

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED  
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

LI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 5, 1916.

1254

## EDITORIAL.

Britain is rather a "hot" landing place for "zepps."

We would advise every man who can to save seed.

Politicians are still more plentiful than statesmen.

The Kaiser protests against "the tanks," but it is only German gas.

Better plowing means all-round better farming and bigger crops.

Early October is mangel time. Take them up before severe frost.

Packers who put up poor fruit injure the trade for years to come.

Fatten the cockerels before selling, and sell early if a profit is desired.

He who plows this fall will sow early next spring, and he who sows early reaps most.

No rain of any account since July 1! We wonder how the bombardment affects the weather?

Most farmers would like to increase production, but they are doing about all they can under the circumstances.

This year has been a hard blow to root growing, but next may be better. Roots still have a place on the farm, especially for calves and pigs.

You know how you got your silo filled and threshing done. Why not try the same principle in buying and selling? Work together.

The large percentage of cull fruit this year should stimulate spraying efforts in 1917. Next year may not be so wet in the spraying season.

Ontario is to have a new agricultural school. Let us hope that it works for a more universal teaching and practice of advanced agriculture.

The real business of the Province went on after September 16. Some seemed to think stopping liquor would stop everything, but it didn't.

What effect has the School Fair on the child who doesn't get a prize? Children are not grown-ups and may take defeat discouragingly. All should get encouragement.

The High Cost of Living is occupying the minds of more people than ever before, but they still live high. People who demand so much service must pay for it.

The bakers may do some good by their advanced bread prices. More women may make home-made bread which is cheaper, more healthful and better for everybody, except the baker.

Figures published by the Census and Statistics Monthly show the following decrease in live stock in Canada in 1916 compared with 1915: horses, 5,464; milk cows, 63,501; other cattle, 85,636; sheep, 73,561; swine, 297,228. These decreases are deserving of the attention of producers and consumers as well. Prices are likely to be higher.

## Put New Life Into Fall Fairs.

Most of the fall fairs in Ontario have been held for another season, and the big day in many a county town is again over for the year. There are upwards of three hundred local fairs held annually in this Province, and the attendance this year has been reported as fairly good. If it averaged a little over 3,000 people it would mean that more than 1,000,000 persons, largely from the farms of Ontario, attended these shows. We believe that this estimate is not too high, for we know many fairs, that have a great deal larger attendance than 3,000, some running as high as eight and ten thousand people. We have heard the question, and in fact it has been discussed in the columns of farm papers, as to whether or not the county fair as at present constituted was worth while. When we come to think of the fact that in Ontario alone 1,000,000 people get a day off to see the show, and that the majority of these are farmers with their wives and children, we would not care to see the county fair go out, for the farmer and his family certainly do not get too many holidays at present.

But the county fair should be a great deal more than a holiday. It should have an effect on the agriculture of the district round about year after year, otherwise it is not doing the good which it might do. Too many of these fairs have become stereotyped, and nothing new, interesting, and more educative is planned year after year. The same old grain comes out in some cases; the same exhibitors show fruit, vegetables and field roots; the same breeders bring a few of their best stock; or, to make a show, some are encouraged to bring a few animals out of the field. The same old fakirs ply the same old trade, and four or five rather questionable side-shows very often get the hard-earned dimes which are none too plentiful with the farmers' boys and girls. We believe that an improvement could be made if a little new blood were injected into some of the Fair Boards. It is all very well to brag about the directors being men of experience having had twenty-five or thirty years on the Board, but in some cases, no doubt, it would be an improvement to put on a bright young farmer who had ideas and was ready to do a little more work than wearing a nice smile and a pretty piece of ribbon on Fair Day.

The county fair should encourage men to produce better live stock, higher class grain, roots, vegetables and fruit than they have hitherto done. To accomplish this it must be educative, that is, good stock must be shown and must be placed before the people by a judge who is ready and who has time to give reasons, if they are asked. It is not enough to, at the last minute, scurry over to the big breeder in the neighborhood and ask him to bring out his herd or flock in order to have a show, nor is there any value to come for any one but the exhibitor in bringing out stock low in condition and not prepared for the show-ring in order to carry off the prize money for which no entry would be made, unless this unfitted stock were brought out. There are many good county fairs doing excellent work in interesting boys, young men and older farmers in better farming, but we fear there are some that are not doing what might be done in the particular locality in which they are located. Keen competition amongst amateur breeders and showmen would do more good than bringing out professionals or allowing the man who comes for the money, and the money alone, not having fitted his stock, to carry away the prizes. Directors should take this into consideration when planning for next year's fair and make their rules such that stock must be fitted properly, and allot a percentage of the money in such a manner that new exhibitors would be encouraged to bring out their

stock or farm produce and go in to win. There is an abundance of excellent live stock and farm products produced within a reasonable distance of every local fall fair in Ontario, but it does not come out. The problem for Fair Boards is to bring this to the show, and a little judicious campaigning with a re-arrangement of prize-lists and rules might help. The county fair is the best place for the exhibitors to commence their show-ring career, and from a live-stock and farm-produce standpoint the condition of the county fair to-day is the forerunner of the condition in which the larger exhibitions will find themselves in the days to come.

When this is taken into consideration and when we realize the effect county shows have on the large number of people who attend, it is important and it is certainly worth while that they be fostered and strengthened. A poor show does more harm than good; a display of cattle, horses, pigs or sheep, small in numbers and in poor condition, is not a good advertisement for the district, for the breeder, for the breed, nor for the fair. It lowers the whole thing in the estimation of the fair-goer. Take for instance a young man working with his father who has built up a very good herd of grade cattle. The young man decides that he would like a few pure-breds and the father is about complying with his request. They visit the local fair and they find in the stalls allotted to the particular breed in which they are interested a half dozen animals, thin in flesh, taken straight from the dry pasture field to the fair, because the owner figured that there would be no competition. The cattle would not compare favorably with the grades at home. What is the result? It is more than likely that the purchase of the pure-breds is delayed, and father and son decide that they will go on with the grades for some time. This is where the harm comes in, and the Fair Board should seek to get over the difficulty. Put new life into fall fairs.

## In the Long Run.

We know of a farmer who farms by fits and starts. He practices rotation of crops, but he has no regular rule of this rotation. One year his farm may be found sown almost entirely to wheat, while the next it may be all clover, and the next all corn, or all some other cereal. Naturally, as a result of this, he can have no steady and well-thought-out plan of handling live stock in conjunction with his farm, which is so situated that live stock should be one of its mainstays. He farms by guess or by chance, and very often the chances are against him. We have come to the conclusion that for the average farmer in Ontario, note we say "average," and even for most of the best of the farmers of this Province, mixed farming, with a set rotation, and an established policy with reference to live stock to go well with this rotation, is the safest and surest policy in the long run. The man who puts all his eggs in one basket this year and then changes the basket for next year is liable to miss it both seasons. This year the man who depended solely on spring crops in Ontario is disappointed, hay being the one big crop of the year. Last year hay was a light crop and so it goes, until one is convinced that it pays to have a little bit of everything every year. The Ontario farm cannot be maintained without a liberal supply of fertilizer of some kind. Live stock is necessary to produce this, and to feed the live stock most economically and best a rotation of crops, with as large a variety of them each year as possible, is most economical and safest in the long run. Let us stick to our mixed farming with as much live stock as the land will carry, and with all the system and regularity in crop rotation that it is possible to work.