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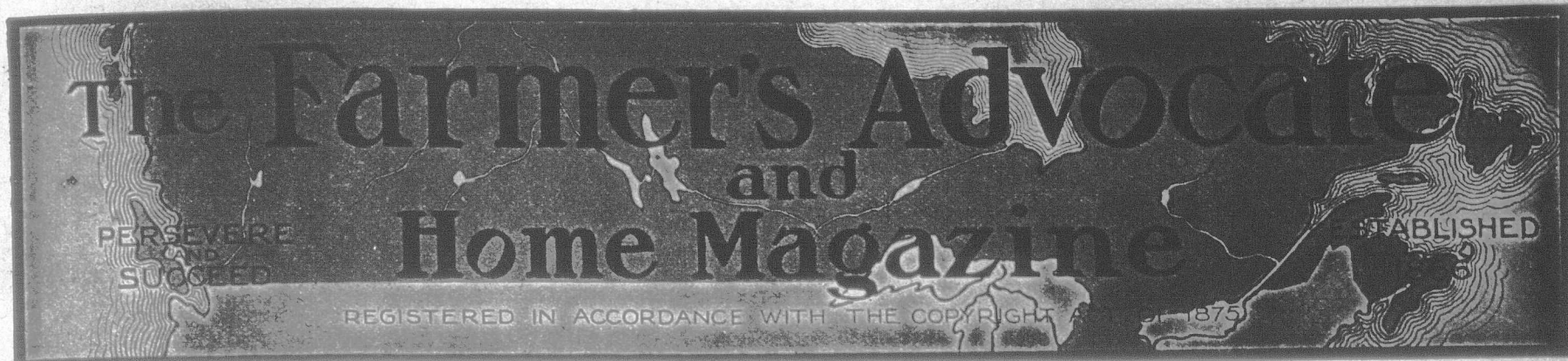
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No. 1121

## EDITORIAL

The man who thinks decides. He who does not think drifts.

Get to the bottom of all questions worthy of your thought.

A few minutes with the monkey wrench now may save you half a day in the seeding field next month.

Be ready when the land warms up to the temperature necessary for seed germination and plant growth.

Consumers should not blame the farmer for all the high cost of living. Wars and rumors of wars have played their part.

If the market price of grain does not justify growing it for sale in the raw state, feed it to some class of stock which will make it pay.

What was your experience during the cold spell with silage freezing around the walls of the wooden, solid cement-concrete or hollow block silo, as the case might be?

Time was when governments were expected to originate and execute their policies. The modern way is to turn the task over to a commission and then supply the funds.

Having skinned most of the coops in the world's poultry yard, the Armament Trust are now smacking their lips over Canada as the next fine, fat goose to be picked to the bones.

If the United States alters the Panama tolls rules, as seems probable, it would not be good judgment on the part of Great Britain to refrain from exhibiting at the Panama Pacific Exhibition.

If you want anything from the Government, there are at least two ways of getting after it, the quiet lobby of Sir Jingo McBores at the Capital and the spectacular special train with a thousand delegates.

There is always room for improvement. Give the 1914 crop a better start than the 1913 crop had by sowing cleaner, purer and plumper seed, sowing it earlier if the land is ready, and sowing on better-prepared soil.

A Western farmer writes: "For most of us, now is the time not to buy, nor yet to sell, but to give extra care to and make the most of whatever live stock we possess." How does this fit on the farms of the East?

The Mail and Empire in an admirable editorial article describes the recent message of President Wilson in favor of repealing that portion of the Panama Canal Tolls Bill discriminating in favor of U. S. vessels as "one of the noblest deliverances ever made to Congress by the Chief Magistrate of the United States."

## Soil Exploitation or Farming.

The cultivation of the soil for food products or any other useful or valuable growths of the field or garden is a dictionary definition of agriculture, but all agriculture is not good cultivation—farming that pays. There is soil tillage or so-called farming practiced by the wholesale which is nothing short of exploitation, soil robbery, mining the land, or the utilization of schemes intended to work to the advantage of the farmer without regard to the rights of the soil with reference to future plant growth. If a business man is in business for several decades he does not attempt to exploit those with whom he deals. He does not attempt to get large amounts of his customer's money without giving something of value in return. Strictly selfish utilization of business opportunities would quickly cut off the various channels of trade through which the business is fed and maintained. In short, exploitation means ruination. The same thing holds true on the farm. The farmer is or should be a business man and like the manufacturer, the wholesaler or the retailer he must plan to give something of value in return for the crop which his fertile fields yield him. The supply of plant food is not inexhaustible as many of those who yearly scratch the back of old Mother Earth and sow their seed with little thought to the demands of the crop seem to think. Continuous cropping cannot keep cash coming in unless fertility is supplied in some manner. The plant must have sufficient food or it will develop a sickly, withered stock with a short, partially-filled head—the unprofitable effort of the degenerate plant to reproduce itself. A half-starved horse or a half-fed man is a failure and a crop struggling for a small amount of plant food, much of it in an unavailable form, is also a failure. It costs more in many cases to produce a poor crop of grain than it brings at market prices. Then what is the remedy—farm, do not exploit. Grow crops not for sale in the raw state, but manufactured to the highest degree of which your plant is capable. If it is not equipped with the machinery to turn out the highly-finished article which is in demand and which yields best returns, then equip it. What does it need to make the farm a manufacturing centre and change it from an exhausted, soil-fertility mine, operated on a small scale at small profit or a loss, to a thriving plant turning out large quantities of finished products at a profit—a real farm? The requirements are first a thinking man as working manager and then good live stock as the most efficient machinery to manufacture the grain, hay, roots and fodder which the farm has produced into high-priced meats, milk and dairy products and at the same time to so utilize the plant food which these crops have taken out of the soil that the major portion of it goes back to replenish the fertility of the land. With this are associated suitable tillage of crops and sufficient and judicious tillage—a short rotation and good, deep, thorough cultivation in place of continuous cropping and merely scratching the top of the soil. This is farming. Are you farming or exploiting your soil?

## Cultivation and the Crop.

Every man who is desirous of success on the land paints a prosperous picture in his mind's eye at seeding time of wide acres of heavy-headed golden grain nodding lazily in the mid-summer heat and imagines himself sitting on the seat of the self binder urging on his three-horse team as a thrill passes through his system watching the endless canvas elevate its deep layer and the discharge arms clicking off the long, bright sheaves bearing the bushels of precious grain. In his enthusiasm he is prone to depend too much upon wind and weather, sun and moisture, the natural fertility of the soil and the action of the air—all very uncertain. He reads that crops should be in the ground early and he sees his neighbors making all haste to be the first "done seeding." The spirit of spring is contagious and imbues everyone with the craze for speed. In the rush the cardinal point is often overlooked that the kind and amount of cultivation given is a limiting factor in crop production. Cultivation makes the crop in many cases and the lack of it ruins it. For the sake of an extra day or two do not, under any circumstances, work the land before it is ready. Many a field has been so badly run together through this mistake that it baked and the crop yield was a disappointment. Light cultivation is generally favored for spring crops on fall-plowed ground, but the light cultivation does not mean slight or slighted cultivation. A seed bed must be prepared if a good crop is expected and what will produce a good seed bed or good tilth on one field is often not sufficient on another. Cultivate, disk and harrow until the soil is thoroughly pulverized to a sufficient depth to make a finely-pulverized bed for the grain. If the condition of the soil does not suit you after the usual number of strokes with cultivator and harrow, go over it again. It will usually prove very profitable. The young plant requires fine soil with plant food rendered easily available in order to get the proper start. A poor start is generally a poor finish. The old drag harrow does not get the credit it should and is not used to the extent that its importance warrants. Try it ahead of the cultivator and an extra stroke or two after the disk or cultivator or even after the grain drill will usually increase tilth. If there is one thing that demands quick and thorough action it is seeding. Do it rapidly, but thoroughly. "Scratching it in" should not be tolerated. Seeding slighted means a light harvest.

## Try an Experiment.

True it is that our governments are expending large amounts of money to equip and maintain agricultural experiment stations throughout the country, and true it is that the average farmer has little time to devote to experimental work, which is generally rather too costly for the individual, if carried on on a large scale; however, no matter how many experiment stations we may have, they can never become numerous enough to do certain work for individual farms. No farmer should attempt to make his farm an experimental farm. He should be past the experimental stage in almost everything, but he is in a good position to conduct each year one or two small experiments in the work in