

very dropsical, are in many cases paying unduly large dividends. I am speaking of conditions on which the public can get but little light, but what little light has been shed on the question shows this statement to be true. In at least one case, a Government blue-book is responsible for the statement that one large concern engaged in an industry which has been one of our most persistent beggars for tariff favors, was able to declare a dividend of 50 per cent. on the cost of its common stock, in the same year that it issued a circular complaining of lack of prosperity due to insufficient tariff protection. We believe this is not an isolated case.

A DIRECT APPEAL

Under these circumstances, we appeal to you to right a condition which we believe to be not only unjust to our industry, but injurious to our national well-being. Our demands have received the fullest consideration, and we are prepared to urge them most strongly. We believe them reasonable and we hope for early action in the direction of granting our desires.

In asking that every means consistent with our national honor be taken to secure free trade with our southern neighbor in agricultural products and implements, we believe we are not unjust to our manufacturers of implements. The greater competition in farm implements, and the wider markets in farm products, must prove of the greatest advantage to our farmers, both east and west.

In the increased British preference, with ultimate free trade with England, we look for relief from the general tariff burden. To this proposal we hope for little opposition from our manufacturers, since it gives them an opportunity to show in a practical form, what their much vaunted loyalty to the Empire amounts to.

NO DIVISION OF FEELING

I wish to impress upon you the fact that there is no division of feeling between the farmers of the east and west on the tariff question. This delegation, and the convention preceding it, prove conclusively that the east and west are one on this great question.

In presenting this Memorial on the question of the tariff, a Memorial prepared and unanimously endorsed by the largest and most representative Congress of farmers ever held in the Dominion of Canada, representing every province, and nearly every phase of agriculture from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains, I wish to assure you that we do not approach the question with any ill-feeling towards our manufacturers, nor with any undue regard to our own interests, but with the firm belief that the justice we demand is in the best interests, not only of Canadian agriculture, but of our young nation as a whole.

Effects of Bad Water on Stock

L. K. Shaw, Welland Co., Ont.

When travelling in Oxford county, Ont., recently, I spent a few days with a farmer in one of the best sections of that county who complained that while his cows were all of good dairy breeding he was not getting good results. On visiting his stables, I found that he had fine, comfortable stables. He was feeding well and intelligently. I was at a loss to know what the trouble could be.

When the cows were turned out to drink, however, it was easy to see where the trouble lay. The well from which the water was obtained was only about six feet deep and was situated in the centre of the barnyard with every chance for all kinds of filth to drain into it. The cows were ravenously thirsty, but two or three sips were enough to satisfy their thirst for such water.

Milk is over 85 per cent. water and other things being equal, the more water a cow

drinks, the more milk she will give. How could this farmer expect to get a large flow of milk when the cows were drinking only a few quarts of water daily? This man's cows were not drinking enough to fulfil the requirements of their bodies to say nothing about producing milk.

On being told where the trouble lay, this farmer said he had supposed that the poor water had had something to do with it, but that it would be impossible to remedy the defect without a large expenditure, which he was not willing to make. That man has since been obliged to give up his farm. His failure was due in no small measure to his unwillingness to spend only \$200 or \$300 in installing a first class water system. Failure in dairying and poor water may not always go together, but successful dairying and a good water supply are always partners.

The Ontario Farmer and the Tariff*

Thos. McMillan, Seaforth, Ont.

In offering a few remarks upon the bearing of the provisions of the present Customs tariff and the amendments contained in the changes proposed in the prayer of our petition, I do so from the standpoint of the general Ontario farmer engaged in the live stock industry in connection with a system of mixed farm husbandry.

Although for years the Ontario farmer has borne the burden of the injurious effect of the Canadian Customs tariff, yet the fact remains, that any enactment of a government which perpetuates an injustice upon the great body of the people will move down. The people may rest under the injustice for a time, but even without further provocation, the dissatisfaction bursts forth again.

As the petition truly sets forth, the farmer bears no feeling of antipathy towards any other line of industry. He welcomes within our border every legitimate form of industrial effort, but why should agriculture be called as it is under the tariff, to pay tribute to any other form of industry? The farmer is being told continually that he should not complain, that our manufacturers employ the workmen who furnish a great home market for his products, but the fact remains that, from the testimony of the manufacturers themselves, in several lines, it would pay the people of Canada well to take the margin which this customs tariff causes them to pay, and with it pension the workmen in those lines to the full extent of the wages they receive, and they would still have money to the good.

We come before you asking no favors, but we claim that agriculture should, under the tariff, be placed upon an equal footing with the other industrial enterprises of the land.

A REASONABLE REQUEST.

If this petition were to ask that the agricultural industry be allowed its supplies of raw material either free or at the lowest possible rates of duty, it would only be asking that agriculture be allowed to share one-half the privileges which, for 30 years, has, under the provisions of the tariff, been enjoyed by many lines of manufacturing industry.

Why do I say so? Study the provisions of the tariff, and on the one hand we find that it gives the manufacturers a margin of all the way from 15 to 35 per cent. on their goods as against foreign competition in the home market. As against that margin of profit we ask nothing. We are willing in the sale of our products to meet the open competition of the world.

(Continued on page 6)

*Part of Mr. McMillan's address on the occasion of the deputations of farmers, which waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Government.

Some Pointers on Clover Seed

"Careful investigation of over 1,800 farms this past year has shown me that less than 10 per cent. of them could be said to be fairly clean." Such was the statement made by F. G. Raynor in an address recently at the Winter Fair, Guelph. The easiest and cheapest way to rid clover seed of weeds, he said, is in the field before the crop is cut. Rib grass, bladder campion, and sweet clover are the worst ones we have to contend with. To rid the field of weeds, hoe out the rib grass, spud the bladder campion and put a handful of salt on the root and pull out the sweet clover.

It is well to cut for hay those spots where weeds are predominant. To overcome the midgets cut the clover for hay or pasture. Have the first crop all off before the 20th of June.

The crop should be harvested when the heads are all brown and when the clover seed is of a purple color. Light colored seed is the result of early cutting; such seed, however, is not injured in quality.

In buying clover seed farmers should see that it is free from impurities and that it is of strong vitality. A representative sample sent to the seed laboratory at Ottawa will be tested free.

A cheap and effective way to rid clover seed of rib grass, or buckhorn, was outlined by Mr. Raynor. It is as follows: Cover a fanning mill screen with cheese cloth. Dampen this cloth and sprinkle the seed on it thinly. Leave it to dry for a short time, when the clover seed can be shaken off and the rib grass will adhere to the cheese cloth and can be scraped off with a stick. By using a dozen screens one man can clean from two to three bushels of seed a day.

"The red clover seed crop," said Mr. Raynor, "is like a present to the farmer, as he can cut the first crop for hay and use the second for seed production."—T.

Daily Records Recommended

"Taking records two or three times a month and computing the entire weight of milk from the records of these few milkings is better than not taking records at all; much of the advantage of record keeping, however, is lost when one practises this system." Such was the contention of Mr. G. A. Brethen, expressed at a recent dairy meeting held in Peterboro. "A cow," he said, "may be giving a large amount of milk one day and in a couple of days afterward a great deal less. If daily records are kept, this drop in milk flow will be detected, and we can then ascertain the cause and rectify it. To notice such variations is impossible when the weights are taken only three times a month as in our cow testing associations."

"I have found," continued Mr. Brethen, "that the hired men, where milk records are kept each day, take more interest in actual milk records than in estimated yields calculated from two or three weighings. It is wonderful what enthusiasm weighing milk will create when daily records are taken. I remember one farmer who went away for a few days. When he came back the hired man and boy who had been doing the work were right on hand to tell how much more milk they were getting than when he went away. Cow testing makes more work and trouble, but no one makes a success of anything without work and trouble."

I am an advocate of drawing out all manure possible in the winter time. I say take it direct from the stables to the fields. Never let it lie in the yards for a day. Spread it over the land; then all washings will settle into the earth, instead of discoloring some nearby creek.—Geo. M. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.