

**THE ONTARIO ARGUS**

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**The Fate Of The U--29**

The dispute as to how the U-29 was sunk is destined never to be settled satisfactorily to the neutral searcher after the truth. An official announcement is made by the British Admiralty that the famous under water craft met her fate at the hands of "one of his Majesty's ships." This indefinite statement is intended to convey the information that some sort of British warship destroyed the submarine, as it would require a long stretch of the imagination to call a merchant vessel flying the British flag, or owned by British capital and engaged in British shipping one of "his Majesty's ships."

As an offset to this positive announcement we have an equally emphatic statement from the German government that the U-29 was rammed by a British tank steamer, flying the Swedish flag.

There you are. Take your choice. An "official" announcement from the government of a great nation is supposed to establish some statement as an incontrovertible fact. But in this case some one is mistaken, or he is prevaricating.

The British statement is handicapped by suspicion of being rather late. The U-29 was destroyed many weeks ago. But there have doubtless been many happenings of importance kept secret by the British Admiralty office, and the fact that the "news" is stale does not necessarily mean that it is untrue. The German announcement, too, is late though one would ordinarily expect that the victors would give out the news, rather than the vanquished, if either were to withhold the facts or delay announcing them. It might be claimed that Germany

was making the announcement to this manner in order to effect the negotiations now pending with America over the Lusitania. But the official declaration is simply the confirmation of a report that has been current in Berlin ever since the U-29 did not report at its base months ago, and it could hardly be said that the Germans both patched up the statement and started the false rumor before the American protest was ever made.

The conflict of accounts of the destruction of the U 29 is very likely to play a part in reply that Germany will make to President Wilson's second note of protest, and with any negotiations that may be continued after the Berlin foreign office has been transmitted its reply. The Germans will lay great stress upon their claim that a merchant ship can sink a submarine, and if the orders issued to British captains offering prizes for destroying the under sea boats stands, but it will be contended that the German commander should have the right to defend himself by sinking his antagonist to save his own vessel, and the lives of his own crew. The answer will be that the submarines have no business interfering with vessels, and wouldn't be in danger of being rammed if they stayed away. Then we would have the question of right to declare a submarine blockade, and then in turn the question of Great Britain's blockade of German ports, and then go back and question the right of Germany to treat Belgium as she did, for which treatment England started her blockade in retaliation--and so on and so on. Finally you get back to the primary question, Why this war? And no one can satisfactorily answer that. And there you are.

The automobile industry in the United States is the third largest, being only surpassed by the steel business and the clothing trade. Even the steel industry would not be so comparatively large if automobile making did not so materially swell its output. The only wonder about this is that we should spend so much on clothing. It's lots more fun to go auto riding than to dress up.

**BANKERS URGED TO CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS**

**SOUL MATERIAL HAS ENTERED THE BANK VAULTS OF THE NATION.**

The Bank a Financial Power House to the Community.

By Peter Radford.

One of the greatest opportunities in the business life of the nation lies in practical co-operation of the country banks with the farmer in building agriculture and the adventure is laden with greater possibilities than any forward movement now before the American public.

A few bankers have loaned money to farmers at a low rate of interest, and oftentimes without compensation, to buy blooded livestock, build silos, fertilize the land, secure better seed, hold their products for a better market price, etc. The banker in contributing toward improving the grade of livestock; the quality of the seed and the fertility of the soil, plants in the agricultural life of the community a fountain of profit, that, like Tennyson's brook, runs on and on forever.

Community Progress a Bank Asset. The time was when money loaned on such a basis would severely test the sanity of the banker; such transactions would pain the directors like a blow in the face. A cashier who would dare to cast bread upon waters that did not return buttered side up in time for annual dividends would have to give way to a more capable man. This does not necessarily mean that the bankers are getting any better or that the milk of human kindness is being imbibed more freely by our financiers. It indicates that the bankers are getting wiser, becoming more able financiers and the banking industry more competent. The vision of the builder is crowding out the spirit of the pawnbroker. A light has been turned on a new world of investment and no usurer ever received as large returns on the investment as these progressive bankers, who made loans to uplift industry. The bankers have always been liberal city builders, but they are now building agriculture.

A Dollar With a Soul. It is refreshing in this strenuous commercial life to find so many dollars with souls. When a dollar is approached to perform a task that does not directly yield the highest rate of interest, we usually hear the rustle of the eagle's wings as it soars upward; when a dollar is requested to return at the option of the borrower, it usually appeals to the Goddess of Liberty for its contractual rights; when a dollar is asked to expand in volume to suit the requirements of industry, it usually talks solemnly of its redeemer, but soul material has entered into the vaults of our banks and rate, time and volume have a new basis of reckoning in so far as the ability of some of the bankers permit them to co-operate in promoting the business of farming.

God Almighty's Noblemen. These bankers are God Almighty's noblemen. Heaven lent earth, the spirit of these men and the angels will help them roll in place the cornerstones of empires. They are not philanthropists; they are wise bankers. The spirit of the builder has given them a new vision, and wisdom has visited upon them business foresight. The cackle of the hen, the low of kine and the rustle of growing crops echo in every bank vault in the nation and the shrewd banker knows that he can more effectively increase his deposits by putting blue blood in the veins of livestock; quality in the yield of the soil and value into agricultural products, than by business handshakes, overdrafts and gaudy calendars.

Taking the community into partnership with the bank, opening up a ledger account with progress, making thrift and enterprise stockholders and the prosperity of the country an asset to the bank, put behind it stability far more desirable than a letterhead bearing the names of all the distinguished citizens of the community. The bank is the financial power house of the community and blessed is the locality that has an up-to-date banker.

**POLITICAL PRAYER MEETINGS**  
It is a sad day for Christianity when the church bells call the communicants together for a political prayer meeting. Such gatherings mark the high tide of religious political fanaticism, put bitterness into the lives of men; fan the flames of class hatred and destroy Christian influence in the community. The spirit actuating such meetings is anarchistic, un-Christlike and dangerous to both church and state.

The success of the nation is in the hands of the farmer.  
Work for the best and the best will rise up and reward you.

Tenant farming is just one thing after another without a pay day.

**FREE PORTS BUILDERS OF COMMERCE**

**CONGRESS SHOULD GIVE THEM PREFERENCE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**

By Peter Radford.

This nation is now entering upon an era of marine development. The wreckage of European commerce has drifted to our shores and the world war is making unprecedented demands for the products of farm and factory. In transportation facilities on land we lead the world but our port facilities are inadequate, and our flag is seldom seen in foreign ports. If our government would only divert the energy we have displayed in conquering the railroads to mastering the commerce of the sea, a foreign bottom would be unknown on the ocean's highways.

This article will be confined to a discussion of our ports for the products of the farm must pass over our wharfs before reaching the water. We have in this nation 51 ports, of which 41 are on the Atlantic and 10 are on the Pacific Coast. The Sixty-second Congress appropriated over \$51,000,000 for improving our Rivers and Harbors and private enterprise levies a toll of approximately \$50,000,000 annually in wharfage and charges for which no tangible service is rendered. The latter item should be lifted off the backs of the farmer of this nation and this can be done by Congress directing its appropriations to ports that are free where vessels can tie up to a wharf and discharge her cargo free of any fee or charge.

A free port is progress. It takes out the unnecessary link in the chain of transactions in commerce which has for centuries laid a heavy hand upon commerce. No movement is so heavily laden with results or will more widely and equally distribute its benefits as that of a free port and none can be more easily and effectively secured.

**THE VITAL PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURE**

By Peter Radford.

There is no escaping the market problem and the highest development of agriculture will not be attained until it is solved, for a market is as necessary for the producer as land on which to grow his crop. Governmental and educational institutions have spent \$150,000,000 in the United States during the past ten years for improving soil production and improving seeds and plants, but very little attention and less money has been given to the marketing side of agriculture.

The problem is a monumental one and one which will never be solved until it gets within the grasp of a gigantic organization where master minds can concentrate the combined experience and wisdom of the age upon it. It is a problem which the farmers, merchants, bankers, editors and statesmen must unite in solving.

The Farmers' Union stands for all there is in farming from the most scientific methods of seed selection to the most systematic and profitable plans of marketing, but does not believe in promoting one to the neglect of the other. We consider the work of farm demonstrators valuable and we ask that governmental and commercial agencies seeking to help us, continue to give us their assistance and advice, but we believe that their influence should be extended to the marketing side of our farm problems also.

We cannot hope to develop manufacturing by over-production of the factory; we cannot build up mercantile enterprises by the merchants loading their shelves with surplus goods and no more can we develop agriculture by glutting the market with a surplus of products.

**DARIUS**

The neigh of a horse made Darius King of Persia the six contending powers for the throne agreeing among themselves that the one whose horse should neigh first should possess the kingdom. This ancient method of settling disputes among politicians could be revived with profit today. If our partisan factions and petty politicians could only settle their disputes by the neigh of a horse, the bark of a dog or the bray of a donkey, it would be a great blessing and would give our citizens a better opportunity to pursue the vocations of industry free from political strife.

Let those who pick political plums by raising rows and who flash swords dripping in the blood of industry understand that they cannot turn the public forum into a political arena and by a clash of personal aspirations still the hammer and stop the plow and that their quarrels must be settled in the back alleys of civilization.

**WHAT TO RAISE.**  
Farmers should raise the things to which their farms, their markets and themselves are adapted. They would better study how to raise the most and best of these things than to scatter their energies over a great variety of products merely to keep from buying them. The men who follow the right policy usually have cash enough to get what they need from other farmers who can produce it cheapest. There was a time when farmers were compelled to grow or make about everything they needed, but that day has long gone by. It is good business to raise things—but the right things. The scatteration plan involves neglect of some of these things without a corresponding gain in raising others.—National Stockman and Farmer.

**ALFALFA AS HOG FOOD.**

Comparative Returns When Sold as Hay and When Grazed by Hogs.

The Arizona experiment station figures the comparative return when alfalfa is sold as hay and when grazed by hogs. These figures represent local prices in Arizona:  
The net annual returns per acre of alfalfa, yielding six tons, when sold as hay were not over \$10. The net returns for a similar acre of alfalfa when grazed off by twelve hogs were \$47.23. These hogs were fed a supplemental ration of grain, but the value of this was determined and deducted.

The fertilizing ingredients in a ton of barnyard manure are worth \$2.50, calculated according to price of commercial fertilizers. On this basis the value of the hog manure as dropped over the field must be at least \$3 per ton. Figuring that 85 per cent of the six tons of alfalfa was returned as manure to the soil, there were then five tons of manure, worth \$3 per ton, or \$15. This added to \$47.23 would be \$62.23, representing the net gain per acre of alfalfa when grazed off by twelve hogs, as against \$10, which is the net gain per acre when the alfalfa is cured and sold as baled hay.

In this case the net price for alfalfa hay was only \$5 per ton, and, of course, the hogs paid more than that for it. There might easily be another situation where the reverse of this would be true. There are situations in the eastern states where alfalfa hay will bring \$18 or more per ton, while small droves of hogs would not pay. In such cases it might pay better to sell the hay and use chemicals to keep up the fertility.

**The Apple Tree Borer.**  
Among the pests with which the orchard planter has to contend perhaps the flat headed apple tree borer is the worst, says the Farm and Fireside. The female deposits the eggs at the beginning of hot weather on the bark of young fruit trees near the ground. Most of the damage is done during the summer months. The later broods remain in the trees all winter and emerge the following spring. The borer completes its life round in one year. The eggs are about as large as the head of a pin and are covered by a hard shell. When first hatched the larva can hardly be seen with the naked eye. But in spite of its small size it begins at once to injure the tree. Burrowing into the bark, it tunnels its way entirely around the sapwood of the tree, thus girdling and finally killing it.

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