

The Vote Can Help.

EDITED "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As surely as the Germans have allowed their country to get into the control of a gang of military madmen, which will only spell ruin and disaster to them in the long run, so surely have we, farmers, consumers, and working men, allowed our country to get into the hands of moneyed interests which are sucking its vitality and even threatening its very existence.

Combines, money interests, loan companies and our banking system, under present conditions are at the bottom of it all, and are working for their own selfish ends. Who is to blame? What is the remedy? Is it conferences, deputations, commissions? Never! Only the vote itself can help it. If ever a country needed a Moses, or leader of men, it is right now. Our parliaments are full of doctors, lawyers, etc., who don't know the needs of the country and care less, and are working for selfish or party ends. That is not what they are there and paid for.

Wake up! Farmers, if you are disheartened and think it of no use, think of your families who are drifting to towns, making matters worse. It is not too late to take hold, but if left long, those who see it will be more sorry than I am. Some will say this is prophecy, but not so, the conditions are here now and we may as well acknowledge it, in the face of these glaring facts. Very few farmers are able to buy a farm for even one of their family and make a decent payment down. The farms are undermanned, the attendance at our rural schools is diminishing fast; our young men and women are drifting to towns, and the lower production from our farms is all caused by these same conditions, each tells its own tale.

For instance, take the production of hogs, what is the reason for the present high prices, simply because there isn't enough to go round, and why is there not enough? A very short time ago farmers dropped out of them because they couldn't make them pay. The writer had, some years ago, upwards of a hundred hogs making ready for market, and inside of two months the price fell over three dollars a hundred. We find no fault with that, if the supply and demand were the cause, but they were not. Tasked a well-known firm, who dealt in that line in a nearby town if they could buy cured meats from the wholesale any cheaper than before, and they told me without hesitation, "no."

How can a country thrive or even exist under such conditions? And the most of our farm produce goes through this same performance before it reaches the consumer, until to-day the working man is worse off than he was when only getting half the wages. The producer and consumer are both being robbed at the same time, and the twenty and fifty per cent. finds its way into this whirlpool of dishonor, selfishness and greed.

Most of the farmers will agree on this point, the farmer's business is not looked upon as it should be by the general managers of our banks. When a farmer is fortunate enough to get a loan, it is only for three months, which is much too short to do any good. There should be some system, government or otherwise, for lending money to farmers who are worth it, to extend over a length of time from one to four years, with a fair rate of interest, not exceeding five per cent., so that they can buy their implements, stock or anything else at the lowest cash price.

Another thing should be done and that right now, while our country is passing through this crisis. No farm should be sold at a forced sale, by any loan company, as long as the man is paying interest, and then only after a final appeal to the county judge. In other words, if a man is doing all he can, he should have every chance not only for himself but for the good of his country. We will not say anything about his wife and children, who might be thrown on the road at the discretion of any moneyed man or corporation.

Elgin Co., Ont.

WM. LAWRENCE.

Ayrshire Sale at Tillsonburg.

The third annual consignment sale of Ayrshire cattle to be held under the auspices of the Southern Counties Ayrshire Breeders' Club, was held at Tillsonburg, on Thursday, December 28. Prices realized were not so satisfactory as those of recent sales. However, cows that were fresh or springing sold fairly well; the top price was \$235, which was paid by W. E. Robinson, London, for the six-year-old cow, Annette 5th, consigned by McConnell & Fergusson. Buyers secured a number of bargains. The stock was in good condition and the breeding was right. There was not a large crowd present, and, owing to trains not running on schedule, many buyers were forced to leave before the sale was over. With one exception every animal catalogued was sold. The sale was well conducted in every detail, and the officers and consigners merited the confidence of the public.

The 49 head sold for a total of \$5,405, an average of \$110.30. Twenty cows brought \$3,112.50, an average of \$155.50. Six two-year-old heifers averaged \$110.80. Ten bulls brought \$675. The following is a list of the animals selling for \$100 and over, together with name of purchaser and his address.

White Legged Kirsty, E. B. Palmer, Norwich	\$115.00
Brighton Brae Jean's Babe, G. L. Ackert, Belmont	115.00
White Frost, W. Mehlenbacher, Otterville	130.00
Maud of Hillview, W. Marr, Norwich	135.00
Trixy 4th, J. M. McVicar, Belmont	185.00
Selwood Dinah, W. Marr	210.00
Neidpath Rose 28th, W. Marr	100.00
Springburn Valentine, Ross Bros., Innerkip	160.00
Sybella of Fernbrook, H. Kerr, Niagara Falls	175.00
Brighton Brae Dairy Queen 2nd, G. L. Ackert	115.00
Brownie of Fernbrook, M. B. Stafford, Shedden	205.00
Gairclough Grace, A. E. Reid, Verschoyle	100.00
Blue Bell 11th of Neidpath, Smith Bros., St. Thomas	100.00
Maggiedell, W. Mehlenbacher	147.50
Betsy 2nd, McConnell & Fergusson, London	197.50
Buttercup of Fernbrook 5th, F. E. Doan, Wyecombe	115.00
Ella of City View, A. Sandler, Morsley	105.00
Buttercup of Fernbrook 2nd, W. Marr	150.00
Daisy of Norfolk, G. L. Ackert	120.00
Gairclough Adalia, B. Pearce, Norwich	105.00
Morning Glory of Trout Run, D. W. Sharp, Norwich	197.50
Monkland Mary, E. B. Palmer	125.00
Lady Marjorie 4th, B. Pearce	110.00
Roxie, J. A. McKenzie, Innerkip	112.50
Annette 5th, W. E. Robinson, London	235.00
Milkmaid 3rd, W. Marr	135.00
Letty 2nd, W. Marr	170.00
Daisy 2nd, G. L. Ackert	127.50
Selwood Ideal Hero, J. W. Millington, Beachville	127.50

A Western View of a Bacon Bulletin.

We have always believed that the hog for Canada to produce is the bacon hog and our reasons have been set forth time and again. It is just as true, however, that the man who produces high-class bacon should get a premium for doing so. In the past, especially in times of high prices, the man who produced the thicker types got just as much for them as the feeder of choice bacon got for his product. This is true to-day and "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal of Winnipeg," Man., has this to say of a recent bulletin on bacon production.

"The bacon hog and the British market is the title of a bulletin recently issued by the Department

of Agriculture, Ottawa. It strongly advocates the production of the bacon hog and at that increased and regular production of this type, that Canadian bacon or Wiltshire sides at this auspicious period may corral the British market. The trade of Denmark, our greatest competitor, it claims, is now demoralized and that we can, with the co-operation of the farmer, packer and other interests, build up a bacon trade that will survive. It is a message to the farmer intended to stimulate the production of bacon, the effects of which will never pay for the paper required for its publication.

"Is it not time that a department, which claims to have foresight, should have enough intelligence to commence at the right side of this matter? Is it not time that the live-stock branch realized that if a certain type of hog is desired the desire should be realized in a monetary way and effort by the farmers will be put forth to produce that type, provided the remuneration when he sells his hogs is sufficient for his endeavor? Some few years ago we had a bacon campaign and bacon trade. Instead of there being extra remuneration by the packers for the bacon type, all hogs up to a certain weight brought a flat price. The production of the bacon kind was maintained for a time by mere volume of enthusiasm and thence without any discrimination the farmers realized the folly of their efforts and allowed the types to drift into natural channels. Hence the types and trade gradually dwindled in spite of worthless bulletins and addresses.

"If the live stock branch wishes to encourage the bacon trade, publicity is not the first essential. Why not standardize all of our bacon exports? Have a government grading system that will ensure a high quality article sought after by the consuming Britisher. Thence if this Wiltshire side is the type desired, why should the packer not pay a premium for it? And if the farmer finds sufficient remuneration for its production he will put forth all the energy necessary to produce it, because he will treat such a matter as a business proposition.

"In this way the product of the energetic farmer is paid for and the promiscuous breeder gets what he deserves. The live-stock branch says: 'produce such a type,' but offers no recompense. It is to be purely a philanthropic project on the part of the farmer.

"What improvement was made by verbal enthusiasm before the cream grading system came into effect? What would be the value of bulletins and addresses on the production of No. 1 hard wheat if all wheat was produced at a flat rate? So what can be expected of the system now being advocated to encourage the production of bacon without financial inducements? If there is a preference in our market for a certain class of pork it is a certainty that, owing to the great demand, the consumer pays a higher rate for that preference. Then why should not the greater market value find its way back to the producer? Why should it stop at some intervening point? If there is no increased price there is no preference; then why encourage the bacon type?

"The live-stock branch states in their bulletin: 'There is no sound argument for the production of the fat hog in Canada.' We would also state that without a preference there is no sound argument for the production of a bacon hog in Canada. Without a preference the logical hog should be of the type which our feeds tend to produce. That type is neither the fat nor the bacon, but the medium thick as may be observed in any farmer's yard if selection has not been a pertinent factor. The bacon types tend to become thicker; the lard types tend to become lengthier and more of the medium, hence the natural type or the medium thick, in harmony with our feeds, will find its way weekly to market this year and for years to come, until a remuneration sufficient to induce farmers to select to the bacon, contrary to our natural conditions, is paid."

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

Toronto.

Receipts of live stock at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, on Monday, January 1, 1917, numbered 65 cars 1,246 cattle, 143 calves, 515 hogs, 377 sheep. Active, strong market. Best steers and heifers, one dollar higher than last week; best cows and bulls 50 cents higher. Balance of cattle 25 cents higher. Sheep and lambs strong and 25 cents higher. Calves steady. Hogs at last week's prices.

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards for the past week were as follows:

	City	Union	Total
Cars	28	184	212
Cattle	325	645	970
Calves	40	153	193
Hogs	291	4,874	5,165
Sheep	384	367	751
Horses	—	1,661	1,661

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1915 were as follows:

	City	Union	Total
Cars	15	178	193
Cattle	239	2,642	2,881
Calves	15	169	184
Hogs	226	3,515	3,741
Sheep	16	682	698
Horses	—	228	228

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets for the past week show an increase of 19 cars, 9 calves, 1,424 hogs, 53 sheep and lambs and 1,433 horses, but a decrease of 1,911 cattle, compared with the corresponding week of 1915.

Hog Prices.—Packers quote hogs for this week as follows: f. o. b., \$11.40; fed and watered, \$11.90; weighed off cars, \$12.15.

The live-stock market in Toronto the past week was exceedingly quiet. Shippers in general do not seem to have recovered from the Christmas holiday, and no doubt there is difficulty in some quarters in shipping live stock on account of the condition of the roads. The total offerings of the week would hardly make a good day's market. All that can be said of the week's business was that packers bought every grade of cattle at prices steady with the previous week's quotations, and the same may be said of sheep, lambs and calves. Packers decided to lower the price of hogs by 25 cents per cwt., and sent out prices to their agents as follows: \$11.25 f. o. b., \$11.75 fed and watered and \$12.00 weighed off cars. Drivers would not sell at these prices and packers were forced to pay \$12.25 fed and watered, and \$12.00 weighed off cars.

Live stock quotations.—Butcher steers

and heifers, choice, \$8.50 to \$8.75; good \$7.50 to \$8; medium, \$7 to \$7.25; common, \$6 to \$6.75.

Cows, choice, \$7 to \$7.50; good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; medium, \$5.50 to \$6; common, \$4.85 to \$5.25.

Canners and cutters, \$4.50 to \$4.75.

Bulls, best heavy, \$7.50 to \$8; good, \$7 to \$7.25; medium, \$6 to \$6.50; common, \$5 to \$5.75.

Stockers and feeders, \$5.50 to \$7.

Milkers and springers, best, \$85 to \$110; medium \$60 to \$70.

Lambs, choice, \$12 to \$13; culls, \$8 to \$9.50.

Sheep, light, \$8.50 to \$9.75; heavy, \$7.50 to \$8.50.

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