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EDITORIAL

Keep the stock off the grass.

Clean up the lawn and the back yard.

In the spring rush do not forget the farm garden.

Plant a few trees for windbreaks and shade. Now is the time.

Put up the gaps which have been down over winter, and close the gates.

Feed a little extra on grain just now if you would keep the stock up in flesh.

Keep the cultivator down in the ground. It doesn't profit to "skim" over the land.

Hard frosts up to the middle of April caused people to say, "late spring," but many were not even ready then.

If you give the weeds a start they are long-winded enough to keep ahead of you, and will beat you at the finish of the race.

Do not slight the last field to be sown. It needs even better treatment than the earlier-sown land to keep up a maximum yield.

If you happen upon any new methods of cultivation which give good results, give others the benefit of your experience through "The Farmer's Advocate."

Too many people are more anxious to sport a motor car than own a home, and like the looks of a dress suit better than a savings-bank account.

Cultivate the strip of mangel ground early, and let it remain a week or so before final preparation for sowing. It will save time with the hoe later on.

It was a poor year for sap in many localities, and when the new bills, now before parliament, become law it will be a poor year for imitation maple and dairy products in Canada.

If you are using wide implements put on plenty of horse power. It is unfair to the horses to expect two to do the work of three or three to draw the four-horse cultivator. Sore shoulders and poor horses usually result.

The silo by its worth has grown in numbers rapidly. Thirteen states in the American Union have 130,000 silos between them, and Wisconsin alone has over 41,535. If you are a live-stock breeder or feeder you can scarcely afford to be without this valuable asset.

If the program for better roads in Ontario is carried out according to the recommendations of the committee of investigation our thoroughfares should be greatly improved. Let us hope there is action on this report, and that it is not shelved as some other reports have been in the past.

Lessons from Mexico.

The frightful condition of affairs continuing over three years in Mexico, exterminating the people by thousands, destroying wealth in all forms and disturbing the world, has been the product of the thirty-five years military despotism of President (General) Porfirio Diaz. At the outset he inaugurated many successful plans for the speedy economic development of the country, such as building public roads, establishing railways, selling franchises and granting concessions for the development of natural resources. But the Diaz government, distrusted, neglected and deliberately opposed public education for the masses. One of the state governors who instituted measures for the advancement of sound, popular education "died mysteriously," and another found it desirable to "retire." A remarkable article on the causes of the Mexican trouble by Andres Osuna, a native of Mexico who has given his life to educational work there officially and otherwise, appears in the March issue of the Methodist Review, a brilliant southern states quarterly periodical edited by Dr. Gross Alexander. The writer makes it clear that the publication of educational reports was presented and nothing done for the improvement and enlightenment of the people. What practically amounted to slavery and child labor were encouraged. Labor unionism was dealt with by the soldiers shooting strike leaders publicly on the city squares.

Mexico was rich in public land, but this was given away in blocks of millions of acres to army and personal friends of General Diaz, and Mr. Osuna asserts that more than fourteen out of the fifteen million people in Mexico do not own a square inch of land, and three-fourths of the whole of it belongs to less than 1,000 persons. Little or nothing was done to improve farming, and the tillers of the soil were mere serfs to the landlords who virtually held a mortgage on the crops, and in many cases paid the laborers in groceries and other supplies at prices fixed by the landlords two or three times higher than those current in trade. Tenants usually died hundreds of dollars in debt to the landlords, and the children inherited the burdens that kept them in turn held down. Money-lending sharks had the free run of the country.

The people are also oppressed by the capitalists, especially Mexicans and Spaniards, through monopolies granted by General Diaz. One Englishman owns half the oil wells in Mexico, worth millions which cost him a trifling sum. He has the contracts to supply fuel to the Mexican railways, pays no taxes, declares Mr. Osuna, and the people are charged about 47 cents per gallon for their coal oil. Other monopolies, permitted for the enrichment of the rich, are said to be quite as bad. The people had no say in granting these concessions, and the despot who dispensed them was soon surrounded by a solid ring of the grafters. In comparison with Mexico, Mr. Osuna says, people of the United States do not know what trusts mean.

The press of the country was controlled by General Diaz absolutely for the benefit of his government; one paper in the city of Mexico being cited as receiving as much as \$100,000 a year. No articles or news were permitted to be published in any of them except what was favorable to the Diaz government. The army, too, was utterly corrupt, and run for graft. The banks representing \$700,000,000 capital are said to have been exempt from all taxation, as were many of the big capitalists. When Madero suc-

ceeded in becoming president he stopped the press hush money, and began to institute reforms and make the capitalist class contribute their share of taxes to the country, the press, army, big grafters and other powerful influences united against him and he was soon "put out of the way" in order that a new military dictatorship under General Huerta might be established, and the old order of corruption restored. Assuming the correctness of these statements, President Wilson, of the United States, was evidently well advised in refusing to recognize the Huerta government, and the sympathy of the world should go out to a people who are struggling amid a legacy of internecine strife and despotic corruption to grope their way to some form, let us hope, of peaceful and enlightened democracy concurrent with the inauguration of the great Panama waterway of trade so near their own doors.

Good Roads Must Come.

Rural and urban Ontario waited almost impatiently for the report of the Commission which was detailed to investigate road conditions in this country as well as in many States in the Union with a view to working out a plan whereby Ontario highways might be greatly improved thus facilitating travel, and especially that part of it which deals with the marketing of farm produce. As stated in an article in last week's issue, the recommendations of the Commission in brief were brought before the Ontario Legislature recently. It looks like a big undertaking to plan the expenditure of \$30,000,000 on the roads of this Province, but when this is spread over a period of fifteen years, and when we consider that Ontario has a total of 54,000 miles of roads of which only 2,748 miles are improved stone roads, and 18,150 miles improved gravel roads, it would seem that \$30,000,000 was none too much. This only means \$2,000,000 annually, and when it is considered that a large portion of this must be applied to maintenance the amount does not seem an exorbitant sum. One commendable feature in the report was that it was recommended to provide proper maintenance for every mile of permanent road work done, the funds for this to be obtained from current revenues. In the past too little attention has been given to the maintenance end of the work, people seeming to think that all that was necessary was to build the road, and then leave it to be gradually destroyed by the various agencies of weather and traffic, while they grumbled because it did not longer resist these agencies.

It was also good advice on the part of the Commission to commit the actual control and management of roads, so far as possible to local bodies, but in the working out of the plan it is necessary that these local bodies get competent men to see that the roads are properly built and properly cared for after being constructed, and some difficulty may be experienced in developing and working out a permanent system.

Allotment of the necessary expenditure seems to be quite fair. The Province is to duplicate the \$12,000,000 which the counties will be called upon to put up during the fifteen years in which the plan is being worked out, and the cities must do their share, being \$6,000,000. Special attention is to be given to the improvement of township roads, and this is one of the biggest considerations in the work. We do not believe in spending all the money on one or two roads in a section, and leaving all other roads in such