

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LIV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 16, 1919.

1412

EDITORIAL.

Vote no.

Be a booster for the Victory Loan.

Keep the coulter sharp and the plowshare shining.

Support and help to elect a farmer candidate in your riding.

Mark your referendum ballot with an X; other marks will spoil it.

Get the root cellar ready—the last of the 1919 harvest is about ready to garner.

Politics, real politics, is becoming all together too popular among the masses to suit the professional politicians.

Prohibition has been tried and found a benefit to the Province. We cannot afford to go back to the bar or the liquor shop.

It takes a long time to build up a good herd or flock. Do not dispose of anything that will lower the standard of your breeding stock.

The Dominion Parliament has had a very uneventful session, but the members were successful in getting the "gratuity" asked for earlier in the year.

Monday next will be an eventful day in the Province of Ontario, and the ballots to be presented then should be marked with deliberate care and earnestness.

An optimist and booster may make some very serious mistakes, at times, but, on the whole, he is a valuable citizen. A knocker has little to commend him.

No one can complain very much about the weather this fall, and as a result of the openness there should be a very large proportion of the fall work accomplished.

A great many people to-day are spending too much time raving over the high cost of living and are laying off on real work that would have a tendency to bring down prices.

Every open investigation of food stuffs conducted vindicates the farmer and shows up his position more plainly to the carping critics who parrot-like pick up sentences and repeat them without knowing what they are talking about.

A writer in the United States refers to the deterioration of farm implements left unprotected as "The hundred million dollar junk pile." Are you contributing to the heap by leaving farm machinery outside? House the implements and give them a coat of paint and oil this fall.

The Victory Loan is a safe investment, and the interest rate is fair. There is no trouble about collections and one knows exactly when the principal will be paid. Five and one-half per cent. for an investment without any gamble about it is worth considering very seriously. Above all, however, the country needs funds, and one is contributing to his own prosperity as well as the stability of Canada when he subscribes to the next Victory Loan.

The Coming Election.

The forthcoming election on October 20 is fraught with many possibilities, and it is of unprecedented importance to the voters of Ontario. We have had many interesting elections, but none gave greater promise of affecting the future Government of this Province more than the one to be staged next Monday. Past contests have usually featured two parties where politics was the main issue, and the "sovereign" voter was impressed with that fact. There is an awakening now. Farmers are not alone in demanding that worthy principles be endorsed by the prospective candidates, and that progress rather than politics be the motto of the incoming Government. Partisanship dies hard, but the desire to return progressive, live men with high principles and a knowledge of provincial affairs characterizes the electors at this time as never before. As always "The Farmer's Advocate" is for good Government regardless of party, and if the best man wins in each riding we shall have as good a Government as is possible to build up from the timber available. We would like to see a large number of farmer candidates elected, but it would be rank partisanship on our part to endorse every U. F. O. man in the field. Those known to us personally, are good men worthy of a place in the Legislature, but there are many we do not know. There is one thing, however, for which the U. F. O. movement must be given credit, and that is the number of good farmers running on party tickets. It has been a long time indeed since so many farmers were set up as candidates by the two parties in the majority of rural constituencies, and for this the U. F. O. is largely responsible. Whether the farmer's party is large or small in the next Legislature they will have, at least, made sure the election of a considerable number of agriculturists. In one riding, which, by the way, has 12,000 urban votes there are three farmers in the field, and they all belong to the same farmer's club. This is only one of the many incidents peculiar to the election. Farmer voters should weigh the matter carefully in their minds and not allow complications, such as three-cornered fights, to confuse the issue so that in the end the farmer candidates will be counted down to defeat. We are entitled to a strong representation in the Legislature of Ontario, but we can only get it through the proper use of the ballot.

Support the Loan.

Every class in the community cannot be otherwise than vitally concerned in the success of the next Victory Loan. It is not safe at this critical time for any one class to say "let the other fellow do it." We must all pull together and make Canada secure against any financial disturbances, which, if they should arise, would act as a cold blanket spread over every industry in this country.

While the boys were overseas the people of Canada contributed liberally to the cause in funds and comforts, but there is an obligation which must still be acknowledged. Rapid demobilization, soldier settlement and re-establishment, as well as the gratuities and care of disabled men have used up a large share of the last loan, and will require more. No one would suggest letting the matter drop with the Armistice or the proclamation of peace. We must still carry on. More than \$200,000,000 was advanced in the form of credit to great Britain out of the last Victory Loan for the purchase of Canadian goods which were not required here. This money was spent in Canada for cheese, hog products, grain and other agricultural products for which we had to find a market. A portion of the next Loan is to be used for the same purpose, and the money will be spent at home.

The country has enormous obligations which must be met. Other borrowing markets are closed. There

is only one thing left to do, and that is finance ourselves, which we are quite well qualified to do. It is no time now to argue regarding what would have been a wiser plan in the past. We have a situation to meet, and Canadians will meet it.

How It Works Out.

The warning has been sounded many times that any reduction in the price of food stuffs hits back at the actual producer with a great deal more force than it affects the agents who take part in its distribution. Action has been taken to the knowledge of us all in Canada, United States and Great Britain, and, strange as it may seem, the agitation in United States and Britain has affected prices here more, perhaps, than anything done in this country to lower the cost of living.

The first commodity to be dealt with is food; while not nearly so important as some other commodities such as coal, clothing and rents in the cities, it is constantly before the public, and any reduction in price will be more spectacular and make the price-reducers apparently more worthy of their hire.

Let us, for a moment, turn to the United States. A short time ago a war on food prices was started. Wholesale seizures of stored food took place. What happened? In the Chicago stock yards the packers began to buy light on hogs. The prices started down. The packers quit buying altogether, bringing about a drop of \$4.00 in one day. On August 13, hogs sold at \$22.40. On August 29, hogs sold at \$16.75, a drop of \$5.65 in a little over two weeks; the greatest drop that ever took place in that great market in a similar time. Cattle are also down and grain prices are also lower. There has been a slight reduction in food prices to the consumer, but it does not at all compare with the reduction made to the primary producer. Coupled with this there has been no reduction in price of the main commodities entailed in production.

The action of the British Government, combined with an almost world-wide determination to give the people cheaper food and, at the same time, maintain the wage schedule, has affected prices here in Canada to a very material extent. As an instance, hogs and cheese may be cited, but the reduction has been felt, so far, only by the farmer.

The cry of the Roman rabble was "Bread and the circus." That is the cry of the people to-day in a different form. The Roman Government, to appease the rabble, gave the people free bread and free entertainment. Without understanding the importance of agriculture the Governments everywhere are trying to appease the cry of the rabble. In Great Britain the Government is even paying part of the cost of bread. To force down prices of foods here below cost of production will be to make the farmers pay part of the cost of food. Already what brought about the downfall of Rome is happening here. The Roman Government, like present Governments, failed to understand certain fundamental economic laws, and the Italian farmers quit slaving in a form, and went to Rome where there was provided free food and free entertainment.

The people in our cities to-day are clamoring for higher wages and higher profits and shorter hours, that they may live better and have more time for play. The people from the country are drifting to the city. Census statistics show this most clearly. The authorities in this country seem ever ready to heed the popular demand in towns and cities, and strangely enough the Board of Commerce first trained their big guns on food stuffs. We understand, however, that they have been shown the folly of their ways, and will, in the future, direct their attention to certain lines that will stand investigating.

After all is said and done, the duty of adjusting conditions and making laws that bear upon all with