The Saw Makers

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For a long time a subject has been burdening my mind, which I have been somewhat loath to write about, because of the criticism it will be sure to meet with from some quarters, especially; but after reading that good article in your issue of Feb. 13th, "The Earl of Shaftesbury," it helps one to express his feelings about a subject, which lies very near my heart, and especially at these critical war times.

Your paper has done so much good in the last half century to its readers not only in agriculture, but in home making and nation building, that I feel that I would like to know if I am only one and I invite criticism—who feels as I do about this important question. Almost every newspaper in the Dominion is keeping before our minds constantly, production, production and more produc-tion, which is all right, and I believe there never was a time in the history of our world when it realized what the farmer means to the world as at the present time. A short time after the war broke out, heard a prominent man say that the final settlement of this war would be food. He said, men and money would be provided, but the great question would be the food, and I think we will all agree he was about

Ever since I have lived in Alberta, I have been vexed and annoyed more or less with men of my own calling in life working on Sunday. I ask, why have they done this, and I answer, for financial gain. Since the war has been in progress, it, of course, has been the same, and the coming season it will be the same, unless they are made to observe the law.

I ask again—why have they done this since the war began, and why do I prophesy they will do it again, and again. answer-financial gain. Some one will say, don't you think it is to be patriotic, and produce all they possibly can; I answer—no, not a bit of it. It is greed and gain, and gain and greed, every time and all the time.

If I were not a farmer, I might not know what I am talking about, but I have farmed over fifty years, in good and bad seasons, wet and dry; abundant harvests and scant ones, and I never saw the time when it was necessary, or when I ever did either seed, harvest or thresh on Sunday.

Some one might say-don't you think this year will be an exception, as the call is urgent. I answer-no, because man and beast can do more in a six-day week than can be in a seven-day week. Some one may say-I think you are a little hard when you say men do this from a financial standpoint and not from a patriotic point of view. Well if you think so, let us suppose a case.

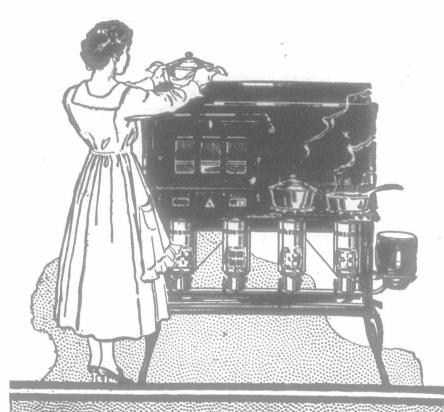
The government pays us \$2.21 for our wheat; now, suppose the government appeals to us as a country, to produce every pound possible, but they say we are very short of money, and we want you to show your patriotism to the very limit, and we will pay, or try to pay you your full expenses, but that will be all we can do this year. I ask, how many would then want to work on Sunday? I think I know who would not work on Sunday, it would very likely be the very ones who previously had

I am very sorry to say that in this part of Alberta that national sin has been brought here very largely from other countries and it is spreading like small-pox. Some one will say—why do you not complain to the government, and again I say-I have, so have others, but so far, nothing has been done

President Wilson, a few days ago, appealed to his people to observe the Sabbath day as far as it is at all possible. King George made a similar request some time Are the great minds and leaders of the world beginning to feel the pinch of national sins in connection with this awful war, of which Sabbath breaking is one? I fear and I hope so.

Alta.

W. Readhead, of Milton, writes that he has made a number of very good sales recently. The senior bull calf that was first at Guelph was purchased by Wm. Wright & Son, Campbelleroft. A cow with a heifer calf by her side, and also a two-year-old heifer, went to A. Hunter, of Holstein. A carload was shipped to J. I. Moffatt, of Manitoba. Four heifers were also purchased by the (). A. C.



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MAY 23, 1918

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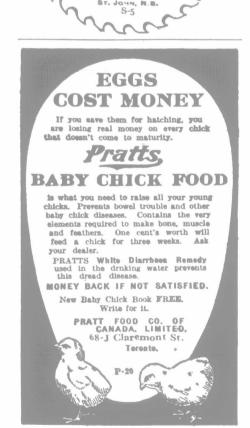
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