

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 30, 1920.

1462

EDITORIAL.

After the cockerels have helped to clean up the harvest fields, put them into crates and fatten them.

Manure spread as a top-dressing on old or new meadows is wisely placed. This is a practice that will grow as more experiment with it.

Fall versus spring plowing may still constitute good material for argument, but in these times the farmer, with a full amount of fall plowing done, never regrets it.

Don't skimp the calves because grain is short till after threshing. Purchase some concentrates and get all the development possible at this, the best growing season of the year.

Harvest the fruit carefully and store it. There is usually a good market for farm-grown fruit after the surplus is cleared away. Our markets cannot absorb a season's crop in six weeks.

Some dairymen like to give spring-born calves a short period on good pasture in the fall. This grass experience seems to fit them better for the pasture season which follows the first winter.

In many parts the corn crop is a splendid one. All possible should be put into the silo and the remainder carefully preserved. Any silage that can be carried over to next summer will be appreciated when the pastures are dry.

No kind of food will contribute more abundantly to the development of a healthy, vigorous race of people than dairy products. All our dairy organizations should be generously supported in order that they may do honor to the dairy cow and popularize dairy products in the urban homes throughout Canada.

Prices of manufactured commodities are being held at a high level when, in fairness to all, they should be allowed to seek a normal plane. When raw material drops in value it is only reasonable that finished goods should follow suit, but organization and full control of the situation has enabled manufacturers to keep their price lists propped up. Henry Ford's example, if universally followed, would soon bring about normal conditions. Prices are still inflated beyond reason.

The Dairy Branch of the Provincial Government or the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture could very profitably perfect plans and specifications for combination milk plants in dairy districts. Some day the producers will erect small combination plants in the rural districts and equip them so as to cater to the most convenient and remunerative market. Thousands of dollars can be saved to farmers by having suitable specifications for such plants.

Farmers throughout the Dominion of Canada have struck a hard blow this season at exorbitant prices. It is now the duty of our banking institutions to assist in the moving of the crops, but loans should not be made to those who attempt to corner markets or hoard products. Money is also required by growers to assist them in housing and preserving their harvests until the market can absorb them. A steady flow of product into consumption will make the food problem easy for all, but if profiteers get control of any appreciable volume the situation will become tense and there will be no war to blame for it.

Marketing Live Stock.

As live stock producers we in Canada have worn deep and definite grooves out of which we make no effort to escape. These channels or beaten ways are the outcome of certain conditions which influenced trading in years gone by, but in some instances they are due to seasonal and climatic conditions. If all were to change their ways or methods of marketing we would be little better off. What is needed is a gradual swing away from the months of congested markets, and some relief for what exists now in the lamb trade. For twenty years the rush of good and poor lambs to market during a period of six weeks in the fall has sent prices tumbling to the bottom. We expect the market to absorb in less than three months what it takes us a year to produce. Half the lambs are not ready for the shambles in September, but in they come, good and bad, fat and thin, with the inevitable result—lower prices and disappointing returns. Were half of these lambs given a small ration of grain and some good fall pasturage, the market would be stronger throughout and the returns far in excess of the annual receipts under present and past methods.

While the f. o. b. method of selling hogs may satisfy the individualistic farmer it is bad business from the standpoint of hog production and marketing. Sometimes the buying at country points becomes so keen that the competitive market at the stock yards is not as reliable a guide to values as we should have. Without an open market it is difficult to establish prices and ascertain values.

The one outstanding need of the live stock industry is more co-operation. This can take many forms, varying all the way from a small community organization that will breed one type of hog and be able to obtain a premium on every carload sent out up to big Provincial or even Dominion enterprises, such as the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd. If we don't hang together, we shall all hang separately.

Threshing and Silo Filling.

While farm operations are, as a rule, being conducted with implements much larger and more intricately constructed than those of ten or fifteen years ago, we are gradually making adjustments in another direction as regards threshing and silo filling. There is a tendency back to the small separator that can be efficiently operated and owned by half a dozen farmers. Threshing and silo-filling equipment will eventually conform with the 8-16 or 10-20 tractor, and small groups of farmers will be masters of their own destinies in regard to these operations. Conditions demand these changes, and it is usually easier to adapt our operations to conditions than to alter the circumstances which have a direct and powerful influence on agricultural affairs.

Never in the last quarter-century has it been more difficult to get threshing done than it has been this season. Outfits have gone into the scrap heap and new equipment is exceedingly expensive. Many of the big outfits require overhauling which would cost in the neighborhood of \$1,000, and they are not repaired. A scarcity of outfits has developed during the last five years, and, at present prices, few seem inclined to invest in heavy equipment. The fall wheat seems to keep the gangs busy up to early in September, when threshing is halted because of the demand for silo filling. Not until after the corn is housed can many farmers get grain threshed, and in the meantime they are inconvenienced through lack of feed.

Whether farmers like the medium-sized separator and a few more hours' threshing is not the determining factor now. The fall of the year usually finds one in need of grain when a half day's threshing is very desirable. An 8-16 or 10-20 tractor, with a separator to match, will do the trick nicely, and five or six farmers

could operate the equipment among themselves to advantage. With this step taken the same co-operating group might just as well obtain a cutting-box of corresponding size and fill their own silos. The gang and outfit employed at Weldwood this year have 35 silos to fill, which means that some patrons will be delayed far beyond their wishes. More than that, there is a big demand for a few hours' threshing to tide the horses, cows and hogs over the fall season, but this will have to wait. Tractors are becoming common; threshing and silo-filling equipment is being manufactured to conform with the belt power of the tractors in use, and unless something unforeseen develops farmers will be forced, by the inconveniences experienced, to group themselves together for the purchase and operation of threshing, silo-filling and grinding equipment.

The Milk Market.

September has been a rather unsettled month for dairymen in Ontario because of somewhat serious disturbances in the market. The sudden proclamation by the Canadian Milk Products Company that they required no more milk for an indefinite period came at an inopportune time, especially as production costs were unprecedentedly high and producers contributing milk to Toronto were then striving for fair treatment and a fair price. These two situations were more or less local in character in that they affected certain dairymen directly, but their influence should not be minimized as the whole industry cannot escape the indirect and psychological effects the outcome will produce. For years we have been speaking of the cheese industry, the butter industry, the market for whole milk, the ice cream trade, etc., as separate and distinct enterprises and the great truth has been lost sight of, namely, that the dairyman's product is milk and his market for it is made up of various units, all closely related, all competing, all manipulating, and each one exerting a direct influence on the others. Wheat may be graded into various categories, but it would not be good business for farmers selling No. 2 hard to separate themselves from those with No. 1 hard to dispose of. The same is true of dairymen; their product is milk and there should be the closest possible connection between all those contributing to the various demands peculiar to the milk market. This suggests community organization of such a character as will give producers control of their own product.

Cheese and butter have been and still are the cornerstones of the dairy industry in Canada. Farmers are acting unwisely when they allow factories manufacturing these staples to become scrapped, or absorbed by large corporations interested in other lines of product. We are not condemning any line of goods made from milk, for the more diversified is the market the greater will be the demand for the product of our herds, but it is suicidal for producers to relinquish all local control and place themselves unreservedly in the hands of operators whether they be makers of cheese, butter, powdered or condensed milk, ice cream or what not.

Disturbances in the market are not new—they recur periodically. In 1914-15 the condenseries were overstocked with manufactured goods. There have been seasons when cheese was a better paying proposition than butter, and other years or periods again when the reverse was true, while in the winter, milk can often be disposed of for domestic consumption to good advantage.

The one best solution of the whole milk marketing problem, as we see it, is local control of the product and the local organization affiliated with and acting in harmony with a central provincial body. One hundred farmers might invest \$150 each in a local plant that would be equipped as a receiving station or for the manufacture of cheese or butter. This slight investment which might only be a note to be used as collateral security

'absent-minded beg-
have suffered from
trifling a cost such
uld be fewer who fail
insurance.

s hitherto failed to
m take the first step
his name, address

e Company
IPEG

any
im.



udhope-
nderson
ULKY PLOW

ed, Orillia, Ont.
Ont.: J. Clark & Son,
Castle, N.B.

and Threshers



ERLOO BOY.

st Accessible, most Powerful
the market.
ling 3 plows, Threshing, Silo
Farm Work.



s' Threshers, suitable size to
tractors and Gasoline Engines.
shing. Keep your farm clean

atalogue, prices and any infor-

ENGINE & THRESHER
LIMITED, Seaforth, Ont.
rs and large size Threshers.

NDOWS & DOORS

SIZES to suit your
openings. Fitted
with glass. Safe de-
livery guaranteed.
Write for Price List
(E). Cut down fuel
bills. Insure winter
comfort.

COMPANY, Limited

BY DISTRIBUTORS CANADA

ITORS—Fetherstonhaugh
established firm. Patents
lead Office: Royal Bank
Onto. Ottawa Office: 5
ces throughout Canada.

lease mention Advocate