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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 18, 1919.

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## EDITORIAL.

Thrift is the watchword,—give useful gifts.

It has been truthfully said that people are restless because too many are resting.

The soft-coal famine is another reminder that Canada should harness her waterfalls and develop her mines.

We like to know what you actually think of our Christmas Number. Criticism and eulogy are both welcome.

Enthusiasm and Experience make a good team, but where more power is needed, hitch up Perseverance with the other two.

Beware of moldy or decomposed silage. The latter is very unpalatable, while moldy silage is a dangerous feed, particularly to horses.

Hens will not lay when confined to damp, drafty quarters; give them light, fresh air, plenty of feed and make them work for their living.

It is possible that our next issue will not reach a number of subscribers until after December 25, so we take this opportunity of wishing one and all a Merry Christmas.

The last Provincial election was a comparatively mild affair, but we venture to suggest that the next Dominion election be held in July to prevent mud-slinging.

When getting out the wood supply remember the value of growing timber. Clean up the fallen trees, but spare the growing stuff, for it is making money for you every day.

This is the farmer's season for reading and planning. The new year is just around the corner—plan to make it the best and most prosperous in the history of Canadian agriculture.

A recent report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics credits Canada with 2,859,516 turkeys, geese and ducks. Should another census be taken this week, it would be found that those figures are terribly diminished.

When you have finished reading the Christmas Number of "The Farmer's Advocate," lend it to a friend or neighbor who is not fortunate enough to be receiving it; by so doing you will confer a favor on two parties.

Hon. Mr. Doherty says that the Provincial Winter Fair will remain in Guelph. That will be good news to a large number of farmers and breeders who have long honored that worthy exhibition with their support and patronage.

When clover or other leguminous hay is not available for dairy cows, some protein-rich concentrate ought to be added to the grain ration. When a dairyman begins to study rations with a view to balancing them, he realizes at once the value of clover or alfalfa.

A heavy program of Winter Fairs and Conventions has been arranged for the next two or three months, and according to "Farmer's Advocate" custom these will be reported thoroughly and accurately. Farmers generally are interested in particular features of these events, and should watch carefully for the reports.

### Safety on the King's Highway.

An automobile came tearing through the night not long ago on a much-travelled highway. The glaring headlights cast volumes of light across the road, but blinded the vision of a pilgrim who happened to be travelling in a horse-drawn vehicle. For an instant the man hesitated; the horse was paralyzed with fright, but the suspense did not last for long. Crash! The car, without hesitating, went on into the night leaving only some fragmentary pieces of glass to indicate a minor damage to itself, but at the roadside there was piled a lifeless horse, a shattered buggy and a badly-injured man.

Anyone can sit up nights and with loaded gun guard his person or his property against harm, but on the King's highway one is at the mercy of daring, reckless and sometimes brainless drivers of automobiles, who often care little for the rights of others and less for property and life. When horses were the sole means of transportation the instinct of the brute often prevented accidents which his master would not have avoided, but the automobile is cold mechanism, without mentality in any form, and will run headlong into a man or a stone wall at fifty miles per hour if the driver so dictates. Against such combinations as we often find in automobiles and their drivers, the pedestrian, or traveller in a horse-drawn vehicle, has little chance on the road. There is altogether too much daring, careless and fool-hardy driving of automobiles for the safety of those using the King's highway. There are laws, of course, but no statute or litigation can restore the life of one sacrificed through a disregard of those laws. Motor leagues have done much to make motor travel safe and to secure the rights of all who may care to use the public highway. Motorists, too, as a rule are cautious, courteous and observant of other's rights, but there are always a few who by their recklessness endanger the lives and property of all. It is these few who should be summarily dealt with by those authorized to act, and there should be no opportunity afforded for a second offence.

### A Fair Trial for Sweet Clover.

The subject of sweet clover was tabooed by experiment stations in Canada until long after farmers ascertained for themselves that the plant has certain merits, and practically demonstrated for themselves how far this kind of clover would function as a farm crop. Through these years the white variety has been in vogue, but many farmers now claim that the yellow kind is more serviceable and possesses almost all the good features of the white sweet clover without some of its disadvantages. The unfortunate part of the whole situation is that no experiment station seems to be in a position to come out with any information on the subject, telling farmers which is the best variety for general use and making a statement as to the possibilities and limitations of this particular legume.

There is no occasion for prejudice on the part of experimenters against sweet clover. It has its limitations, we believe, but it also has possibilities which should not be ignored. Hundreds of farmers have faith in it, and that faith is based on trials such as ordinary farm practice will permit. There is, however, a fertile field for investigation concerning this much-talked-of plant, and that investigation should be conducted by a public institution equipped for the purpose.

We have given the white variety a fair trial, covering four seasons, at Weldwood Farm, and find it specially adapted for pasture purposes as well as a good soil renovator. As a hay crop, we have not been so successful with it, and it is in this regard that advantages are claimed for the yellow variety because it does not grow so rank. Experimenters could take hold of this

problem right here and soon be in a position to give farmers the desired information about sweet clover.

New problems are continually arising, and they seem to crop up more unexpectedly than they did in the past. Our experiment stations have been and are of inestimable value to the agricultural industry, for they have let the light into many dark corners and steered farmers out of the unprofitable fields into greater pastures; but we believe they would be of still more service if they would make a closer study of the farmer's needs and endeavor to get a little closer to him in his daily tasks.

### A New-Ontario Problem.

Land speculation has been the one great obstacle to the development of New Ontario during the last decade. Every pioneering country has its problems, but there are few new districts in Canada which have suffered so much from the land speculator as has Ontario's Northland. This fact was apparently borne in upon the mind of the Premier and his colleagues during their recent pilgrimage into New Ontario, for at North Bay, on December 8, Honorable Mr. Drury made reference to the single tax principle as applied to the taxation of property, and said he thought it might be applicable to the North.

Land grabbing always takes place in and about towns and cities wherever they may be located, and under such artificial conditions present-day codes almost excuse it in practice, though it may be generally condemned in principle. However, in a new country where settlers are enduring hardships enough, it is not fair or just that land should be held for speculative purposes when desired for home-making and for cultivation. Frequent trips into New Ontario have convinced us over and over again that drastic action should be taken, and we doubt if a mild form of single tax with a local option rider attached is strong enough medicine for the ills of the North.

Early in the history of New Ontario, when land in the neighborhood of towns and villages was plentiful, the hand of the speculator did not bear so heavily upon the pioneer. Now, families have grown up. Sons desire to take up land in the neighborhood of their parents, so as to avoid heavy expenditures in implements and equipment; and in-coming settlers prefer to locate in the neighborhood of civilization rather than in the wilds, with all the attending dangers and inconveniences. The development of New Ontario has cost more than it should, for the simple reason that roads had to be thrown through the wilderness for the use of settlers, who were obliged by the speculator to go miles back from the centres. More schools became necessary on account of the distances children were obliged to travel. The dangers from fire and the terrible casualties could have been lessened if the population were not so much scattered. Churches, schools and social centres would have been greater factors, and the life of the pioneer more pleasant, had not so much land been held in order that its value would be increased through the toil of others. We would not venture the suggestion that these unimproved claims be "jumped" forthwith for principles of far-reaching significance are involved; but if the alleged owners do not manifest their intentions of developing and improving them, it is no more than fair that they revert to the Crown, or be placed on the market for the benefit of willing purchasers. More than that, the unearned increment which would be discovered in the present valuation ought to be distributed in some equitable manner among those actually responsible for it. This, of course, embraces the theory of single tax, but it will take theory a long time to accomplish what a little extreme justice would do for New Ontario.

Better farming linked with more and better live stock should be the aim for 1920.