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EDITORIAL.

"As you sow, so you reap," may have several applications, but none is so evident as in the kind of seed of the various farm crops sown. First-quality seed must be sown if the best quality crop is to be harvested.

There is little hope being held out that grass seeds, especially clovers, will be any cheaper, and there is a danger that the demand may not be satisfied. If there is nothing to be gained by waiting it would appear like good business to purchase now.

"I did not think," is the excuse given for many failures and wrong doings. It is high time that we commenced cultivating the habit of thinking if we would avoid losing the faculty of thinking by the brain cells atrophying through disuse.

Investigation into the high cost of living doesn't add one jot or one tittle to the food supply. Men to cultivate, sow and harvest are wanted if the world's granaries are to be filled. Economic conditions must be so adjusted that the farm home, life and work will be as attractive as that offered by the urban community.

Too many have cultivated extravagant tastes and desires during the past few years of ready cash. We cannot always ride on the crest of the prosperity wave, and it would be in order for every one to lay aside something for a rainy day. Living within our means is a motto that might advantageously be adopted by country youths as well as city folk.

Hydro light and power cannot be taken to the farms any too soon, but it is a stupendous undertaking to supply the farmers of Ontario with current in a short time. The present supply is over-subscribed, and we understand the power which the Chippawa Scheme will provide is already taken up. Rural municipalities have not been as forward in demanding or subscribing for current as they should be, and the urban municipalities are in on the ground floor with equipment and organization. Many farmers are depending on securing Hydro very soon, and when situated near transmission lines or sources of supply their expectations may be realized. Nevertheless, there is a demand for Hydro that will not be satisfied in the next decade, at least. Some statement should be forthcoming from the Hydro Commission that will throw a ray of light on the possibility of getting current to the farms at a reasonable rate.

The Live-Stock Branch has decreed that on and after April 1, 1920, the charge known as "packers' insurance" must not be levied on the live stock sold at the stock yards in Canada. "Packers' insurance" has been the subject of considerable controversy for years with the packers arguing that since Government inspection in the abattoirs became a practice many animals have been condemned, and that the insurance is a practicable way of preventing loss. On the other hand, it is claimed that the insurance provides a fund far in excess of the loss through condemnations, and that the insurance is charged on all animals passing through the yards, whether they go to the abattoirs for slaughter, or somewhere else. The charge, as it has been collected in the past, seems unfair, but a reasonable insurance fee could be charged and placed to the credit of the Health of Animals Branch, which makes the inspection, or to the credit of the Live-Stock Branch. The custodians of this fund could compensate in case an animal is condemned and the balance of the fund could be used to help free Canada's live stock from disease.

Tap the Maples!

It would appear like turning the wheels backward to resort to the old-time practices of carding, spinning, weaving, and the home-spun suit. Many of these old-time practices have been allowed to vacate, and now the necessities, formerly made by the hands of the users themselves, are available only at the price someone else is pleased to set. Things have become centralized, and it is a question whether the results compensate for the lack of command we have over the necessities of life. True, farmers and their families dispensed with considerable toil, but they have been obliged to work just as hard in order to be able to purchase back those things which they previously made themselves.

One good, old-time custom which has not been alienated from the farm is the tapping of maple trees. It is something that does not lend itself to being cornered by big interests, and the owners of maple groves are still in a position to draw the sweet sap from the maple and convert it into syrup or sugar. In fact, the conveniences for this have been improved. Instead of the huge kettle, suspended above an open fire, owners of maple groves are now in a position to own a sugar plant of their own, and compete to a certain degree, with the large manufacturers who supply the nation.

Sunshine and frost will soon combine to start the sap running, and anyone who can command sufficient labor and get possession of ample fuel would do well this year to make a business of tapping the maple trees. The price of sugar is exceedingly high and the demand for maple products is better than ever, at enhanced prices. Maple syrup and sugar are being used much more extensively than ever before in the confectionery trade, and there is a considerable export demand should we desire to supply it. Maple sugar and syrup can be used in the home in lieu of the granulated or brown sugar that is now at such a premium, and anyone in a position at all to spend some time in the bush this spring would be making no mistake in tapping very extensively. It will pay to use good utensils and good equipment. Turn out a good product and there will be no question about a demand for it.

A New Slogan Needed.

Since farming, fishing and hunting ceased to be the chief pursuits of the Canadian population, and towns and cities began to exert an influence, "Back-to-the-land" has been the perpetual slogan that will not down. It was a good slogan in its day, and on account of its age deserves respect, but it is doubtful if any re-adjustment of economic conditions will be brought about by a well-marked movement of people toward the land. In spite of the under-production of foodstuffs and the ever-increasing difficulties incident to living in urban centres, conditions are not favorable for any appreciable increase in the ranks of agriculture through the enlistment of town and city workers. We can alter the slogan to "Stay on the land," and then proceed to being more acres under cultivation by attracting suitable immigrants and settlers from abroad. In this way Canada may do a great deal to rehabilitate agriculture and alleviate the tense situation now existing.

To start farming, even as a tenant, the beginner will require at least between three and four thousand dollars, and if a 100-acre farm is purchased the initial payment on the property must be added to the previously-mentioned sum. Anyone prospering in the town or city will not likely think of farming, and those who are not prospering seldom have three to five thousand dollars in their bank account. Starting farming is not what it used to be; it is now an adventure requiring no small amount of capital.

Should the married man with a family consider engaging as a farm laborer, he will have to forego many conveniences that he enjoyed in town, and more than that farmers, as a rule, are not equipped with sufficient

house room or cottages to properly accommodate married help. The unmarried man will be the last to feel the pinch of hard times, the most susceptible to the lure of the city, and the last to join any exodus countryward. These are the circumstances as they exist in urban communities, and we shall have to shout "Back to the land!" till our throats are sore before we can make much impression on the present state of affairs.

Help on the farm has been getting scarcer throughout the last decade, but the real trouble dates from the beginning of huge profit on war contracts. Wages jumped up to the clouds and remained there, and the cost of living went up to keep them company. Meanwhile, farmers have kept their feet on the ground and will continue to do so, if they are wise. We have not yet reached the peak of high prices for manufactured commodities. Buyers of merchandise are appalled at the ever-increasing valuations placed on commodities by the manufacturers, jobbers and wholesalers. Sometime the shoe will begin to pinch, but not until the public cease to buy unnecessary articles at exorbitant prices.

A "stay-on-the-land" campaign has some chances for success, and it should be backed up by the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments by paying every consideration to agriculture. A fair method of taxation, assistance in marketing, good roads, electric power, and numerous other advantages such as these would do a great deal to make farming attractive, and when that is done there will be no need of a slogan at all.

Town and Country Should Co-operate.

If there are two classes of people who do not understand each other and could profit by a closer acquaintance, it is the town and country people of Canada. Frequently, urban folk say unkind things about the farmers, and in many cases rural people do not turn the other cheek, but instead are just as likely to say something not altogether complimentary to townsmen. Ninety per cent. of the people in this country, urban and rural, are plain-living folk busily engaged in making a living, and there is no excuse for any sharply-drawn line of demarcation between town and country. One depends on the other to a very large extent; the inhabitants of both are, in many cases, closely related; they are meeting each other almost daily, and after all are one people. The estranged relationship is due largely to a misunderstanding, and when an effort is made to get town and country closer together the results are often gratifying.

Just as one example of what may be done by closer co-operation between town and country, we may consider the case of Petrolia, a small town in Western Ontario, which, during spring and fall, is almost isolated by impassable roads. Town and country folk got together there and did \$7,000 worth of road work, and only \$500 in actual money was expended. Farmers drew gravel and the town people took off their coats and went to work; both worked together harmoniously, with the result that now farmers from the surrounding country can get in to town at any season of the year.

Steps are being taken at Stratford to organize a farmers' section of the Chamber of Commerce. The committee includes a number of the foremost farmers in the county, the Warden of the county, and an ex-Minister of Agriculture. Surely something can be accomplished by a body of men such as this. It would be in the interests of town and country dwellers for the inhabitants of both to work together harmoniously. There have been misunderstandings in the past, but the younger men coming on are willing to forget little differences and personal grievances for the sake of a community spirit that fosters co-operation, goodwill and progress.

