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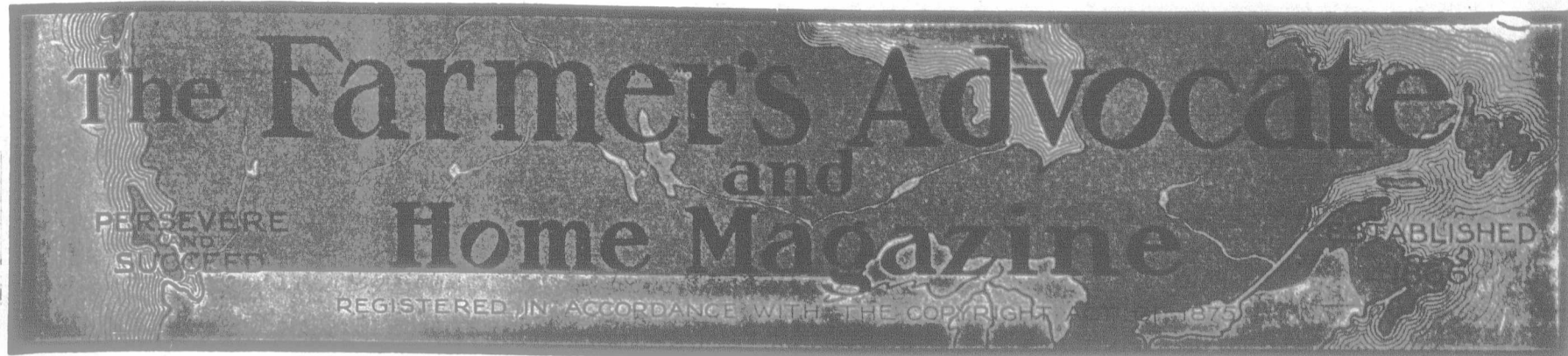
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EDITORIAL

Getting ready for winter is the order of the day.

The rustle of the fallen leaves records the footsteps of the retreating year.

Each acre plowed this fall means earlier seeding next spring, and early seeding adds to the chances of a good yield. Keep the plow going.

With the subsidence of international trade walls, neighboring people will see more of each other, and let us hope improve upon closer acquaintance.

The officially appointed Canadian Thanksgiving Day is over for 1913, but Canadians are so blessed with good things that every day brings forth something to be thankful for.

Where are the farm implements and machines not to be used again this season? Fence corners are not very satisfactory summer implement sheds, and are even less protective in winter.

With other animals destined for the packing-houses and abattoirs advancing in price, people have been wondering in recent weeks why the quotations for good bacon hogs, no easier to secure, should have been steadily hammered down.

Who said that autumn is not a busy season? What with silo-filling, threshing, apple-picking, plowing, root harvest, potato-digging, and getting stables ready for the stock, the busy farmer almost forgets to admire the beauties which nature spreads around him.

Stop! You have been offered a long price for a high-class breeding female, perhaps the best one on your farm. Will it be more profitable to sell her and thus lower the standard of your herd or flock than to keep her and improve by her yearly additions to that herd or flock? This is a good time to hold fast to that which is good.

One of the very foremost exponents of English public opinion at the present day, "The Nation," observes that China, long looked upon as hopelessly asleep, has become an example of a great empire, founded not on force or military power, but on local autonomy and a democratic civil service, perhaps without a parallel in the world's history.

A new continent has been discovered north of Siberia, but it is not likely to affect the cost of living very appreciably and the flood of printed matter, much of which is incomprehensible, and the endless harangue from public platforms by those who feel the high prices most, are likely to continue unabated in an effort to educate the man on the land to produce more abundantly the necessities of life that the agitators may live in greater ease and assurance.

Let Us Keep Cool.

We are not referring to the weather, for the hot spells of 1913 are probably past. The idea is rather to encourage steadiness of purpose until the condition of flux attendant upon the inception of the new United States tariff schedules affecting agricultural productions and traffic becomes re-adjusted to regularly dependable currents. The effect on the trade in cattle and animal products has been immediate and stimulating. The comparative facility with which the new measure traversed the rocks and shoals of Congress to the golden signature of President Woodrow Wilson betokens behind it a substantial body of public opinion, sagaciously directed for what is believed to be the best interests of the people as a whole. The general spirit of the legislation appears to have made a favorable impress on the outside world, though primarily it is for the benefit of the American. Its permanence will depend upon the minimum of disturbance which it may occasion to what is designated "prosperity", and the extent to which its expectations are realized. Time will tell what effect it may have upon that wearying theme, the high cost of living. The Canadian farmer is not pining to sell things cheap, because he well knows by the "rule of thumb" or by book-keeping, how his cost of living and the cost of production enter into the value of every hundred weight of steer, every quart of milk, pint of cream, pound of butter, fleece of wool, leg of mutton, live hog ready for the packer, or box of fruit for the consumer. Furthermore, we need not imagine that the distant Argentine or Australian farmers are not feeling also the upward trend of the cost of production despite some favoring conditions, and are probably just as fully alive as we are to the need of realizing all they legitimately can out of their labor and investments.

Those who, without due consideration, go off at a tangent into an alluring line of prospective money-making, often simply provide supplies from which some intermediary gathers the cream. Speaking generally the advantage accrues to those who dispose of the more finely elaborated product, such as reasonably young and well-finished animals, rather than lean feeders to enrich the other fellow's land, high-grade dairy products rather than whole milk (except, of course, at figures sufficiently high to make good the consequent drain on the land), fat fowls rather than bones and feathers for someone else to round out for the top price, and choicely-packed fruits or vegetables rather than lower grades. Changes are in progress, but let us be on the alert, not so much to change our present good plant or relinquish our foundation stock, which, in breeding animals ranks among the world's best, but to produce in superior form that for which there seems reasonable prospect of a steady and substantial demand at returns sufficiently large to pay on our high-priced farming lands. The extra demand for meats, dairy products, etc., seems likely to send prices still higher in the Canadian cities and towns, and if this compels the townward rushing multitude to stop and think of the many advantages they are leaving behind them, it may, in time, lead to a more even distribution of population. For the present, however, the town householder with mouths to fill, bodies to clothe and restless folk to entertain, will likely call on the "captains of industry" for higher wages which he will need, if

as one of the packing-house magnates has fore-shadowed, he buys beefsteak at 60 cents a pound. The farmer's share of whatever prices the future has in store may be relatively modest, but live-stock husbandry appears to be more than ever secure. It is a time to press steadily forward.

Real Empire Builders

It is estimated that about 90 per cent. of the farming land of England is worked by tenant farmers for a small class of landlords, by a great mass of wage-earning laborers. For a long time this three-class system seemed to go on fairly well, but at last appears to have broken down. The drift is to the towns, and the land is under cultivated. Whether the state will undertake, by some system of purchase, to transfer the land to the real farmers, need not be conjectured, but close students of the situation are assuming as one fundamental, that in order to effect the improvement of agriculture in the Old Land, the lot of the toiling men and women who are living thereby, must be improved. All the social and industrial unrest of the British Isles, and of the world for that matter, points unerringly in the direction of a decent living wage for the laborer. Then, there must come the possibility of independent access to the land, the probable establishment of Land Courts or tribunals for equitable adjustment of the relations of land owners and tenants, and by means of co-operation and improved facilities of transport, an adequate return secured to the producer on the land for his enterprise and effort. The problems of the land, food production and distribution are pressing hard for solution, and the statesmen who successfully grapple with them will take rank among the real makers and conservers of the Empire.

A Bright Future for Live-Stock Breeders.

Canada has a meat shortage, and the United States, a country with its millions upon millions of meat-eating people, has felt the depletion in its supplies even more keenly than has been the case in this country. Their markets have been opened to receive our surplus and that of other countries, but we have no real surplus, and an investigation made by the United States Department of Agriculture has brought this point clearly to the notice of the American people. The Argentine had fewer cattle in 1911 than in 1908, and reports indicate that already that country is drawing upon its reserve. Australia as well as the Argentine is called upon to supply British imports, and cannot be expected to send in enough to very appreciably affect the market.

The removal of the tariff has caused many carloads of Canadian cattle, principally stockers and feeders, and a few lambs to go across the border, but American buyers and live-stock men are working under no illusion. Those familiar with the situation there and here know full well that our markets must rise to the level of American markets, and that very soon the supply of cattle from Canada must dwindle unless more are produced. They are now endeavoring to encourage the small farmer to return to stock-breeding.

All this means much to the breeder of pure-bred live stock in this country. The end of all cattle, sheep and swine is the butcher's block,