

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Corn will not grow well without cultivation.

The demand for good horses is increasing.

Did you spend your holiday in a hammock or a hay-mow?

The women who can't can can learn to can. Let nothing go to waste.

Those who have profited most from the war should be called upon to pay now.

Keep the good breeding stock, but sell the cull calves and lambs, as usual.

Canada has plenty men who can make a big noise, but not so many who are real thinkers.

No one will complain about the harvest being a little late if the weatherman only sends good weather.

The surest factor in increasing production and ultimately lowering prices is high prices themselves.

You can work wonders with the show stock during the next few weeks. Bring everything out at its best.

The man who starts the plow as soon as he has a field cleared will be in the best position for the necessary big crop in 1918.

Food Controllers can never attain their objects by setting prices so low that a fair margin of profit on production is eliminated.

If there are many more party splits at Ottawa, Canadians may be fooled into thinking they have a national government.

The man who believes in signs doesn't know whether to blame the wet weather on the moon, or eclipses, or the big guns in Europe.

At war for three years and determined to go on until autocracy crumbles is the position of the Allies whose forces gain strength daily.

Train the boys and girls to observe what is round about them. All their education must not be left to the little red schoolhouse.

We must not forget the importance of farm implements and machinery in production. Are they as easily available as possible?

If Austria's love for Germany is turning to hate as fast as some reports would indicate, the Kaiser will soon be in a tighter corner than ever.

The appearance of potato diseases emphasizes the need of following spraying instructions as published in a recent issue of this paper.

Some say there is much money in curing bacon as carried on in big packing plants and others say there is little. However, there are more titled curers than producers of bacon hogs.

The man in almost any other business but farming knows what he is going to get for his goods or his labor. The farmer gets what the other fellow gives him. Is there any wonder the farm boy fits himself for some other work?

Get the Granary Ready.

Harvest is near. The threshing machine will soon be humming on every concession in Old Ontario. Crops with fine weather for harvest, promise big yields. Grain is needed in abundance this year and prices are likely to be good. It is essential that all be saved and well taken care of. The granary is important. A clean, tidy granary is an indication of a careful and thrifty farmer. A granary where all kinds of chaff, old bags, implements out of place and mouse-eaten oat hulls are allowed to accumulate is an indication of bad management and waste. Clean up now. Take the old broom away from the back steps, if one is not kept at the barn for the purpose as it should be, and sweep down all the bins. Clean out all the waste. Tack some tin over any rat or mouse holes in the bins. Stop the leaks. Thousands of bushels of grain are lost each year by being dumped into bins which have not been cleaned out and repaired. Every kernel of grain that trickles through the rat holes is that much loss to the farmer, to the consumer and to the Allies. Put on a campaign against mice and rats before the grain comes in. Get a cat or two, or, better yet, place some prepared poison in the granary and close it up so none of the farm poultry, stock, or the children can get in. Be ready for threshing and be ready to save all that is produced.

Scrap the Junk.

The other day as we drove through the country we noticed many an old binder, mower, cultivator and other farm implement and machine rotting and rusting under nature's broad canopy, which at best does not make a very satisfactory covering for expensive implements and machines. Most of these were beyond repair. They were scrap. Nearly every farm has its accumulation of worn-out rigs, implements, machines and so on. They are unsightly reminders of former carelessness, or of days of hard work. They should be cleared away and why not now? There is plenty of bad weather to permit of time taken to break them up. The wooden parts not suitable for repairs for other machinery could be broken into wood, for fuel is scarce and likely to be more so. Any sprockets or other metal parts which might come in for use on newer machines of the same or other makes should be saved and all the remainder scrapped. Never within your memory, Mr. Reader, was scrap iron so much in demand. Now is the time to break up the worn-out machinery and put it to the best use. Such a practice will be doubly beneficial. It will beautify the farm and return a few dollars as well.

Why They Don't Want to Farm.

Since the first company of returned soldiers landed in Canada we have heard and read considerable of the plans of politicians and others to place these men on the land. Some of the plans have considerable merit, and others are useless. However, at the first the whole thing seemed to be settled without consulting the men themselves. Fine tracts of land in new districts were selected and easy terms of ownership made out, when all at once someone realized that the men were not anxious to farm and particularly to homestead in the woods of the North, or on the far-off prairie. Why did they not want to farm? The question was answered by Dr. T. R. Adams, on the Conservation Committee, Ottawa, in an address before the public health session of the Canadian Medical Association Convention, recently held in Montreal. A report of his speech contains the following significant statement: "The soldiers do not want to go on the land, not so much because they object to farming, but under present conditions farming does not pay and most areas available for settlement are too remote for the markets."

This is a good answer to the man who complains that farmers are making more money than they should. Surely, too, the returned soldiers have earned a better future than farming too far from markets to make the venture profitable and congenial. If farming does not pay, it is high time our legislators got busy with their legislation. It cannot be made pay by lavish expenditures upon increased numbers of government officials. The situation demands action.

Get Full Light on the Bacon Industry.

Producers of the bacon hog and consumers of bacon were recently startled by the report of the findings of the Cost of Living Commission on the bacon industry. Producers have long been suspicious that the packer manipulated the price of hogs and bacon to suit his own convenience. Consequently the statements in the report showing enormous profits for the packing trade which have been accelerated by present war conditions tended to confirm this suspicion. However, it developed later that the report was considered incomplete, that all the figures dealing with the business under investigation were not gone into at that time, and that it was gross profits that were given. Investigations are a good thing but they should be thorough and a complete report given to the public. In this case where the Government was conducting the investigation it would have been less disquieting to both producer and consumer had they been ready to apply a remedy if an evil existed. This would have tended to retain the complete confidence of the people in this important industry at the time when an effort is being made to build up a large export trade in bacon after the war. An incomplete report oftentimes leaves the wrong impression. Undoubtedly the Department of Labor, under which the Commission was working, felt justified in revealing the state of conditions as found by the investigation, but evidently they did not go below the surface and consider the effects such a report might have on the producer. It is an injustice for illegitimate profits to be made in any line by the few at the expense of the producer and consumer and an effort should be made to make it impossible for it to occur. In justice to all concerned a thorough and complete investigation should, and we believe will be, made. In the meantime the producer and the Department of Agriculture should not relinquish their efforts to build up a large export trade in bacon.

A Better Fair.

The fall fair which does not make a strong feature of live stock and agricultural products is a failure. Any fair which hopes to continue to draw crowds and hold interest year after year must have a uniformly high-class display of educational features, and live stock and the products of the farm are chiefest of these in most places. Down in Kansas the officials of a number of fall fairs were questioned as to the exhibits of outstanding excellence and of those who answered 28 said that live stock was one of the leading exhibits; 13 said that agriculture was one of the leading exhibits; 9 said that automobiles was one of the leading exhibits; 9 said that machinery was one of the leading exhibits; 9 said that education was one of the leading exhibits; 8 said that woman's department was one of the leading exhibits; 7 said that horticulture was one of the leading exhibits; and 6 said that babies was one of the leading exhibits.

There is a good point in this for those in charge of rural fall fairs in Canada. Live stock and agricultural products should receive most attention for they are what the people who attend the fair are interested in. It is a mistake to leave these departments to chance. Facilities should be completed so that live stock and the