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WE WANT AGENTS FOR A FEW UNREPRESENTED DISTRICTS

The Dairy Farms Competition

The announcement published in last week's issue that Farm and Dairy is endeavoring to arrange for the holding of a dairy farms competition, this year through the province of Ontario, has created widespread interest. We regret that we are unable to state definitely in this issue whether or not the competition will be conducted on a limited or on the larger scale. We still hope, however, to be able to extend the competition over the Province.

In arranging for this competition, Farm and Dairy, has several objects in view. There are thousands of dairy farmers in the Province who are making a great success of their farm operations, because of the intelligent manner in which they handle their farms and their live stock. There are thousands of other farmers who are not nearly so successful as they might be were they better acquainted with improved methods of farming. Such a competition as is proposed should have the effect of drawing attention to some of the best dairy farms in practically every county in Ontario. If other papers, as well as Farm and Dairy, both agricultural and local, will publish descriptions of the prize winning farms the information thus made public should be of immense value to the farmers of the country at large.

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

There are many splendid farmers throughout Ontario who, because they have got poor buildings, may be afraid to enter the competition. This fear should not deter them. In previous competitions of this nature it has very frequently happened that men with splendid buildings have come out very low down in the prize list owing to the other departments of their farms not being up to the stand-

ard of their buildings. The object of the competition is to find the best all-round dairy farms and the question of buildings is only one among many other points that will be considered.

THE FARM HOUSES.

In the judging of the farm houses, the judges will take into consideration more the efforts that have been made to increase the comfortableness of the home, than that they will the size of the house. In the dairy farms competition held two years ago, by Farm and Dairy, the homes of the first and third prize winners had been erected many years before. In both cases, however, the owners had put forth efforts to improve their homes. In one case, a back bedroom on the ground floor had been converted into a library, a bath room had been put in the cellar near the furnace, additional windows had been cut in some of the living rooms and other similar improvements had been made at but comparatively small expense.

Where buildings on the farm, judges judge the buildings far more critically than they do old buildings that have been doing duty for many years. In the case of new buildings the judges expect to see a modern system of ventilation, plenty of light, a construction providing the greatest possible economy of labor and many other advantages that only too many of the new barns that have been erected during the past few years lack to some extent. The judges in the approaching competition will endeavor to find, more than anything else, what the farmers who enter the competition have been doing and are doing with their opportunities. Where a man is making the best possible out of poor land, he will be given credit for his efforts.

Germany Studying Our Methods

Farm and Dairy was recently honored by a call from Dr. H. Hucho, an agricultural attaché of the Imperial German Consulate, Montreal. Dr. Hucho holds a commission direct from the Imperial German Government. He has made a study of agriculture in all European countries. He has been eight years in Australia investigating agricultural conditions there in the interests of his government and he is now in Canada on a similar mission. The Doctor has already been in Canada some three years and has covered the country from Halifax to Victoria enquiring into agriculture in all the different phases in the different provinces at different seasons of the year.

Speaking of his work in connection with his commission, the Doctor said: "It is not my object to get all information in detail, but rather to obtain a general idea of agricultural conditions as a whole. Cereal growing, animal breeding, other live stock interests, import and export business are the things with which I am chiefly concerned." Asked as to the value to his country of such information, he replied, "We are all dependent one on the other. So many different ways of doing things exist and so many new things and new ways of doing things are constantly being discovered, that in order to keep in touch with them, it is necessary that personal enquiry be made. Statistics and other valuable information are available on these subjects but they are not of the same use as direct enquiry."

"Germany has similar commissions out investigating conditions in many lands. They are left in one country for a period of years and are then changed to another. The information gained in this way is invaluable to the home interests. Other countries are alive to the value of such work, in fact all ad-

vanced nations recognize its value and send people to study things in this way."

This is only another indication that Hon. Sydney Fisher will be acting wisely if he decides to send a commission of Canadian farmers to Denmark to study the bacon industry of that country. When other countries are studying our methods at a time that we were examining theirs.

The Taxation Question

Exempt Improvements from Taxation

Editor, Farm and Dairy,—I have read from time to time the discussions on the taxation question that have appeared in Farm and Dairy. It is entirely wrong to assess a man for his buildings and the ornamental part of his farm just because he is a man of taste, a man of energy, a man of industry, or a man who tries to make his home a comfort for his family, himself and his stock, and a credit to the country in which he lives. Such a man, or men, should be encouraged rather than be loaded with taxes from year to year. There is little encouragement for such men to put up fine buildings, make a nice lawn and driveway and spend time and money on other improvements when he knows that he will have to pay taxes for same and be taxed for the hours of rest that he lost in studying out the most up-to-date plans for making such improvements.

Let us take Mr. B. and Mr. D. who are neighbors side by side. Both farms are of about the same value. Each have fair buildings with small orchards and respective equipment. Each answer the purpose, but they are in no way attractive or comfortable. This does not suit Mr. B. He

(Continued on page 11)

Issued
Each Week

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