

reduction of \$2 a hundred less than market price. With those prices of feed and hogs we had for our labor and trouble \$722.85. Of course this may look small to some of the packers but we are only farmers and are not used to big profits.

As to the grazing of the high-priced feeders I may say when I closed out in the fall the figures were on the right side of the sheet. As there is a movement on foot to produce more hogs let every person that can keep a hog even if he is not sure of a profit. It will help to feed the Allies and the boys at the front. There was one thing our Government did that pleased me very much that was when they saw fit to prohibit the use of grain for the manufacture of liquor. If they would go a little farther and stop people from growing that cursed weed tobacco and compel those companies and farmers that are blowing about the large profits they are receiving per acre to grow something to feed the Allies and the starving nations what a blessing it would be for our rising generation.

Kent Co., Ont.

JOSEPH ANDERSON.

**The Farm Situation.**

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As our family has taken your paper since it was first published, I take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you, knowing that you have the interest of the country and farmer at heart.

I might say that conscription has already left its mark on this district in the unfinished fields, orchards and gardens, for through this district the farmers themselves have been refused exemption. As I write this letter I can see people passing along the highway to attend a sale of stock and implements, held by two brothers who had been given a few weeks to sell out, and the same men put \$4,000 worth of vegetables on the market last season. They have done the same business for years, and they are not the only ones, for farmer after farmer has been taken, from the 240-acre farm down to the 5-acre garden. In my own case I have farmed all my life and am nearing thirty. I am an only child, my father is 68 years of age and in poor health, also my mother, and, of course, I have run the place for the last few years. We have 18 acres of orchard and 15 acres used for vegetable and corn growing, the vegetables for the market and the corn for pig feed, as I keep two and three brood sows. The orchard is principally Spys and Greenings, 25 and 30 years and in fine condition, also 600 plums 8 years old, and the rest in pears and early apples, and yet the local board claimed that the fruit was not a national asset but a luxury and that the loss of the orchard would not be a national loss, nor yet the unproductive ground and also the pork.

From the above you can draw your own conclusions as to the judgment used by the local boards in the different districts in this locality. Now, if the need of this war is food production what is the country doing to win the war? Why where I sit I can see hundreds of acres of idle land, land that has been idle for years and yet it used to produce some of Ontario's banner crops, and more land is to go untilld. Can the country stand the strain?

Farmers for miles around here have held meetings night after night to try and find a remedy for the trouble and to discuss food production, and what result? The resolutions are all written up by capable men and are handed to different papers, and what happens? In the majority of cases the articles or meetings are simply ignored and our opinion as farmers never gets before the public, and the meetings stand for something, as you will know, when I state that anywhere from 100 to 300 men from one to fifteen miles distant attended.

Downsview and Islington meetings were examples of the feeling of the country, and the night of the Islington meeting was very cold and sleeting, and yet the town hall was filled with middle-aged farmers who were anxious for the national welfare.

Coming back to conscription. Our Government leaders promise that our appeals will receive the justice they did not get on the local boards, and yet how can we have confidence in the promise when the appeal boards are composed of men who are in similar walks of life to the men on the local boards who are not farmers or in sympathy with the rural people and rural ideas, and yet they are the men who are to judge who are necessary on the land and who are not?

York Co., Ont.

G. WOOD.

[NOTE.—Since our correspondent penned the foregoing letter we have read of many appeal cases going

general a nature to go down with farmers in this portion of the country. We have probably had dealings with as many farmers as your critical correspondent, and can assure you, as far as our experience goes, the charge is a gross injustice.

In his tirade he also soars to the heights in describing the apathy of one farmer who probably very naturally was sick and tired of viewing rocks and water on the journey West between Toronto and Winnipeg, and so very naturally welcomes the sight of "cows grazing and grain growing." I must plead guilty myself to a distinct relief on my westward way after leaving those interminable rocks behind.

The farmer is intensely practical and rightly so, else his success in his calling would be nil. Your correspondent also dabbles a little in politics. A very dangerous thing for a so-called "Higher Standard" farmer of such high standards of morals to meddle with. Throw it aside and come out honestly in true blue colors or lay no claim to being the most "honest" and moral farmer of our fair County of Middlesex. Quoting from Burns the Immortal Plowman Bard. Ah, sure:

"Could we but see oorsel's as ithers see us,  
It wad from mony a blunder free us,  
And foolish notion."

E. T. CAVERHILL, Sec.-Treas. Middlesex F. G. A.



A Result of the Coal Shortage.

before the judge, and of many bona fide farmers and farm laborers being exempted. Also, the Minister of Militia, the Prime Minister and other cabinet members have stated emphatically that farm workers will not be taken to the war.—Editor.]

**Do Farmers Need a Higher Standard?**

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Under the "virtuous heading" "A Higher Standard for Farmers," a correspondent recently had published in your column a tirade on the farmer which we cannot let pass unchallenged. The whole tone of the letter would lead one to say that your critical correspondent's liver was out of order and needed immediate attention, or that his mental faculties were pessimistic to an alarming extent. The charges of dishonesty on the part of the farmer are serious and altogether of too

**Fed Up Again.**

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Since writing my last I have been reading more Government literature, and it is wonderful the amount of money that the farmer should make from all the different successful demonstrations. The trouble is that the most important demonstration is still left for the farmer to work out alone with no help on this important point. All "hot air." Something like the latest system of bookkeeping advised. I know I could improve on my system, but I have no time or money to spend on one that has not been proven to be practical on the average farm. Since making my statement of what all farmers would be willing to do as their share in winning the war, I have questioned a large number and I have not interviewed one who is not ready and anxious to sign an agreement to work his farm during the continuation of the war for the current rate of wages with board for himself and such members of the family who assist him, depreciation on farm, stock and implements, taxes and 2½ per cent. on investment. In fact, the majority say that is more than they are making now.

A progressive farmer, live-stock salesman for a large farmers' club, said "if you take interest you have no wages; if you take wages you have no interest". Personally, I would state that I own one-third the farm, and as I am too old to enlist I thought my "bit" should be producing foodstuffs, so I gave up my position. I have invested \$4,000 in stock and implements, and for the duration of the war will be satisfied with no rent for share of farm, no interest on money invested, and one-half the salary, which included expenses, that I have made in commercial work for the past ten years.

Grey Co., Ont.

G. T. MARSH.

Tilbury United Farmers of Ontario, Kent County, R. W. Shaw, Secretary, report that during the year they held 37 meetings of their club and did a business of over \$18,000. Their membership is 84 with an average attendance of 50 at their meetings. Any club that can put up such an annual report as this must be a great factor for good in a rural community.

**Automobiles, Farm Machinery and Farm Motors.**

**Care of Farm Machinery.**

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Every man who owns farm machinery should at least take reasonable care of it, as it is made of wood and iron—two materials which rapidly deteriorate if left exposed to the elements. There is always a certain amount of wear and tear which can be somewhat lessened by judicious care. Judging from appearances, some people do not think that machinery requires attention. One of the things most important is to keep it well oiled so that the wear on bearings and castings will be alleviated as far as possible. They way some implements are oiled would lead one to believe that the owner thought the manufacturer put the oil holes in to lighten the weight of the machine. Not only is frequent oiling an important factor, but it is necessary to use good oil. Thick, dark oil, even though it is cheaper than the clearer and better running oil is not to my mind a paying proposition. You should be certain that the oil is clean and free-running. Rough ground is also very hard on implements, and it is a good plan to use a roller on meadows which are to be cut.

When the season for using the implement is over, it should be put in a dry place. The shed need not be spacious or elaborate, provided that it keeps the implements dry. There is not a man who would think of leaving his car in the snow all winter, and it is just as unreasonable to leave implements exposed as it is the car. Harrow teeth get loose and fall out, disks get rusty, binders, rakes and cultivators depreciate in value at an alarming pace if left in the open. When housed, it is an easy matter to repair them and it is more

likely that the repairs will be done during a slack time than if the implements are left exposed. Leaving the machine out in the weather is all right for the manufacturer's pocket but not for yours.

Haldimand Co., Ont.

L. B. HOOVER.

**Too Cold and Too Hot.**

The manifold is a constant study but perhaps it comes in for more attention during the cold winter days than it does at any other time of the year. Under ordinary driving circumstances occasions arrive when your car does not start with the ease that you desire. Under these conditions you have always pulled the primer on the dash or at the front of your car. When you used this primer you cut off the air intake on the carburetor but your purpose was to develop a quick vaporization in the manifold in order that firing in the cylinders might commence without delay. Perhaps it is not necessary to do so, but we shall explain in any event that the word manifold simply means "many fold." The device is nothing more nor less than tunnels or tubes constructed as gas connections to the engine proper.

When the manifold is cold and clammy the gasoline does not vaporize readily and so you might crank the engine for a long time or even exhaust your battery by working the self-starter without attaining results. Days and conditions are bound to come when you must give attention to the manifold or else you will never get your plant power into operation. There are a number of devices that can be used and there are many things that can be done to assist the manifold in its functions.

If the ordinary priming device fails to work satisfactorily it might be well for you to install a primer that will spray high test gasoline in the manifold until the engine turns over regularly. Such a contrivance consists of a pump installed on the dash or upon the front of your car. This pump draws a small quantity of good gasoline from a little tank and by means of two pipes connected with holes near the top of the manifold shoots the fuel in a vapor throughout the manifold. When the engine turns over it immediately finds gasoline to its liking ready to enter the cylinders. You can buy these gasoline primers or it would not be a difficult matter for an expert to install one.

A system that works out practically along the same lines is called a manifold plug heater. This is nothing more nor less than a piece of wire inserted in the manifold by means of a plug and fed with electric energy from a battery. When you use this device you turn the electricity into the interior of the manifold. The current runs over a wire that by giving resistance, produces heat and in turn makes the vaporization of the fuel a comparatively easy matter. When your engine commences operation it is not necessary to keep the current on the manifold because the car will immediately have become warm enough for all purposes.

If you are living in a climate that is not snowy enough to prevent traffic along the roads but at the same time is extremely cold you could install on your machine a combination primer that would not only spray gasoline in the manifold but also throw in some electric heat. Such a dual system of quick work should enable you to start your motor no matter how adverse the weather conditions might be.