

# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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## Artificial Laws Control the Prosperity of the Farmer\*

His Wealth Can Be Taken From Him Without His Knowledge—How It Is Done—Why He Should Understand These Matters

THE census divides the people into two classes—urban and rural. Farmers sometimes divide them into Grits and Tories, but the former is the more correct division. As far as the rural population is concerned, politicians expect them to do two things, to increase production and to vote right. After the war started the government began to realize that the farmers are the true producers of wealth. The call for increased production did not go out to the manufacturers, but to the farmers.

If the farmers are the greatest producers of wealth, why is it that we cannot have the same leisure and comforts many men in the city enjoy? This is an economic question, but there is a disposition on the part of public men to discourage the discussion of economic questions amongst farmers. They urge us to discuss production, but if we undertake to discuss marketing or the distribution of wealth we are told that we are meddling with matters that do not concern us and which we should let alone. The only consolation we have is that we can think these matters out without offending anybody.

### The Relative Caducence of Agriculture.

The question confronting us is this: Can we throw any light on the cause of the relative caducence of agriculture? With all the energy that has been displayed in putting men on the land, the fact remains that to-day we have fewer acres under cultivation than we had in 1811, and although since that time over 400,000 immigrants have come into Canada, we have fewer men on the land than we had at that time. Now, this is not due to natural causes. The fertility of the land has not been impaired appreciably in that time. Our climatic conditions have not changed. It is due entirely to causes that have been imposed on us—artificial causes. It is because the burdens imposed on farmers have been too oppressive for them to stand. This condition has been created because farmers have not been looking after their own interests. We do not take the place that we should in the shaping of public policies. Instead of asserting ourselves, we have left public business to those who, in establishing the rules and customs of business, have shaped our laws to suit their own requirements and have produced conditions that are burdensome to the man on the land. By the fiscal system which they have established, federal revenue is obtained by the collection of customs duties. This system is framed entirely in the interests of one class—the moneyed interests. Let us never forget that it has not been

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established by rural people, nor by the city working classes, but by those who are benefited by it. What are we going to do about it? Our first duty is to organize. Our fiscal system has not

been imposed on this country without organization on the part of those who are the beneficiaries of it. I can remember when there were no such organizations. Now all the interests—have their organizations: transportation companies, manufacturer, banks, professional men, laboring men, everybody but the farmers. In the city of Winnipeg there are 50 labor unions with annual fees of as high as \$15 a year, paid by men who get only three dollars a day when working. Even the bootblacks are organized and pay five dollars a year each in annual fees. The fees for the Manufacturers Association vary from \$25 to \$75, according to the number of employees. All these men know from experience what organization is worth to them, and it is just as indispensable for us. We should at least value our organization as highly as the bootblacks. Yet some farmers, when requested to put a dollar into the membership of the farmers' club, ask what they are going to get out of it. If they put it in the bank they will get about three cents a year.

Other industries secure an undue share of the products of agriculture. Whether you sell or buy you cannot get away from them. When you sell, you sell to a member of an organization. It is the same when you buy. Whether you sell or buy, if the man you do business with does not set the price, you have to take or give, the price is fixed for him. Behind him often is an organization that fixes the price at which all articles are sold or bought, and he is bound by the terms of contract to maintain those prices.

### The Viewpoint of Agriculture.

Farmers have got to train themselves to take their place in the discussion of public business. Their viewpoint does not, now appear in the discussion of public policies. For the last 25 years the farmer's part in the forming of public opinion has been practically negligible. They need to study and find out the true nature of the conditions under which they labor and to have a clear-cut knowledge of what they want before they can crystallize public opinion. Then they have the ability to express those opinions before an audience and to impart to others the knowledge they have gained. We often see farmers on the street who can express themselves so that all who hear can understand, but once they get on their feet before an audience they are lost. One of the benefits of organization is that it gives them an opportunity to learn to express themselves before public audiences.

Then it is the duty of farmers to see that they take their share in the business of government. They must take upon themselves the duty of having their interests safeguarded when laws are



### A Song of Autumn

WINTER is cold hearted;  
Spring says Yea and nay;  
Summer days are pleasant days,  
Take them every way,  
But none can equal Autumn,  
With fruit upon the tree.  
Our Autumn days are glorious,  
And that's the time for me.

Harvests then are golden;  
Trees are turning brown;  
A day in open country then  
Is worth a year in town;  
Nature's voice is calling  
Of flower, fruit and tree,  
Leave the busy haunts of men  
And spend a while with me.

Autumn's voice invites us,  
Come! Oh come away!  
Taste the joys I offer;  
Not for long I stay,  
Wander through my orchards  
By my spirit led;  
Taste my glorious vintage  
Where my fruits are red.

Summer days are gaudy,  
Autumn days are best;  
Summer is a working time,  
Autumn speaks of rest.  
Rest at end of labor;  
Sunshine after rain;  
Harvest after sowing;  
Pleasure after pain.

—J. H. H.

\*A summarized report of an address given at meetings of several Farmers' Clubs affiliated with the United Farmers of Ontario.