

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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1. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Redford District. Quebec, Dairywomen's Association, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION

Beginning with the week of February 13th, several meetings throughout the county of Peterboro will be held with a view to giving farmers an opportunity of organizing themselves into Granges. During the week following meetings to organize Granges will be held in each of seven townships in Prince Edward County. Great interest has been taken by the farmers of these two counties in the current questions of the day affecting them, notably the tariff, and they feel the need for an independent organization amongst themselves at meetings of which organization they can, unhampered, discuss and learn of questions of vital financial interest to them.

The need for such organization amongst all of the farmers of Ontario is a very real one. Recently it

was brought home forcibly to many who, through their Institutes and clubs, send delegates to Ottawa to swell the now historic deputation of farmers. On their return these delegates, under the rules governing their organization, were not permitted to report. The organized dairy-men of Western Ontario at their convention in Stratford could not introduce a resolution in favor of free trade in dairy products with the United States until they had first adjourned the session of the association convention and thrown the meeting open as a public one.

The Grange is an organization well suited to the needs of Ontario farmers. It provides in its constitution for the discussion of all questions of prime concern to farmers and is in no way a political organization. It fosters the development of the community along lines of general well being and to which no one can object, and above all it develops its members in, and allows them, freedom of speech.

The movement for the greater organization of the Grange that next week and the week after is to receive so hearty a reception in Peterboro and Prince Edward Counties is bound to spread much beyond these limits. Sympathizers with the movement and others elsewhere who have at heart the well being of agriculture and the country in general, should prepare the ground for the greater organization of the Grange in their respective districts. The Grange is a power for good. Let us make it greater. It merits our support. We should remember also that through its affiliation with the western farmers' organizations in the National Council of Agriculture, the Grange has the necessary machinery through which we can assert our rights and make ourselves heard in a way that will be noticed by the powers that be at Ottawa.

STANDARDS FOR JUDGING HORSES

Do our show ring standards for judging colts, yearlings and two-year-olds encourage breeders to feed their young stock in such a manner as to produce the very best kind of mature horses? Now that the Ottawa and Guelph Horse Shows, held in connection with the Winter Fairs, are over, and we have admired the fat and sleek colts that were paraded in the ring, we ought to stop and ask ourselves if this excessive fitting of the young animals is to the best interest of the animals themselves or to the horse breeding interests of the country. Good horsemen all admit that the main consideration in the young horse should be its feet and legs, its constitution, and other indications which it gives of making a first class mature animal.

If given their own way, none of our breeders would practise the excessive fitting of their colts that is now necessary to capture the ribbons at our exhibitions. In Scotland, where are produced some of the best horses in the world, young animals

are shown in the rough—so rough, in fact, that they could not hope to obtain a placing at any Canadian fair. Yet these animals when mature are far superior to the colts that have been plugged with grain to keep it in show condition from the time it was a yearling.

We need an enlightened public opinion which will not call for high fitting in young horses, but rather for good bone, strong constitution, and those qualities that indicate the making of a good animal later on. Were our standards of judging changed so that young animals could be shown to advantage in the rough, breeders would have a much better opportunity of producing home bred stock the equal of the best imported animals.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WORK

Those agricultural societies, numbering more than a few in Ontario, that have out-lived their usefulness so far as their annual exhibitions are concerned, might well turn their attention directly toward improving the live stock in their sections. The day of the small country fair must pass. The tendency is towards centralization, towards fewer fairs, bigger fairs and much better fairs, and there is a greater work open to the directors of our numerous agricultural societies than holding small exhibitions. This work is the improvement of live stock through pure bred animals owned by the societies.

The South Woodlee society, as may be learned from its history given by Mr. A. W. Cohoe on page three of Farm and Dairy this week, has made an enviable record in stock improvement. The whole character of the cattle and pigs over 120 square miles of its territory has been wonderfully changed for the better through the pure bred stock it owned. This stock society is of direct and immediate benefit to its membership and to the community in which it works. That this work is appreciated is abundantly evident in the fact of the support it is given by the membership, the fee for which is \$2.00. South Woodlee has the largest stock society in Ontario. It now owns 17 Shorthorn bulls and 13 boars.

Some years ago, the Government grant to agricultural societies owning pure bred stock was a fixed one, irrespective of the number of animals owned. Some societies at that time owned three or four times as many animals as others, and yet in some cases the latter received the largest grant. This feature of the Act was changed, and now, as has been the case for some years, societies receive their grant based on the number of animals they own. Thus have societies been led to do much better work than formerly, and thus has the South Woodlee society attained to its present eminent position.

With the encouragement that the Government offers this work in the way of grants, and considering the wide field there is for improvement in live stock in every section of On-

tario—and the crying need there is for such improvement—directors of agricultural societies should consider if they might not better abandon their annual exhibitions and take up the greater work of improving live stock through the pure bred males they might own and distribute.

But few of our agricultural societies are keeping pure bred stock. It may be inadvisable for a society that so far has been successful in holding their annual fairs to make a change in this direction, but those other societies that are now, and have been for some time, tottering to their fall, should take up this live stock work, and thereby in a tangible way set out to justify their existence.

THE PRICE OF FRUIT LANDS

Why do the fruit lands in the Niagara district sell for such high prices? The prices that are paid for fruit lands in this district do not represent the value of the land plus the money spent on improvements. The price is determined by the profits that can be made by growing fruit on the land. So profitable has been the production of tender fruits in the Niagara district that the prices of land have gone up from \$200 and \$300 an acre to \$500 and even \$1,000 per acre. One prominent grower at the last meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association stated that from a valuation on his peach lands of \$1,000 an acre, he made 17 per cent. on his investment.

Two factors, in the main, have combined to raise the price of land in the Niagara District. The natural profits of fruit growing have been such as to warrant a large investment in the land. Owing to the protective tariff fruit growers have practically been given a monopoly of the home market. And thus has the price of the land been increased. Another factor not to be overlooked is the number of wealthy men who have been buying fruit lands at high prices, particularly in the Grimsby district.

The fruit growers of the Niagara district are protesting vigorously against a reduction of the tariff on tender fruits. They propose to send a monster deputation to Ottawa to call for a continuation of the protective policy as applied to tender fruits. It would seem that if more protection for tender fruits is going to enable the growers to rush up the price of their land to an inflated figure and compel consumers to bear the weight of such an unnatural investment for all time to come that the protective policy is detrimental not only to the consumer in the town but grower, in the long run, aid even the consumer, as practically all of his extra profits will go to pay the rent on an extremely high land valuation. Leaving artificial factors out of consideration and putting a natural valuation on Niagara fruit lands, there is a profit and a good profit to be made out of tender fruit growing in Canada without loading the consumer with the incubus of a protective tariff on fruits.