

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Treat the seed wheat with formalin to avoid smut—it pays.

Pasturing new seeds is not a good practice. Avoid it if possible.

The uncultivated summer-fallow is worse than no summer-fallow.

The daily press is kept busy these days reporting murders, assaults and political speeches.

By the appearance of some corn fields, an extra silo will be needed this year to house the corn.

The cattle derive the benefit of shade trees in the pasture field during the hot, sultry August days.

The appearance of some gardens would convey the impression that there was a better crop of weeds than vegetables.

Showery weather of early August was just what the root crop wanted. One can almost see the turnips and mangels expanding.

Make a good seed-bed for the wheat, but if the Hessian fly has been bad in the past delay sowing beyond the usual date.

The catchy harvest weather is delaying operations so that many a farm boy is wondering if he will get through harvest in time for the big exhibitions.

The disk, cultivator, or gang-plow used on the unseeded stubble field will start many weed seeds germinating, thus lessening the crop of weeds next year.

Is your farm noted particularly for any one thing? Surely there is one thing it will produce better than any other. If you haven't discovered what it is, dig!

The pessimist who complained about bad weather and poor crop prospects last April and May is still complaining about the catchy weather visited upon us during the harvesting of a bumper crop.

City men have the idea that they know all about farming, but the bluffer is soon discovered when forced to tackle a few farm problems. Farming is a man's job, and one cannot have too much experience.

A good deal of delay owing to breaks in machinery, loss of tools, etc., is due to gross carelessness. When will men learn to put things in their places, do things at the right time, and, above all, think before acting.

Plan the work so that time will not be lost while waiting for the dew to dry off so the binder, or hauling, can be started. The time may be utilized in straightening up around the buildings, cutting weeds, hauling a few loads of manure etc.

The railways of Canada have applied for an increase of 40 per cent. in freight rates and will probably get half of it or more, the express companies have made application to increase their charges, and the Bell Telephone Company are out after their share of the spoils. The long-suffering consumer, who pays the bills would be well advised to put his pocketbook in his inside pocket and lock up his change.

Is Blue Ruin Impending?

There is a demand in some quarters for the blue-ruin, wolf! wolf! type of agricultural buncombe that has always been more or less chronically preached, and of late years has become acute. The wolf! wolf! cry has been heralded abroad when there was no wolf. It was only a ground-hog that could have been destroyed by organized effort and modern methods. The result, however, has been bad rather than good. Parents on the farms have become dissatisfied. The youth of the country have been shown two pictures, the rosy, luxurious life of the city, and the farm where slavery and oppression abound. They have naturally chosen the field of luxury and ease as the scene of their future activities, only, when their eyes were opened, to turn upon their own people denouncing them as profiteers and hoarders of wealth.

We should treat the whole matter frankly and not drive the young people to the city with hard-luck tales that are only twenty-five per cent. true. Farming has its drawbacks, all will admit; and a few become millionaires when they engage in city industrial activities, but the 35 or 40 per cent. of Canada's population who live amid rural environment have just as much reason to be happy, and they are just as prosperous as any other 35 or 40 per cent. that can be chosen from the remaining citizens of this country.

There are wrongs to be righted; there are economic conditions that are not to our liking and do not appeal to farmers as a class, but over and above all there is the honesty, the usefulness, the freedom, the independence of the calling and the natural, unadulterated life on the farm which places it above all others in the category of occupations in this or any country.

The farmer's task to-day is to fight for the social and economic well-being of the industry in which he is engaged, and enlist in this noble cause the vigorous, red-blooded youth of the country which are being constantly impelled cityward by the oft-repeated tales of agricultural decay and oppression.

Canada Needs More Good Breeding Horses.

There is a splendid opportunity now to stimulate the breeding of good draft horses, and a great impetus can be given to this enterprise by the introduction of some superior stallions.

From the Great Lakes to the Atlantic there is a scarcity of good draft horses; they are not to be found in any number anywhere in Canada, for the West, like the East, got filled up with a lot of misfits for which there was no place, and the impression got abroad that the demand for horses was a thing of the past. Breeding fell off, enthusiasm waned, horsemen put on the soft pedal, and the general result has been a scarcity of good horses. The old hunting grounds have been culled repeatedly, and there is a tendency to discontinue the fruitless quest of horses where other power, though perhaps not as satisfactory, can be more easily obtained.

Not only is there a famine in the draft horse line, but there is a dearth of high-class breeding stallions. One would not require the fingers of both hands on which to count all the Clydesdale and Percheron stallions in Ontario that are really good enough to mate with some of the best mares in the Province, and the fingers of one hand would not be required to count all the Clydesdale and Percheron stallions in Ontario that are really high-class, outstanding breeding horses. We simply haven't got stallions that have proven themselves outstanding when measured according to the standards of the breeds. Ontario should afford, at least, a good Clydesdale and a good Percheron for there are a considerable number of mares that would produce with anything on this continent or the Old Country, if they were mated properly and given an opportunity.

We should have a Clydesdale horse with the same prestige in Ontario that Dunure Footprint has in Scotland; we should have a horse to which the good mares all over Ontario would be sent; we should have a horse that people would talk about and travel long distances to see. Such a horse might cost Ontario twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars, but what is that to the Province when a few automobile manufacturers would spend as much or more on a show or convention to advertise their goods. It would be worth \$100,000, in one year, to the horse-breeding industry of this Province if the people could be awakened to the necessity of breeding good horses and the advantages that would accrue therefrom.

Barring accident or misfortune the revenue from a good breeding stallion would maintain him and eventually discharge the initial debt. "Footprint," we are told, covers about 200 mares in a season, but this is more than should be expected of any horse. There is no reason why artificial breeding methods could not be utilized and a high-class stallion so employed as to do the horse industry of Ontario inestimable good at little provincial expense. Alberta has done this very thing; Saskatchewan has a similar scheme projected; Ontario and the Eastern Provinces should do the same thing, only in a bigger way, and place at the disposal of breeders good stallions of the various leading breeds.

The first step in the rehabilitation of the horse-breeding industry is the awakening of optimism and enthusiasm, and perhaps the newly-coined word "peptomism" best describes the missing attribute. A better feeling toward the horse, backed up with action on the part of farmers and horsemen and Departments of Agriculture, would bring the prince of farm animals again to the front, and allow it to play its rightful part in the agricultural and industrial development of this country.

Truth in Fabric.

The trade and consumers generally demand that fruit growers do not include any scabby or wormy apples in a barrel of number ones, and if a dairyman or butter-maker should leave more than 16 per cent. of moisture in a pound or a box of butter the guilty culprit is arraigned and prosecuted forthwith. Wool is sold on a graded basis, or else the producer is paid a flat rate that is sure to be sufficiently low to provide for lack of quality or undue losses in weight when scouring. How changed is the situation when one goes to purchase woolen goods! What guarantee has a buyer that he is not getting fifty per cent. shoddy or an admixture of cotton? Some may say they can tell the difference, but we are not all so discerning and the less skilful ones are often "fleeced." There is a "truth in fabric" Bill pending in the United States, which, if carried, will compel clothing and cloth manufacturers to label materials with the percentage of shoddy contained in them. "All-wool" clothing is considered a misnomer that is fooling everybody. If we must have truth in the label on a barrel of apples, truth in butter, truth in wheat, truth in wool, truth in advertising, truth in the written and the spoken word, then it would do no harm to have truth in the fabric that has been returning such handsome dividends to the manufacturers of textiles and garments.

It would not be correct to boldly state that the beef breeds have lost the natural power to function as producers of milk. Many of the most highly-prized breeding cows in numerous beef herds are able to rear a calf well and some to spare. Generally speaking, a good breeding cow is a good milker, and her calves do well. However, in the show-ring the ideal embraces only beef conformation, type and fleshing. It would be better still to add another requirement and let it be evidences of milk production, sufficient at least to rear a calf and rear it well.