

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

TAXING LAND AND LAND VALUES

One of the greatest needs of the present day, is a clear conception by the public, and particularly by us as farmers, of the principles underlying all systems of taxation, as well as the conditions which permit of the creation of monopolies. As long as men can make millions of dollars in the cities in a few years, so long will our boys on the farms desire to leave the country for the city.

The present system of taxation is unjust to us as farmers. Our productive labor creates wealth, which people in other callings are able to appropriate for their use. In other words, as farmers we do not obtain the full results of our labors. If we did, there would not be such a vast difference between the value of farm and city property.

Nothing, possibly, has done more to retard the single tax movement than the inability of many people to distinguish the difference between a tax on land and a tax on land values. The difference, really, is simple. As

farmers, we own more land than the average city resident, although we do not earn more money. A uniform tax therefore would be unfair to the farmers. When, however, we talk of taxing land values, the situation is altogether different.

The Toronto papers reported the purchase recently, by the T. Eaton Co., of Toronto, of some land in that city, at the rate of several million dollars an acre. If that acre of land were taxed in proportion to its value, and the money thus derived were used for Provincial purposes, it would mean that that acre of land would pay as much taxes as many thousand acres of farm land, and as farmers we would receive our share of the proceeds. Therein lies the essential difference between taxing land and taxing land values. Farmers help to increase the value of land in cities. We should, therefore, receive a proportion of the increased value of such land. We can do this without being unfair to any person, by securing a more equitable system of taxation.

DISHONEST PACKING OF APPLES

Theoretically the Fruit Marks Act should ensure to the consumer, apples honestly packed. That it falls short in accomplishing this end is well known. Notwithstanding convictions that are made by the fruit inspectors and agents of the Dominion Government, the practice of putting up apples of an inferior grade to that marked on the barrel still goes on. It would seem that those responsible believe anything in the way of apples to be good enough for the west. The impression has gone abroad that Ontario fruit is not reliable, which impression has been brought about through our western provinces having been made the dumping ground for inferior stock.

Who is responsible for this impression that westerners have gained of Ontario apples? In all probability, it is well founded. Much inferior fruit has been shipped to the west. But is the fault wholly that of the Ontario packer or grower? Is it not probable, that much inferior stock honestly marked has been sold as No. 1, by western dealers?

The remedy, no matter how the question may be answered, is to ship No. 1 fruit only, to the west. Dispose of inferior grades in other ways, or, better still, do not produce them. The freight on apples to the West amounts to such a figure that there is comparatively little difference between the price of No. 1 and of inferior stock to the western consumer.

The more general practice of spraying and properly caring for orchards would reduce the amount of inferior apples to a minimum, which can be disposed of without shipping them to distant markets. It is inconceivable that, in spite of the information gained through experimentation and commercial practice in regard to the benefits of spraying, the average Ontario farmer continues to keep an orchard and then not give it proper care. The large percentage of culls produced under present methods of orchard management is largely re-

sponsible for any dishonest packing that is practised.

ATTEND THE DAIRY MEETINGS

It is difficult to understand just why there is not more interest taken in the district dairy meetings that are being held throughout Ontario under the auspices of the Eastern and Western Ontario Dairywomen's Associations. The addresses and discussions held directly on the needs of the localities in which they are held. The annual conventions of these associations are not accessible to all who might wish to attend or to profit directly from their proceedings. The branch or district meetings are so arranged that at least one of them will be held in close proximity to each dairy section that all may have the privilege of attending. Instructors for the district and leading authorities of repute address these meetings.

Since they are so well appointed from the standpoint of speakers, it is too bad that these meetings are not more largely attended. At the Peterboro district meeting, as well as at Lindsay, barely a handful of men availed themselves of the opportunity of attending and, were it not that the proceedings are more or less fully reported in the press, it would be a question whether or not it were advisable to go to the expense and trouble connected with them. At Peterboro even the salesmen, leaders in their respective communities, and who attended the cheese board in the morning, failed to remain for the meeting designed especially for them. Patrons should reprove these men for not taking advantage of the instruction given and, incidentally, reproach themselves for not having turned out. It is to be hoped that the remaining meetings of the series will receive the support that they are due.

It may be that the meetings are held too early in the season. They probably would be better attended if held at smaller places. Those responsible should give this matter consideration before another year and, if possible, devise some means of getting a larger attendance.

UNPROTECTED FARM MACHINERY

"Difficult to plow around but very convenient to hook to....that's what keeps lots of farmers poor." Such was the remark made recently by Mr. R. H. Harding, the well known sheep breeder and expert judge of Middlesex Co., Ont., to the editor of Farm and Dairy, concerning a binder which had been left in the field close to a railroad, where it was observed as they travelled through Simcoe Co., Ont. That particular binder is not the only one in old Ontario, nor to mention other progressive farming districts in Canada, to which Mr. Harding's remark would apply. Scores of binders and implements of complicated machinery are exposed at this very date to all the destruction worked by the various elements.

No inconsiderable portion of the total investment on any up-to-date farm is tied up in the numerous implements that are now-a-days indispensable to the proper working of

the farm. For the most part, the life of all farm machinery can be considerably extended beyond what is generally considered a satisfactory term. Binders allowed to rot, it, soon become subjects fit only for the scrap heap. Such must be apparent to all, yet notwithstanding the lesson inevitably taught, many continue year after year to lose a great part of their capital through giving their farm machinery no housing, except when convenient. To what extent neglect of farm machinery is responsible in keeping some farmers poor would be difficult to estimate. It is, however, a significant fact that invariably it is the poor farmer who countenances such neglect; those who are in more favorable circumstances knowing that such practices would work their ruin.

There never was a time when suitable housing, designed and used for implements exclusively, was more necessary than it is at the present day. A rapid succession of new labor-saving machines, many of which are delicate and complicated, is continually coming to the front. The nature of these, appeals to the good judgment of progressive farmers. When purchased, some place is needed in which to properly protect them.

Reading in Farm Families

(Breeder's Gazette)

Literature is a brain food of which character is made. Wholesome reading for families in the open country is as essential as good food in the evolution of efficient citizens. An appetite for a better quality of periodical literature is growing in all agricultural communities. High-class journals and magazines find their most appreciative and helpful readers on farms. Rural mail carriers are delivering tons of these publications at homes where melodramatic trash has ceased to charm. In the unfolding of the larger rural life the taste for literary diswater has been supplanted by an instinctive craving, awakened by the sweep of progress, for a higher type of reading matter.

Parents who seek conscientiously to discharge the obligations which the rearing of children imposes, cannot be over-cautious in supplying their homes with books and current literature. Quantity is not the need. Piles of cheap papers and libraries of bound rubbish afford a plenitude in which a keen mind can be starved and distorted. Quality is the vital desideratum.

A few weeklies offer it seasoned and embellished, and a few magazines are full of it. Less than five feet of shelf will hold most of the books which the centuries have approved. It is not for us to suggest books or periodicals to seekers of the best; they will ultimately get together. We warn against the cheap and vicious publications and books which sneak into farm homes.

The Gazette believes with "The Youth's Companion" that "parents are the natural leaders in selecting the reading of the family." Theirs is a type of leadership which is second to none in its final consequences. Uplifting and inspiring literature is

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