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EDITORIAL

John Burns on "the Cash Argument."

Mr. John Burns, the labor member of the British parliament, probably did not read what we had to say a few weeks ago under the caption, "A Cash Argument," but he has said substantially the same thing to a British audience. Mr. Burns took occasion to point out that the chief disadvantage under which the British unemployed lay, compared with the unemployed in America, was in the fact that Britons drank more than their trans-Atlantic brothers. Needless to say this opinion was not received with friendly applause, but Mr. Burns might have gone farther and included all British laborers and middle men as well, and in fact, included all who did not attain their desired economic standing while indulging in drink. Any country with the per capita expenditure for drink that Britain can boast of, must necessarily show an economic weakness, a serious breakdown. We do not hear of unemployed in France or Germany, but rather the opposite.

To get people to consider the economic side of the liquor question and its bearing upon poverty and want should be the duty of everyone who has the betterment of social conditions at heart. We have all been too willing to ignore the effect, financially, of the indulgence of the appetite for drink. We have generally been willing to admit that because the "liquor interests" employed a large amount of capital and labor that therefore they were contributing to the sum total of human necessities. But we must learn to distinguish between money and energy expended upon the production of necessities, and money and energy devoted to producing a commodity that neither satisfies hunger, nor protects the body from exposure, but rather renders humanity eventually more destitute. There is a vital difference between the use of potatoes for food and their use for alcohol manufacture, as a crowd of unemployed would soon demonstrate. Commodities may conveniently be classed as essential, desirable, non-essential and undesirable. The former two contribute to the life and happiness of people, while the latter contribute to misery, poverty and death. Liquor belongs undoubtedly in one of the latter two classes, depending upon the condition of the people who use it, and the unemployed are suffering from distress which is a direct result of the employment of non-essential and undesirable commodities.

It should not be a hard lesson to grasp the fact that thrift and the spending of money upon the things which go to sustain life, or add to its usefulness, tends to prevent poverty, yet this fact is ignored, not simply by individuals, but by associations and governments. It is agreed that the most desirable condition of affairs is that where the compensation for labor is more than sufficient to maintain the laborers in their standards of living and where the surplus is judiciously invested in reliable securities such as land or bonds. This is obviously the ideal each citizen should have, but because we have weak-willed and strong passionate people, it becomes the duty of the government to assist both by removing temptations and supplying incentive to all to attain to the ideal. There may be some danger to the man who preaches the economy of liquor being branded as stingy, but there can be no other flaw picked in the argument.

Forage and Fodder Crops

For the past month or so we have been publishing the experiences and opinions of practical farmers in and on the growing of fodder and other crops not usually grown in this country. The bulk of the correspondence came from Saskatchewan, and the crops particularly discussed were fodder corn and rape. There is a mistaken conception in the minds of many men that in only the cereals ordinarily grown in this country are there money making possibilities. The correspondence referred to indicates pretty clearly, although for that matter it has been demonstrated previously, that soil and climatic conditions here are favorable to the profitable production of a greater diversity of farm products than we now produce. But it indicates more, too. Although much of the opinion given was based upon tests made with small plots of these crops, it shows that men are taking more interest than formerly in other lines of agricultural production than wheat farming and a little stock raising. They must be, else they would not experiment with other grains, forage and fodder crops at all.

Summed up briefly, the result of the past season's work in experimenting with fodder corn and rape in Saskatchewan has been satisfactory. Rape is perhaps a more unusual crop to find on a prairie farm in this country than corn. It is grown essentially for forage, either for pasturing off by stock or for cutting green and feeding inside. For hogs it is a green food of exceptional value and for best results should be cut and fed in the pens. Old stock, mature sows, especially, may be pastured on a patch of rape and require little other food. Where summer swine feeding is followed it is about the best grain saving adjunct to the ration. It is probable that as winter cattle feeding develops in this country, rape will come to be as serviceable a fall forage with feeders as it now is in certain sections of Ontario. There the feeding cattle are turned into rape for several weeks before going into the stables and make, during fall, the most economic gains of the feeding period. For best results as a cattle feed, rape should be used in connection with a good grass pasture and the stock started on it rather carefully at first.

Fodder corn has been sufficiently tested at our Western experiment stations, and as a farm crop in nearly all parts of Manitoba, to demonstrate that it may be successfully grown. We have seen fields of corn in this country that would rival in area and in yield of fodder per acre, anything to be found in the corn belt, the northern boundaries of which are supposed to be somewhere to the south of us. The vicissitudes of our climate will perhaps preclude corn ever being grown as a grain crop, but for fodder purposes, practical experience shows that there are no natural barriers to its production in either the soil or climatic conditions of the prairie provinces. Corn and rape are two crops that are going to play quite a part in stock raising, dairying and the development of mixed farming generally in the West. For these purposes they rank next to the clovers in importance.

Cease Breeding Tuberculosis

At the recent Tuberculosis Congress held in Washington, D. C., a notable contribution, remarkable for the saneness, breadth of view and grasp of the subject which it betokened on the part of its author, was a paper on the Control of Bovine Tuberculosis, by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, V. S., Dominion Veterinary Director-General and Live-Stock Commissioner, Ottawa. Judging from report, this deliverance, which we reproduce practically in full, excited considerable interest, and must have appealed to the common sense of the more practical element of the delegates present.

Dr. Rutherford quite thoroughly disposes of the idea of compulsory tuberculin-testing and slaughter of all reacting animals. The futility

of this system as a means of eradicating bovine tuberculosis has been demonstrated in states and communities where the agitators have had their way, while the economic cost entailed by the compulsory slaughter of slightly affected animals in unfattened condition, and more particularly of valuable pure-breds, is enormous.

The exterminating of tuberculosis by compulsory testing of herds and the slaughter of infected animals is impracticable. Considering the vagaries of tuberculin, especially on second, third and fourth tests, in the same herds, the necessity of thoroughly conscientious, wide-awake and experienced veterinarians to make reliable diagnosis of the disease; the numerous ingenious methods adopted by owners, especially of pure-bred cattle, in order to defeat the test, the difficulties arising from the period of incubation are sufficient to exclude from the field of action this compulsory, wholesale method of dealing with tuberculosis, except in small and circumscribed areas, in which all, or at least a majority of the owners, are alive to the necessity of stamping out the disease, and willing to co-operate heartily with the authorities in bringing about that result.

Against the policy of voluntary testing, most of the arguments against compulsory testing apply, with the additional one that results in exterminating the disease would be very slow. Dr. Rutherford inclines to favor a combination of systems, which he admits is open to many of the objections urged against other systems. The chief need in the case is for a campaign of education among cattle owners and the public. In this campaign of education the first question to take up is ventilation. Human tuberculosis is now treading with marvellous success by the open-air treatment, and in view of these facts, it is nothing short of disgraceful that we are yearly permitting thousands of animals to become infected, owing to the insanitary conditions under which their owners insist on keeping them. As *The Farmer's Advocate* has long contended, "stockmen are breeding tuberculosis a great deal faster, through neglect of ventilation, than it would ever be possible to stamp it out by the promiscuous use of tuberculin and slaughter of diseased animals."

What Canals Might Do

Just about the time our political campaign began and before the Americans had begun to sacrifice, with a rare degree of abandon, a considerable amount of spiritual essence in proclaiming the vices of the man they did not stand for in their recent political contest, a convention of men interested in transportation was held in Chicago. The immediate object of the meeting was to further the construction of a canal from Chicago to the Mississippi river but it also interested itself in the improvement of some eight to ten thousand miles of waterway in the heart of the continent. The canal from Chicago to St. Louis is an undertaking of the city of Chicago upon which she has already spent some fifty million dollars, and is ready to spend some thirty millions more. The task of opening up the great stretches of the Mississippi and its tributaries will be laid upon Uncle Sam.

That interest in water transportation should engage the attention of shrewd business men who are otherwise engaged, is significant. It marks the reversion of attention toward the use of ships for carrying freight. For years the railroad has held the interest, fanned the imagination and accepted the money and patronage of the public. This was but natural. Such immense resources, such rapidly increasing values, such weary distances, and such feverish haste, as have been associated with the opening up of America have not only demanded the more rapid means of transportation by rail, but have completely ignored the slower, although incomparably less expensive, method. Now that trade has become better organized and communities