



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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The Outlook for the Live Stock Breeder

A Survey of World-Wide Conditions and a Review of Factors Which Encourage Optimism.—By the Editors

AFTER this war the American continent will be in possession of an invaluable asset—the major portion of the world's seed stock of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. The need stock of Germany, Belgium, France and other European countries has been depleted so severely that a few months more of war may mean almost extermination. Great Britain is faced with the prospect of heavily reducing her pure bred flocks and herds if the war continues and lack of food may force Holland and Denmark to adopt a similar policy this winter. The civilized world must have a supply of animal food both now and in the future, and the necessity for that supply is the best guarantee of the present and future stability of the live stock breeding industry in America.

To analyze the situation a little more intimately, we find that in the case of hogs, Europe is just 23 million short of her normal supply. The Canadian hog population numbers three and one-half millions. The shortage in Europe is, therefore, 10 times as great as our total hog population, and if the war continues for any length of time, it is believed by those who are in the best position to know that the European hog will be completely exterminated. Hogs, of course, have been depleted more rapidly than other kinds of live stock. The reason is not far to seek. Hogs eat grains which can be used more economically for human food in their raw state than when turned into pork. Cattle and sheep can subsist on roughage and pastures which do not supply human food directly and flocks and herds, therefore, will not be depleted to the same extent as swine. Even in the case of cattle and sheep, however, the decrease in Europe's live stock population must be serious. Before Germany began her submarine campaign Canada and the United States were shipping hundreds of thousands of tons of hay across the Atlantic to feed the horses in the allied armies. Ocean space is now too valuable to be used for shipping anything so bulky and heavy, grown on European farms, which up to a year ago was used to sustain cattle, sheep and farm horses, must now be diverted to military purposes. This alone will mean a serious reduction in the amount of farm live stock. Add to this the fact that the British government, the French government, and the Italian government, have all directed that a certain percentage of the pastures be plowed up for grain and we can account for a still further depletion of herds and flocks.

An Authority Speaks.

This decrease in live stock is out of all proportion to the decrease in population. The situation after the war must be self evident. We will have the greatest scarcity of live stock the world has ever known. With these conditions

in mind, one of our best authorities on live stock markets, Mr. Arthur G. Leonard, President of the Chicago Union Stock Yards, recently said:

"When the American farmer does wake up to the true significance of this great struggle, he will see that preservation of breeding stock on farms is one of the most vital factors to all the people of every nation, in order that the world's rapidly disappearing supply of meats, wool and leather may be replenished. Everything points to a continuance of the war for some time to come. The world's needs will increase as the war goes on. Is it not plain that the demands upon agriculture for food and clothing will grow greater and greater with each month of destruction; that it will be impossible to produce an adequate

supply, especially of animal products, such as meats, leather and wool, unless breeding herds are maintained, and that such demands and the needs for breeding stock to replenish the wasted herds and flocks will continue long after the war ceases; that this country must be looked to mainly for such supplies and breeding stock, and that those American farmers who are wise enough to realize this fact and prepare for the world's coming greatest needs which are inevitable, will reap the greatest rewards for their foresight, in both money and the gratitude of their fellow men?"

"The short-sighted policy, which strangles the bird in hand and lets those in the bush fly away; which, for the sake of a few extra dollars now, sacrifices breeding stock and thereby destroys the foundation for supplying the world's future needs, not only deprives this nation of vital necessities in its struggle to help the world, but also takes away the foundation for the abundant profits that would otherwise be the sure reward for waiting and developing the opportunity which is thus afforded."

Future of the Grain Market.

Such is the opinion of one of our authorities. Many others, including our own Prof. Geo. E. Day, hold the same view. They believe that the market of the stock farmer is assured. Now what is the future of the grain farmer? In an address to United States farmers recently, Mr. Herbert C. Hoover spoke as follows:

"With the stimulation of \$2 wheat, we are going to have a very much increased acreage in 1918. If climatic conditions are right we should have 1,000,000,000 bushels. If the war continues this wheat will be vitally necessary; but if the war should come to an end there will be no foreign market for at least 400,000,000 bushels of this wheat. The government must then take over the wheat and probably find a market for it at a very great loss."

The position of the producer of raw products is always insecure, and it is more insecure in war time than in times of peace. Consider further the position of the wheat farmer. Australia already has the wheat of two harvests in her storehouses. This wheat has not been moved because of the long haul and shortage of shipping. Even Russia, torn by internal dissensions and the productive capacity of the people at a minimum, must still have tremendous stores of wheat, which would be let loose on the markets of the world were peace to be declared. British India, which is an extensive exporter of wheat, is in a similar position to Australia, and with the declaration of peace and the releasing of ocean tonnage, the crops of both of these countries

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Tiny Tim's Christmas

From "A Christmas Carol"

THERE never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavor, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed as Mr. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet, everyone had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left the room altogether nervous to hear witnesses—to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly, too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.

At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up. The compound in the jug being tasted and considered perfect, apples and oranges, were put upon the table, and a shoveful of chestnuts on the fire. Then all the Cratchit family drew round the hearth in what Bob Cratchit called a circle, meaning half a one; and at Bob Cratchit's elbow stood the family display of glass. Two tumblers, and a custard cup without a handle.

These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have done; and Bob served it out with beaming looks, while the chestnuts on the fire sputtered and cracked noisily. Then Bob proposed:

"A Merry Christmas to all, my dears. God bless us!"

"Which all the family re-echoed:

"God bless us every one!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all.