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## EDITORIAL.

Put your farming business on a solid basis by keeping more and better live stock.

Good live stock and plenty of it is the keystone to Canadian agricultural success.

As a general thing it doesn't pay to doctor a sick hen, but if you wish to try it there are some hints in this issue.

Wood for winter is still bothering most of us more than is the supply for next summer and yet summer is coming and there will be no time to cut wood then.

Canada could do without some of its race tracks for all time, and all might be closed up until the end of the war. There is other more important business on.

Results last year—an off season—proved that the man who had farmyard manure in plentiful quantities is the best off in a pinch. The farms which have carried a heavy stock for years had a crop in most districts.

If we are to believe the reports of both sides of the partisan press it would seem that both parties woo the Nationalists while in Quebec but promptly jilt their fiancée when they get back to Ontario or any other of the provinces.

Well, the bear, the groundhog and all the rest of the turbearing denizens of forest, field and woodlot had a fine chance to see their shadows on February 2nd, and those humans who believe in signs will now prepare for six weeks more winter.

It would be a good thing for the cause of woman suffrage if all the militants could be permanently penned up. Thinking people are tired of their nonsense. There are quicker, saner and better means of getting the vote than by militancy.

"The hired man" will not be one of the luxuries on many farms this year. He has already been cut out. Besides, he is a necessity this year when food products are so badly needed. Most farmers are getting accustomed to doing without necessities as well as luxuries.

There is one thing we admire in General Sir Sam Hughes. He is not afraid to speak out against either political party where he believes they are so far wrong as to detrimentally affect the welfare of Canada and Canadians. If more of the country's representatives showed a little independence within their party it would not be a bad thing for Canada.

Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare is just one more evidence of weakening in the Central Powers. A nation which will murder neutrals at sea and sink hospital ships carrying wounded and disease-stricken soldiers could scarcely be trusted to make a peace that would be permanent. Treaties and agreements are still mere scraps of paper according to Hohenzollern kultur, but "frightfulness" is only a mark of failing strength.

Farmers generally feel that the Government has been wise in not putting on a special campaign of "production" meetings this winter. Every producer is ready to do his utmost for a big crop in 1917, and in place of exhortation he asks all those forces working for the good of agriculture to give him helpful information. The columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" are open to carry such information to thousands of readers.

## Straightforward Business.

However badly the farmer may be "done" by agents of one kind and another, it is a fact that the bigger and better class of companies generally try to give the buyer a good article. Prices may be high and profits may be more than some think they should be, but nevertheless it is at least some consolation to know that reliable firms always desire that their goods shall give satisfaction. A case in point is the work of the big fertilizer concerns in America. These have organized a National Fertilizer Association with a special "Soil Improvement Committee," whose duty it is to educate the farmer in the use of fertilizers. This committee gathers and disseminates facts about fertilizers. It keeps in touch with all experiment stations and with a large number of successful farmers, and the information gathered is compiled, printed and put out to the farmer in readable and understandable form. This committee also goes thoroughly into soil fertility, tillage, the importance of good seed and general methods of disease and insect control. The National Fertilizer Association does not want to sell a man a fertilizer which he doesn't need and from which he cannot get satisfactory money returns. The reliable manufacturer of fertilizers knows that it will eventually injure his business if he sells something which will not pay the buyer in some way. Fertilizers are not well understood. If a farmer is persuaded to buy nitrates to put on a field rich in nitrogen through the plowing down of clover or alfalfa and the purchased nitrates show no difference in the crop, he is likely to conclude that artificial fertilizers are no good. If he applies potash to a soil rich in soluble potassium salts or to a crop not specially requiring potash and gets no results, he comes to the same conclusion. The big fertilizer firms know this and they are striving, through the "Soil Improvement Committee," to help farmers to understand their soil, their crops and the particular fertilizers for the different types of soil and for the different crops. On top of all this they advise, as "The Farmer's Advocate" has done time and again, that each farmer find out for himself what his own soil most needs.

It is encouraging to see a big organization working not only for themselves but for the good of the man who buys their products. Do not buy fertilizers your land or crops do not require, but strive to find out these requirements. No fakir and no fake concern could exist on the basis upon which the National Fertilizer Association is working.

## More and Better Live Stock.

Last week a large number of Canada's leading live-stock breeders assembled in Toronto to transact the business of the annual meetings of the various associations. Faith in the future of the greatest branch of Canada's greatest industry was expressed by all. The man who keeps good stock and plenty of it rarely, if ever, has a complete crop failure. He always "hits it" with something. But Canada has not the numbers of high-class animals needed. There is a great work for live-stock breeders to carry on. The stock breeder desires better stock than he has yet produced. He is working with an ideal in view. The average farmer wants and needs better stock, and the breeders must do their best to make it available for him. The poor farmer must be shown the error of his careless ways by forcing out the scrub. Through it all the stock breeder and the breed associations must work incessantly and strenuously toward one goal, more and better live stock, and must see to it that when the goal is approached and finally reached that the farmer gets a price for his product commensurate with his pains to produce the highest quality. A premium must be paid for the best for the block, which is the ultimate destination of all meat-producing animals. In fact, one of the quickest ways

to ensure rapid improvement is to regulate marketing so that the producer is paid according to the quality of the product marketed. This is true of the bacon hog. It is true of the wool and lamb trade. It is true of beef. It is true of milk and its products. A great work lies ahead. Canada's stockmen are ready to put their shoulders to the wheel. The outlook never was so bright for the live-stock business of North America, aye, the world.

## The British Cattle Embargo.

At the recent Convention of the Manitoba Cattle Breeders' Association, in Brandon, a strong resolution was passed urging the removal of the British embargo against Canadian store cattle, in order that our stock might move freely to Britain, there to be fattened and slaughtered. All unjust embargoes and restrictions are odious for they act in restraint of trade; and the British embargo, from our point of view, is unfair, as the conditions which prompted its declaration were long since remedied. Be that as it may, the people of the United Kingdom prefer carcasses to live, unfinished cattle. Other great stock-producing countries are content to send chilled or frozen quarters to the English market, and so do not pay freight on viscera, hearts, lungs, hides, horns and hoofs. It sometimes seems ridiculous for Canada, with her almost limitless areas of cheap but fertile land, and abundance of feed, to send store cattle to England, there to be finished on high-priced holdings and imported grain or its by-products. There are those in England who would like to see Canadian cattle admitted, that the soil of Britain might be still further enriched, that the mills might be kept busy with the manufacture of the by-products of the abattoirs, and that more labor could be given employment at home. These are all logical reasons, but they apply, also, to this Dominion. Fundamentally, and in practice the exportation of raw products, such as wheat and store cattle, is not the best practice, for it simply transfers the fertility of this country across the sea and establishes in Britain lucrative industries which rightly belong to Canada.

A modern abattoir will turn out many by-products without which we could hardly get along now. Many of these constitute the raw material for other manufactures, and so the wheels of industry, the country over, are kept humming. The value of the by-products resulting from the slaughter of a 1,200-pound beef animal amounts to approximately \$34.40, in a packing plant from which we have this information. The labor employed in the slaughter of the animal and the handling of the by-products is worth around \$1.25, but this does not include the cost of preparing the articles for sale. From two to three per cent. of the beast is returned to the country as fertilizer. This all means business, employment of labor, bigger industries, more population, better home markets, and, as a result, more demand for meat animals and all farm crops.

From the viewpoint of soil fertility alone it seems necessary to finish cattle in this country. During the past year, when so many farmers were disappointed in their crops, it was quite noticeable how farms, where cattle are fattened annually, maintained their average yield. The advantages which accrue to the farm where cattle are finished will accrue the country over in proportion to the amount of feeding done. The Dominion of Canada is especially adapted to the rearing of cattle and production of grain and fodder. It would, however, be all right to have the British embargo lifted. This would remove the stigma placed on Canadian cattle than which none other are more healthy. It would open the market for any class of stock, pure-bred or otherwise, after the war. It might revive the export trade in finished cattle, and in cattle which would need a little more fitting to be made prime. The cattle breeders assembled in Toronto last week asked that the