

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairywomen's Associations, and of the Canadian Hoteliers, and of the various Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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# FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

## CONTROL SOW THISTLE

Farm and Dairy readers, from their own experience, as well as through the timely articles and discussions that have been featured in these columns in recent months, are more or less familiar with the nature of that great farmer's foe, sow thistle. The need for checking the spread of this pest is generally and freely admitted. The well known agricultural authority and Farmer's Institute speaker, Mr. Henry Glendinning, at the recent annual convention of the Dominion Grange, said that in Wellington County he had seen fields of grain so infested with sow thistle that had he been offered the crop free with the taxes on the land paid by the owner, he would not have accepted it.

When conditions on a farm, even although such conditions are exceptional, have reached such a climax, surely it is high time to curb a foe that could be the means of bringing them to such a pass. Unless a systematic effort is put forth to improve the situation, thousands of other farms will be

fore long be equally as badly infested. Mr. Glendinning advocated a campaign of education as a means of checking this pest. Farm and Dairy believes with Mr. Glendinning that a campaign of education in regard to sow thistle will, and has already proved, in part, effective in checking sow thistle. But the educational campaign as suggested needs something to back it up if it would have that efficiency needed to effectually check the spread of sow thistle. That something needed is a stringent weed law in the province of Ontario which will make provision for having all sow thistle prevented from seeding.

Manitoba has enacted such a law. That province finds it decidedly beneficial. Mr. J. J. Golden, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, when writing to Farm and Dairy in regard to the advantage of their stringent weed act, said, "We find this 'Act, while of course not enforced in all cases on account of lack of machinery, to be very beneficial. It results, not so much on account of its being stringent in compelling the cutting of weeds, but because it helps the farmers to realize that 'sow thistle is dangerous. They are more alive to the necessity of destroying weeds than they were before this Act came in force. If it does no more than make our farmers more careful, the Act has accomplished much good for the district."

When such results have followed the passing of a weed law in Manitoba, we may expect that similar benefits would be derived from a law seeking to check sow thistle in Ontario. The Ontario Legislature can rest assured that such a law is in the best interests of Ontario agriculture, and that it would have the support of the greater proportion of our Ontario farmers. This matter should not be further delayed. It should be dealt with effectively at the forthcoming session of the Legislature.

## FOR A CLEANER MILK

The Milk, Cheese and Butter Act in force in Ontario provides that all dairy instructors appointed under the Act shall have free access and admission to the premises of all persons supplying milk or cream to any cheese factory or creamery, or for sale in cities, towns or incorporated villages. A large part of the work performed by dairy instructors of both Eastern and Western Ontario is in visiting cheese factories and creameries. Any milk producer who neglects to take proper care of his milk is liable, however, to be called upon at any time. Possible embarrassment, not to mention the imposition of penalties, can be avoided by keeping premises in such condition as one would like the instructor to find.

In view of the instruction that has been given through the agricultural press, bulletins, farmers' institutes and other mediums, there are few, if any, who do not know how to obtain clean milk. Cheese makers and dairy men generally report that milk has been received this past year in better

condition than ever before. Much of this improvement is due to the work of the dairy instructors in visiting patrons. The last report of the Chief Dairy Instructor for Eastern Ontario, Mr. G. G. Publow, shows that in a single year, as many as 500 patrons had been visited by one instructor. This was in the case of Instructor R. W. Ward, of the Peterborough District.

Other instructors made as many visits as 200 in one case, down to as few as 30, and even to 11. Since this latter form of instruction has proved so beneficial, it would be well to extend it still further. Visiting patrons should be more generally practised by many of the instructors. Patrons who send poor milk to a factory lower the price paid to their brother patrons for their milk. These offenders need to be hunted out and persuaded and, if necessary, forced, to make the needed improvements in their methods.

## FRENCH-CANADIAN HORSES

Our warning to those who are interested in French-Canadian Horses that it would be well for them to exercise much care when buying or breeding animals of this breed, on account of their composite breeding, has brought forth a letter from a breeder in Quebec. This breeder says: "You are perfectly right in your contentions that breeders should be very careful in buying French-Canadian horses. A few days ago a farmer of St. Anne de Beaupre offered for sale a so-called French-Canadian horse, registered, he said by The Canadian Horse Society. He acknowledged that the sire of that horse was an Anglo-Norman, 'Malto,' sold some years ago, by Mr. R. R. Ness, and owned before he died by one Cloutier in Montmorency county. In other instances, the sires of 'so-called French-Canadian horses' will be a Clyde, or a Thoroughbred, or a horse of some other breed. The registration of these horses is in many cases, the greatest humbug that I ever saw. These horses are mostly half-breeds."

The commission that was appointed by the Dominion Government to establish a standard for the French-Canadian horse has accomplished much good work in their efforts to standardize this breed. The commission has visited the different counties in the province of Quebec, and has inspected all the French-Canadian horses presented for inspection, and for registration in the new record book that has been started by the Dominion Government. Last year about 4,000 horses were examined by the commission. Only about 1,500 were accepted. A lot of horses that previously had been registered, were culled out and refused registry in the new book.

The French-Canadian breed is not a nonentity as some people suppose. In view of the incidents cited, however, it is apparent that it is well to be exceedingly careful in buying or breeding from animals of this breed. The Dominion Government is to be commended for having undertaken to

improve the standing of this breed of horses.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

A movement has been started in our western provinces, favoring the formation of a National Council of Agriculture. Its objects as given are, in part: "To organize the farm population for the study of social and economic problems; to collect and disseminate such material from scientific and literary sources... as are necessary for the proper information of our people; to formulate our demands for legislation, and present them... to the notice of Parliament and our different legislative bodies; to encourage the entry of our farmers into active membership of one or other of the political associations... as a means to make the political parties responsive to and representative of the demands of the people who form the bulk of the population; to urge the adoption of co-operative methods by our members (but outside our Association) in the purchase and sale of commodities..."

It is hoped that the proposed National Council will unite the farmers of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in one body and thereby have the weight necessary to make itself felt on all questions of importance to farmers and for the good of the country as a whole. A national organization, such as is proposed, might accomplish much for the benefit of agriculture, and Farm and Dairy therefore views the proposition with commendation, although we are conscious that there are great inherent difficulties in all movements of this kind.

It is patent to all that in the past farmers have had very little to say in matters of legislation, notwithstanding the fact that the rural population forms the major part of the population of Canada. This is due to the fact that while strong in numbers, we have exerted our influence only as individuals. Through a National Council of Agriculture, the machinery would be provided that is needed, and without which united action is impossible.

In the West there are three provincial organizations. The Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba, the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan and The United Farmers of Alberta. These three organizations are already linked together in an inter-provincial council. Here in the East, we have the Grange. A linking of these four bodies would give a national organization.

This National Council of Agriculture, it is expected, will be completed in the first months of the new year. The movement deserves support, but it will have to be managed with great care. Its management will be expensive, and there will be many local jealousies to be overcome. The difficulties, however, should not be insurmountable. Such an organization is needed.

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