

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

For several weeks now the cultivator has been the only protection against a very short corn crop. Keep it going.

Feed promises to be very short next winter. Those who can do so should think now of laying in a supply of purchased feeds.

Silo building is timely now. When building be sure and build large enough to provide for some summer silage. Good dairymen find it profitable when pasture is short.

At the time of writing, haying, wheat threshing, barley and oat cutting are all going on at the same time. The farmers' work is all bunched up this season for sure.

It is certainly a rare sight to see a cultivated farm orchard this year. With a light crop and most orchards poorly cared for, good fruit should sell this fall for profitable prices.

Owners of farm flocks of poultry should not let this month go by without culling out the poor hens. Telephone your Agricultural Representative if you cannot do the culling properly yourself, and he will be glad to assist you.

In spite of the many herds being smaller this year than last, the milk flow appears to have been heavier so far this season. In some parts of the country milk production has gone down about one-third since the flush of the season.

The cost of harvesting fruit crops has much more than doubled since 1914. When it costs $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a box for strawberries and 5 cents for raspberries to get them picked, farmers are facing the increased cost of production in dead earnest.

Root crops seem to have markedly decreased in area this year on account of the labor shortage. Those crops that were sown are variable in growth. Many have been or will be plowed under, but we have noticed a very few good ones for the season.

The report of the Dundas County survey, stating that it cost from \$1 to \$4 to produce a 100 pounds of milk, depending on the efficiency of the farm, shows some room for improvement in farm methods on these dairy farms. The variation in cost is too wide.

Cabinet reorganization at Ottawa will probably be announced shortly. At the time of writing Sir Robert Borden is still away on his holidays thinking over the problem. We hope he thinks to good purpose so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned. A big man is needed for this portfolio.

Reports of wheat threshing show comparatively poor returns, yields averaging from 20 to 30 bushels per acre. This does not compare favorably with 50 bushels per acre that Dr. C. A. Zavitz says can be grown by the use of good seed, careful preparation of the soil, and the use of crop rotations.

Flax pullers have already started to pull the much increased acreage of flax in Western Ontario. When this industry gets down to the level of practical farming so that the grower can realize on the full value of his labor and investment, it will be worth a great deal more to the agriculture of the province than it now is.

Fire and Axe, The Foes of Agriculture.

It was with axe and fire that the pioneers made for themselves homes and farms in the wilderness, but the same agencies have been used by succeeding generations to denude the countryside of trees and forests, till the landscape is bare and the natural protection for animal life and vegetation is almost destroyed. In the more newly-settled districts of Eastern Canada one can still discern the great and original scheme after which plan the whole country was fashioned, but even there the advent of man has been heralded by devastating fires which have laid waste immense timbered areas and destroyed a large percentage of the wild animal life native to those haunts. The present-day settler of the Northland ought to profit by the experience of Old Ontario and adopt a spirit of conservation in regard to trees and forests. We in the older parts have used the axe unsparingly till little shade is left for live stock on the average farm, and streams or springs dependant on melting snow dry up early in the season. Had woodsmen spared the hillsides and rough lands the entire country would have been more drought resistant, and were every farm possessed of a small woodlot agriculture would be the better for it. Homes in too many instances stand out like a lighthouse on the cliff, simply because the natural accompaniment of a dwelling for man has been disregarded or worthlessly destroyed. Anyone who visits the northern districts where men are building a new province, as it were, cannot fail to be impressed by the wonderful advantages wrapt up in the forests and streams of that new land. If the Government will put into force a modern policy, both in regard to settling the inhabitants and protecting the forests against fire, the sins against nature in Old Ontario need not be perpetrated anew in the North. It is our duty in Old Ontario to plant trees, and the duty of those in New Ontario to protect and conserve those which they have.

Settling the Northland

If all man-erected obstacles to the settlement of New Ontario were removed, there can be no doubt that homes would be made in that comparatively new country more swiftly than at present. What strikes a visitor with considerable force is the appearance of idle or unimproved land in the neighborhood of towns and cities, while struggling settlers are attempting, far back from the front, to hew out homes and build what in their language is termed a "farm." To the Government this means the construction of otherwise unnecessary roads; increased costs of fire ranging, for a clearing-fire with bush on all sides is a more dangerous proposition than one surrounded on one or two sides by cultivated land; more general supervision, more schools and retarded development. To the settler this inability to secure the most favorable location spells hardship, and increases the difficulties incident to pioneering. Vested rights must be guarded and protected by the law of the land, but there are cases where these so-called rights are not rights at all. With justice rather than established law in mind, what right has any party to hold unimproved land near centres of population or railroads while it increases in value by the very toil and hardships of others who must needs go further back? The speculator and the absentee owners of land in New Ontario are no doubt quite within the law in holding these desirable locations until they have increased sufficiently in value to make the deal profitable, but this land-grabbing and land-holding that has been going on has cost the Province an immense amount of money and retarded settlement to a lamentable extent. Road building, fire protection, and expenses incident to the settling of the Northland have cost and are costing this province a considerable sum of money,

and there is no reason, based on justice and fair play, why a few speculators and absentee land-holders should be the means of adding to that cost and obstructing the land-settlement policy of Ontario.

A Day At the Fair.

Education nowadays is not so much a matter of languages and history as of craftsmanship. A training for citizenship and usefulness in the service of mankind is coming to be recognized as an education, and there is no institution in the land where one can imbibe so much information regarding the every-day things of life in a short time as at an up-to-date, well-managed exhibition. At the modern fair all sciences and arts are revealed in something tangible, something useful, something accomplished as a result of their application. To walk through the various buildings and observe the decorations is not seeing the fair. Behind the tinsels and the lights there is usually something which will lighten one's toil or add to the comforts of every-day life. These should be inspected and studied from the viewpoint of whether such articles or pieces of machinery would be profitable investments on the farm or in the home. A visit to the agricultural section should not be neglected, and the favorite breeds in horses, cattle, sheep, and swine should be watched in the show-ring while the judging is going on. The boys, especially, should follow the judge in his work, and endeavor to fix in the mind the type which he seems to favor, and the ideal which apparently guides exhibitors in the presentation of their animals. The majority of the young farmers coming on to the stage of agriculture will, no doubt, breed and maintain herds and flocks of non-pedigreed live stock, but the sires used should be pure-breds, and in the selection of these a knowledge of what constitutes type, breed character, good constitution and general all-round excellence will be of inestimable value. One's herd, too, whether pure-bred or grade, should measure up to certain standards, which correspond with the requirements of the breed represented by the sire in use. All farmers, young and old, ought not to neglect the show-ring for the more trivial attractions seen at the fair. "When the tumult and the shouting dies" the midway and the horse race are past and forgotten, but the education acquired at the ring-side survives and bears fruit in better live stock and increased prosperity.

A New Status For All.

The war has created a world of radicals. Prior to 1914 people went about their daily tasks in a somewhat unconcerned manner, and became restless and argumentative only as election time drew near. The stage has been cleared and the scene changed. A spirit of radicalism is now abroad which threatens to alter the whole complexion of society, and set up new standards in the place of the old. The radical of former times was looked upon as an extremist and a dangerous character, but the radical of to-day is a peace-loving, loyal citizen, striving for the recognition of his rights to citizenship, equality of opportunity, and a fair deal. We, of course, have our Bolsheviks and others who are violently extreme, and these should be dealt with in accordance with law and justice. However, we have arrived at a milestone in the progress of civilization where the voice of the masses is audible, and when the established institutions of the land should quicken their pace in order to keep abreast of the onward rush. All that is necessary is an understanding. One class should understand the other, and as a guiding motto there is none better than the golden rule.

In the majority report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into industrial relations in Canada, we find the following: