance more than ever before.

What about threshing gangs in your district? If conditions make the plan feasible it should be carried out.

Corn did not do any too well for a while, but with plenty of warm weather and ample cultivation it should fill the silos to the top.

The success of organization in Ontario should not be jeopardized through lack of leadership. We have the men—give them a chance.

A record crop is now looked for on the North American continent. This will be good news for Britain and our other Allies.

Registration and the questionnaire should reveal to many that they are not such important individuals after all. It is usefulness that counts.

It is now a time for the town and county to sink all differences of opinion and get together. It requires a long pull and a strong pull to win out.

An explanation of conditions created by the draft in Alberta was carried personally to Ottawa by the agricultural leader of the Province, H. W. Wood.

Cover crops prevent winter injury to fruit trees, and the experiences of the past winter advocate such protection. It is time cover crops were sown.

A successful farmer in Middlesex County, Ontario, informs us that he planted sorghum during the last week of June in 1917 and harvested a splendid crop.

Ferdinand of Bulgaria says: "We kings must stick together." Co-operation is becoming popular in high places, but the common people should not let the light go out.

Do not delay too long the plowing for fall wheat. A field plowed early, rolled, and cultivated to conserve the moisture will make a much better seed-bed than when the job is put off till late in August.

One department of the Ontario Government urges farmers to tile their land and spends a considerable sum of public money in inducing them to drain. At the same time another department refuses tile manufacturers, with a capacity for the annual production of 31,000,000 of tile, the use of natural gas, thus making it very difficult to secure the essential thing to carry on the work.

In this issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" will be found an index to all articles which have appeared since the beginning of the calendar year. Many of our subscribers have saved every issue for a long period and value their collection very highly. The last issue in June and the corresponding issue in December contain the index to all material appearing during the preceding six months, and by referring to that guide one can readily turn to articles discussing all phases of agriculture. No more complete and instructive volume of an agricultural nature can be obtained than the bound issues of "The Farmer's Advocate" covering a six or twelve months' period. Save your papers and use the index.

Mr. Parsons in the Open.

Those who busy themselves with the readjustment that must follow the war should remember that we are now fighting for the privilege of having a voice in this readjustment when the time comes, and all major efforts should be directed to the accomplishment of the one great purpose. If it is necessary to make tractors non-dutiable during war time in order to increase the production of foodstuffs, that should not be objected to on the grounds that it is contrary to the policy of those eminent and far-sighted men who have the readjustment in mind. It is well that we keep the future in view and prepare for post war days so long as the plans laid do not interfere with the present campaign for victory. The President of the Manufacturers' Association required little urging when at the annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Montreal, early in June, he projected the tariff question into the public affairs of Canada, simply because he had been challenged by some official organ "to come out into the open." It was not necessary for Mr. Parsons to come out into the open that we might know what his views were in regard to the tariff. His position as President of the Manufacturers' Association is sufficient guarantee that he is not obsessed with free trade ideas, or in any way a dangerous man so far as the manufacturers are concerned. The stand he took concerning protection was the stand we would expect him to take, and thus the outcome of more or less personal differences will soon be erased to make room for more vital questions and world events. If manufacturers had been surfeited with literature and exhorted to produce more and still more, as farmers have since the beginning of the war, and their trained help was continually leaving them for some occupation which, on account of the profits made, could afford to pay better wages, then our sympathy would be with them in their hour of trial. However, we learn from the report of the convention that the housing problem created through war contracts and influx of families and workers to the urban centres is a serious one, and immediate action is necessary to provide suitable and adequate living conditions. This contradicts the statements of Senator Nicholls, who in his address asserted that farmers of the West are making no less than 200 to 300 per cent. profits in producing wheat. If such were true the tide would turn and we would have such a back-to-the-land movement as the country never experienced in its history.

The Laborers Are Few.

Registration is now over and, no doubt, a great many not engaged in agriculture indicated that they had some knowledge regarding farm work and would be useful in the harvest. A great number, too, probably have expressed a willingness to assist in the fields if needed and do all they can to relieve the situation. It will require some time to compile the information and place each individual in his or her category as it relates to essential work. In the meantime the haying is on and the harvest will be at least commenced if not completed. These people should volunteer.

There are two classes of labor that could be used to advantage, one is the man who grew up on the farm and left it to learn some trade or take employment elsewhere. If engaged at manual labor he should be able to go out and assist very materially from the first, for he will not have forgotten what was instilled into him in his youth. Those with similar early training but now engaged in clerical or office work will not be so useful at first and will have to undergo the hardening process, but they should, nevertheless, be able to do their bit. Then there is the retired farmer who can, without exerting himself, accomplish three times as much as the uninitiated city or town man. The retired farmer, wherever he is, would be of great value in

that he does not have to be told how to do a thing and then shown afterwards. It would be well to get in touch with such people and endeavor to secure their aid, and they should avail themselves of this opportunity of rendering assistance in a trying time without being called upon by the authorities after weeks have elapsed in spotting them out through the registration system. There will be a difference in pay, of course, between what the farmer can afford and what one can now command in the city and this, at least, should be arranged for or adjusted at once by the authorities, as much labor can be given work at the crops before the registration information is collated. Farmers, however, are willing to pay a high wage by the day to good men, and those who go to the country by the week or month should consider their board and washing as well as the fact that their incidental expenses will be low.

Last season field after field of hay remained uncut in Ontario for the lack of hands to take it off. A whole year has elapsed and in the meantime more men have been taken from the farms, while nothing has been done to replace them for the haying except the articles which have been written arraigning farmers for not being satisfied with inexperienced help. With the exception of the lads out of high school very little of even the inexperienced help has come forward that has been so much discussed. The girls and women volunteers will do excellent service on fruit farms and in the berry fields, but the harvest requires men.

Farmers would be wise to get in touch with relatives or acquaintances who have had some experience, even if in years gone by, and induce them to lend a hand during the holidays or for a longer period, and thus make the best of a bad situation. Unless unfavorable weather conditions overtake us the crops will be abundant, and we need them all.

Ontario Agriculture in Need of a Leader.

The future of agricultural organization in Ontario depends more on leadership than any other one factor, and early in the development of such a movement we should pay particular attention to that factor which overshadows all others in importance. Ontario does not lend itself to organization, and it will be many years before we accomplish what has already been achieved in the West. The Prairie Provinces were new; they were almost wholly agricultural; they had one chief grievance, and they set about to remedy matters before conditions became intolerable. The growth of co-operation in Western Canada was contemporary with the development of Crerar, Wood, Maharg, Dunning and others as leaders in their respective localities and fields of endeavor. When Mr. Crerar entered the Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture others took command and the West still has strong men to whom Governments and corporations will turn a listening ear. Rural Ontario is older and until recently conditions in this Province were much more favorable for making a living and providing for the younger generation coming on. The West is a young man's country; in Ontario the percentage of older men who have clung to the ancestral home is much larger. Speaking broadly, the seeds of organization do not find as fertile soil in the Province of Ontario as they did and still do in the West. Nevertheless, we have many organizations in Ontario representing different branches of the industry, such as fruit growing, vegetable growing, live stock husbandry, dairying, etc., and connected with them are men in whom the people of this Province impose a great measure of trust. Before we can have an organization similar to the United Farmers of the West, all these forces must be consolidated and placed under one supreme command. This is the field that should be occupied by the United Farmers of Ontario, but up to the present they have not been able to enlist the support of forces which speak for