

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LIV

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 3, 1919.

1384

EDITORIAL.

Plan the cropping system before seeding is too far under way.

One-quarter of the value of good seed is lost on a poor seed-bed—put it in right.

Save plenty of small fields near the buildings for calf and hog pastures as well as soiling crops.

Potato diseases carried in the seed decrease the crop very materially. Look well to the quality of the seed used this spring.

The wealthy classes will be the last to endorse any changes toward direct taxation, and one does not have to seek for the reason.

Do you read the Young Farmer's Department? The junior farmers are an important factor in modern agriculture, and they will make their influence felt.

The manufacturers ask where revenue is to come from if the tariff is reduced. The answer can be found in other countries where saner methods of raising revenue are in vogue.

Are we going to have a great live-stock and agricultural expansion movement or are we going to drift? Surely, the splendid opportunities now presented will not be ignored.

One cannot expect a good harvest from a poor seeding. Good luck is due to about one per cent. of chance and 99 per cent. of foresight, intelligence, proper methods and hard work.

Where San Jose or other scale insects are prevalent don't neglect to make the first application of lime-sulphur. It cleans up the orchard and increases the effectiveness of the later sprays.

A report of Parliament, prepared by one of our own editors, residing in Ottawa for the purpose, appears weekly in "The Farmer's Advocate." We have no political axe to grind and can, therefore, furnish unbiased reports of the proceedings.

The summer excursions to the Ontario Agricultural College might well be revived and take the form of an auto party such as was suggested by the Brant County Board of Agriculture. Farmers should use their automobiles freely this summer in excursions to neighboring counties and districts.

Many farmers on hundred-acre farms have learned that they can get along in a kind of a way without extra help, and are now loath to pay high wages to hired men. They feel that the increased production resulting from the labors of an extra man will no more than pay wages. Agriculture will never make rapid advances under such conditions. The problem still calls for solution.

The world shook for more than four years with a battle between autocracy and democracy; the latter conquered but now an inverted autocracy, emanating from Russia and gathering strength in Hungary, threatens the earth with something really worse than we have ever known. This new evil spreads more rapidly among people with empty stomachs, and the Peace Conference begin to realize that a settlement must soon be reached so food embargoes can be lifted and living conditions become more normal.

A Moderate Request.

The Maritime Provinces make a very modest and reasonable request when they urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of abattoir and cold-storage facilities at Halifax. One has to live and farm in one of the three provinces down by the sea to appreciate the obstacles confronting any development of the live-stock industry. The market for live stock is not there, and last fall when the seriousness of the feed shortage was realized S. O. S. calls were sent to Montreal with the result that cattle on hoof were dispatched westward over a long expanse of rail. The situation was relieved on that occasion, but the natural flow of live stock or live-stock products is not westward, especially over such a distance as lies between the eastern counties of Nova Scotia and Montreal. The records of the branch Experimental Farms in the East substantiate the statement that cattle sell for at least two cents per pound less in Nova Scotia than on the Toronto market, and in the case of hogs world markets cannot exert their full influence because there is no adequate channel outward to those markets. The situation was well pictured in a resolution endorsed by a recent meeting of the Maritime Live Stock Breeders' Association and forwarded to the Federal Government. This should receive more than serious consideration; it merits immediate action.

During the last two or three decades ridiculously large amounts of money have been expended for political purposes on wharves, breakwaters, bridges and what not in the Maritime Provinces, and now something substantial, something needed, is being asked for. Surely half a million dollars spent on cold storage and marketing facilities at Halifax would appear insignificant as compared with the 25 or 30 million already allocated for the improvement of that harbor. A fast ocean service places the east coast of Canada very close to the shores of Britain, and adequate cold-storage facilities at an Atlantic port, open the year round, would help all Eastern Canada besides giving to the Maritime Provinces an opportunity to expand. It was expected that the Minister of Agriculture would give the Maritime Province project more favorable mention when he announced the Government's program concerning cold-storage additions. However, the million dollars spent at Montreal will not help the East, and it is to be hoped that more than a passive attitude will soon be assumed in regard to the Maritime Provinces.

A Frank Admission.

In an effort to hold back the tide of public opinion which is constantly swelling and making tariff reduction, sometime during the present session of Parliament, a certainty, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association have been fathoming some amusing advertisements in certain publications. An attempt is being made to discredit the farmer and show him up as a citizen desirous of evading all obligations to the State, and one who would shift the burden of taxation completely to the shoulders of others. These advertisements could be taken clause by clause and answered to the satisfaction of all fair-minded people, but one which is, in fact, particularly destructive to the cause of the high protectionist is reproduced in the following paragraph:

"Furthermore, to raise the Dominion Government revenue they would substitute for the tariff, which collected last year about sixty per cent. of that revenue, an increase of income taxes, inheritance taxes, corporation taxes, and taxes on unimproved land values. As it is quite obvious that such taxes would affect the farmer but little, this is the inducement they are using to get you to forsake us and follow the free trade prophets no one knows where."

This frank admission by the manufacturers that farmers as a class would be taxed more lightly if some

form of equitable and just taxation were imposed is enough to nullify the whole argument in defense of high tariffs. Certainly, agriculturists are not holding unimproved lands. Corporation taxes would not touch them, and inheritance taxes would have to apply to insignificantly small fortunes before they would derive anything from the estates of out-and-out farmers. The income tax is the only form of taxation mentioned that could be depended on to yield a fraction of revenue. Farmers would rejoice if only they could derive an income from their farms sufficient to place them in the prosperous class of contributors under this form of direct taxation. The manufacturers know full well that as we get away from indirect taxation and make wealth and capital pay its rightful share the farmer's burden is transferred to the shoulders of others better able to bear it.

Consolidation of Rural Schools.

We are moving toward consolidation in all lines. Individual effort has handicapped farmers to such an extent in the past that they are at last beginning to realize the tremendous advantages which accrue from co-operation and a work-together system when applied in the community or to the agricultural industry in general. The cheese factory and creamery have almost abolished the small, individual equipment maintained on the farm with which to manufacture cheese and butter. A large proportion of the wool now produced is graded and sold at a central collecting station, instead of being carded at a nearby mill and spun into yarn on the spindle of a single spinning-wheel. One by one the old-fashioned spinning-wheels have been relegated to the garret, and the busy spindles of the large factory convert the country's wool crop into yarn. Centralization and consolidation now feature practically every department of the farming industry, but the rural school stands out in bold relief as one phase of rural life and rural activity where the wheels of progress have been almost motionless. There have been changes in the curriculum, that is true, but, considering the advancement made in urban centres, and what modern agriculture demands in the way of leadership, executive ability and citizenship, the rural school may be likened to the spinning-wheel as something which was serviceable and indispensable in a past age but altogether unsuited for the present.

Some form of consolidation is necessary, but in the development of a consolidated rural school system the problem of buildings and transportation are not the most vital factors. These have been solved elsewhere and can be solved here. The school itself, what it teaches and how, these are the features of the coming consolidated school which will make it a happy success or a glaring failure.

When we say that the transportation problem has been solved elsewhere we have in mind that the State of Idaho transports over five thousand children; Oklahoma over eight thousand; Kansas over nine thousand, and Minnesota more than sixteen thousand. In our own Prairie Provinces the transportation question has been met and conquered, so why should we not be able to do as well in Eastern Canada where the country is more thickly settled?

It was announced recently that the Ontario Government would assist in the erection of community halls. Any action taken in accordance with this movement should be influenced by the probable location of consolidated or community schools. A hall or meeting place would certainly be a very valuable adjunct to the equipment of the community, but these should be a part of the future community schools, and such halls should not be built regardless of where a number of school sections might naturally find a convenient centre. One drawback to consolidated schools at present is the number of small schoolhouses which the sections do not