

speed some youngsters have shown, but if we follow up the history of a yearling or two-year-old that has developed extreme speed at any considerable distance we find that in most cases he is retired from the racing game before he reaches the age at which a horse should be at his best. The development of early speed may prove profitable to the breeder and trainer, but it does not tend to long usefulness of the animal. The same applies to the utility classes. If the writer wanted to purchase a horse, say for general road work, and was offered his choice of two at the same price, they being equal in breeding, conformation and general characteristics, and both six years old, and the one had been doing a horse's work on the road since three years old and was sound and right, the other was perfectly green except that he was halter broken, he (the writer) would certainly select the unhandled horse. He would know that he would have some trouble in teaching him to drive and giving him manners such as the other horse already possessed, but he would also know that if the two horses continued to do steady and hard road work that he would have a young horse when the other one would be practically worthless. We are not endeavoring to prove that it is unprofitable to work colts. It may be that the three years work performed by the colt between three and six years of age is, in many cases, of more value than twice that many years during old age. Many will claim that three years is long enough to keep a colt absolutely nonproductive, and we have no fault to find with this philosophy. At the same time we do not want to under-value the very probable ultimate value of the four, five or six-year-old that has spent these years of his life in idleness and unhandled.

We strongly advocate early education, but only sufficient work or exercise to give this education until the age of maturity has been reached. The writer calls to mind the purchase, a few years ago, of a four-year-old pregnant mare that never had a foal on. He at once commenced her education, and in a month had her driving to a breaking cart. She foaled then and was not handled any more until after the foal was weaned, when her education was recommenced. She was somewhat self-willed and gave much more trouble than she would have given if she had been handled when a two-year-old, but she gradually acquired manners, and was sold the next fall for a family mare and gave and is still giving excellent satisfaction. **WHIP.**

LIVE STOCK.

For Fall Feed.

This summer will be remembered in many localities as one of the driest within the memory of some of the older residents. Rains have fallen recently, but for a long period the heat was intense and the drouth unabating. Pastures this fall are not likely to recover from the effects of heat and drouth, although doubtless rains will benefit them greatly, and feed may not be as scarce as some anticipate. A prominent stockman, talking to us the other day, mentioned the fact that it was remarkable how well the live stock stood the shortage of grass this summer. In looking over his pastures he said they seemed to be almost bare, and still he could not see that his cattle, which are of a beef breed, had failed in flesh very much. It is surprising what live stock seem able to pick from an apparently bare field, but in the long run bare pastures must begin to tell on the condition of the stock, or on the milk flow of the dairy cow.

A practice which is followed in some sections, and which was quite the custom with many stockmen some years ago, is to sow rape thickly in the stubble. The top can be cultivated and the rape worked in, and if conditions are at all favorable in a very short time a rich, luxuriant growth of excellent fall feed will cover the field. We believe that a good many farmers and stockmen would do well to try it this year. It is getting rather late now, but even yet a sufficient growth might be produced to warrant the procedure. It will at least aid in keeping down weeds, and if cultivation is rather thoroughly done moisture will be retained in the soil. The growth of rape also prevents the leaching away in the fall of plant food which is quite a common occurrence during the season of heavy rains. Any growth which is not eaten by the cattle will, of course, go back to the land, and taken altogether, the practice is one which should prove profitable, especially at seasons like the present has been on many farms.

Some have been afraid that the export trade will be tied up for months, but this does not seem likely. When the sea is once cleared of raiders, which should not take long, a tremendous outpouring of Canadian products should ensue.

Foresees Good Times for Sheepmen.

One of the leading sheep papers of the United States in a strong editorial in a recent issue attempts to forecast the future of the mutton and wool business as influenced by the war now in progress in Europe. The writer of that article sees a very promising future ahead for the sheep men, especially during the coming winter, when large armies will be in the field to be clothed in woollens. The sheep industry has been declining the world over, and the big conflict now in progress will doubtless cause the destruction of thousands of sheep in Europe. The writer of the article does not seem to be very far wrong when he predicts a keen demand for wool and woollen goods, and an increased demand for lamb and mutton. It would seem to be an opportune time for those contemplating entering upon the breeding of sheep to get a few breeding ewes and start a flock. Autumn is a good season to buy, but the buyer must be careful that the seller is not turning off some of his culls to good advantage. No sheep owner can be criticised for turning away his poor individuals at this season of the year. It is up to the man who is buying a few for the foundation of a new flock to see to it that he gets good sheep. He can get them if he will pay the price, and it will not profit him in the end to take the culls at a much lower figure. A few good ewes may, during the next few years, prove one of the most profitable investments which the farmer can make.

THE FARM.

At War—With Whom?

By Peter McArthur.

The Parliament at present assembled in Ottawa must deal with problems such as never before confronted a Canadian Government. In some respects the tasks before it are more difficult than those that are being dealt with by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain. In the Motherland the people are unfortunately familiar with war measures, war taxes, and the hardships entailed on the masses by military campaigns. These things are all new to Canada and bound to be unpopular with many, but our parliament must introduce them and carry them through. Although in the first glow of patriotic fervor we may be unanimous in wishing to do everything possible to defend the Empire, when the unfamiliar burdens begin to press we will need all the patience of which we are capable. There will doubtless be those who will question the necessity for much that must be done, and besides patience and endurance on the part of all good citizens the Government will need eloquent defenders, to explain its course and soothe the passions that will be aroused. Realizing the gravity of the situation, and the difficult position of our representatives, I venture to plead for a calm consideration of all that may be done during the next few weeks, and, as far as possible, for unquestioning support of the men on whom rests the responsibility of acting for Canada in this crisis.

Few people realize that Canada is actually at war and will continue to be at war until the European conflict is ended, even though no battle in the old meaning of the word may be fought on Canadian soil or in Canadian waters, and even though our brave and devoted volunteers may never reach the scene of action. Modern conditions make modern warfare a disaster for which there are no guiding precedents. We are fighting in the dark, and in constant danger of wounding our friends rather than our foes. So clearly is this new aspect of war impressed upon my mind that for the present I am willing to waive all discussion of government actions that naturally suggest themselves, in order that I may do something to prepare the public mind for the shock of war measures that seem inevitable. Some may oppose our taking any part in the present war, either by voting money or sending men. I deplore their attitude but acknowledge their right to their opinions. But let me hurl at you a question as urgent as it is startling.

"Do you want Canada to declare war against the Empire?"

Impossible! Unthinkable! If you feel like throwing this page away in disgust because I have ventured to make so foul a suggestion I shall be the first to commend your spirit. To declare war on the Empire at such a time as this would be to sink to depths of perfidy such as never blackened the record of the most contemptible nation in history. True! And yet I say to you in all earnestness that we have already declared war on the Empire, and unless our Government has the courage to step in and stop us we may prove to be enemies as dangerous as the legions of the German autocrat. In a word, we are looking forward with unthinking joyousness to the prospect of selling our wheat, horses, cattle and all food products at war prices. If we do that, if the Government does not at once

take action to prevent more than normal profits and keep prices down to a reasonable level, we shall deal the Empire a more staggering blow than can be dealt by her open enemies. I write this with the full sense of the responsibility I am taking, and I beg of Canadian farmers with full granaries and fat herds to bear with me while I try to explain.

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Modern warfare is not wholly a matter of men and guns and dreadnoughts. A new and unexpected part is being played by money and available resources of food. Those of you who have followed the news since the war began will remember that the first move said to have been made by Germany was to unload securities to the value of ten millions of pounds on the London stock market, for the purpose of creating a panic and disorganizing the financial machinery of the Empire. Happily the scheme failed, although the blow was staggering, and in the rush of events that followed many people missed its significance. But it was modern war, scientific war. And it indicated the part that money is to play in the conflict now raging. Great Britain's first move was to authorize war loans to the extent of one thousand millions of dollars. Think of what that will mean to the already over-burdened taxpayers of the Motherland,—and it is only the beginning. At the moment I do not urge that we should share that burden, but I contend that we should not seize on this opportunity to further drain the resources of Great Britain and rob her taxpayers by charging war prices for our products. It would be absurd for us to send aid in the form of flour, oats, hay, horses and soldiers if we drew back millions of profit on the produce we shall send in the ordinary course of trade. Moreover, war prices at home would almost inevitably paralyze all our industries and reduce thousands of our own citizens to want, if not to starvation. The temporary gain we would make would be of little value in the disasters that would follow. The Government has already given its support to our banking system. In the same way it must steady our commerce. The problem will be one of appalling complexity, for it will involve not only the regulation of prices to the producers but the whole distribution and sale of our products. If the farmers must not get inflated prices the middlemen certainly must not get them. If the rising prices of products are to be checked, the banks must be restrained from raising the rate of interest or curtailing credit to farmers. Speculators must be stamped out mercilessly. In avoiding injury to Great Britain at this crisis we must be equally careful to avoid injury to any class of our own citizens. It will not do to regulate prices to consumers and leave the unorganized producers at the mercy of the organized middlemen. The Government must take control all along the line. This will be difficult, but I am confident that men can be found who will be equal to the task. It will only be a temporary measure, and there need be no injustice or hardship. We are entitled to normal prices and profits and should get them. But war prices would mean that we were at war with the Empire. I trust I have made that sufficiently clear.

Ekfrid, August, 13th.

The Worlds Wheat Crops.

Some idea of the agricultural conditions of Europe to-day may be gleaned from reports of crops in the different countries on that continent. At the end of July and beginning of August a commencement was just being made in harvesting the crop in Great Britain. The crop in a great portion of continental Europe is still unharvested. According to reports which have from time to time been published from the International Agricultural Institute, the wheat crop in Europe is lighter this year considerably than it was last year.

The wheat crop of Russia-in-Europe is 150,000,000 bushels less than that of last year. The Russian Empire exported 122,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1913. The great decrease in this year's crop will mean that there will be very little wheat exported from that country this year.

No estimate of the French wheat crop has yet been received by the Institute. Last year France produced 319,000,000 bushels of wheat and imported, during the calendar year 1913, 57,000,000 bushels. According to reports from the institute and private agencies this year's crop is expected to be considerably smaller than that of last year.

It should be remembered that Germany produces enormous crops of rye and potatoes. The rye crop for the past few years was as follows: 1913, 481,174,000 bushels; 1912, 456,604,000 bushels; 1911, 427,779,000 bushels; 1910, 413,802,000 bushels; 1909, 446,767,000 bushels.

The production of potatoes was: 1913, 1,988,610,000 bushels; 1912, 1,844,863,000 bushels; 1911, 1,263,024,000 bushels; 1910, 1,597,174,000 bushels; 1909, 1,716,143,000 bushels.

A large proportion of the rye and potato crops is used for distilling purposes, but it is