

# FARM AND DAIRY

## AND RURAL HOME

### PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year.** Great Britain, \$1.20 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c. for postage.  
**ADVERTISING RATES, 12 cents a line flat, \$1.60 an inch an insertion. One page 48 inches one column 12 inches.** Copy received up to Saturday preceding the following week issue.

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**STOCKWELL'S SPECIAL AGENTS**  
 Chicago Office—People's Gas Building.  
 New York Office—Pringle Building.

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**The Rural Publishing Company, Limited**  
**PETERBORO, ONT.**

*"Read not to contradict and to confute nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Baron.*

#### Industrial Hysteria

CANADIANS are not cowards. Our soldiers who are going to the front will face the foe as coolly and bravely as the tried veterans who fight by their side. We who remain at home have our work to do and it, too, requires coolness and courage; neither of which has been much in evidence during the past three weeks. We are showing symptoms of an acute attack of economic neurotism. Consumers are buying flour in half barrel lots instead of the twenty-five pound bag as is their usual custom. Sugar is being purchased by the hundred weight instead of the dollar's worth. Hence the price of foodstuffs goes up. When banks, trust and loan companies become partners to the panic the outlook for business becomes disquieting.

Much of this uneasiness is the result of fear. It is not justified by conditions. Consider: Crops will be harvested just as carefully this year as they were last year. Consumption of farm and factory products will continue and their production must be continued also. In exceptional cases, where goods are produced for the export trade, or where the wheels of industry are kept moving only by borrowed capital, the present situation will present serious difficulties. But such industry is a small part of the whole. From the standpoint of the farmer the situation is encouraging rather than otherwise.

The death will come, not during the war, but when the war is over. It is when the armies are disbanded and men are released by the million that there will be a scarcity of jobs and actual suffering. Even this may be in great part avoided if our legislators be wise and open up the natural resources of the country for development by the labor surplus. But while the war lasts it is our duty to take up each task bravely and do our part. Panic at home is almost as disastrous to a nation as defeat abroad.

We are glad to note the signs of returning confidence on the part of the Canadian public. Let us constantly bear in mind the scriptural admonition: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."

#### Additional Taxation

UNUSUAL military activities in Canada are causing an extra expenditure of \$4,000,000 a month. A special war grant totalling many millions more will be made by parliament, which is now in session. There is a possibility that the government will have to take over the operation of the Canadian Northern Railway. With all of these additional expenditures, we are faced with a declining revenue. Imports are decreasing and the customs revenue falls in proportion. Already the question is being asked: "Where are we to apply for money to meet these additional expenses?"

Interested parties have been quick to suggest a general increase in the tariff. Such a measure would be little less than criminal. It would inevitably lead to still further increases in the cost of living and accentuate the misery of the poorer classes in our cities. This method of increasing revenue would also mean an added heavy burden to the farmer, and to some extent defeat the object aimed at by decreasing imports. Income taxation has more to recommend it than tariff increases but, too, is open to the objection that it is an interference with private rights and destructive of ambition and initiative.

But why tax private property at all? Why not adopt the suggestion that the farmers' organizations have been making for years? Why not tax community land values? The great values of city lands of water powers and of our mines are due to the presence of the community. By taxing these the people would be taking for public revenue only that which the people have themselves created. If the tariff were reduced instead of increased the annual value of community created land values would meet all of our requirements for public revenue, even in these troublesome times. At the same time the cost of living would be reduced. Lower tariff duties would mean cheaper imported goods. Taxes on land values would squeeze some of the speculative value out of city lands and hence reduce the rent charges to the business man and to the householder. Such an economic reform would afford a way out of present difficulties and be of permanent value. It is the best measure the government could adopt.

#### Common Sense in Breeding

THE Babcock test and the scale are the best gauges of the producing ability of a dairy cow. These good instruments, however, like all other good things, are capable of abuse. We believe that in many herds they have been abused to such an extent as to largely counteract the good they might have done.

When the Babcock test and the scale were first introduced there was a wholesale weeding of some of our herds. Production alone was the criterion. What we farmers are interested in, however, is not production but profits. The largest producer of the herd may not be the most economical producer. We must have feed records as well as milk records before we can say with certainty that this cow can best be retained in the herd and that one discarded. We are glad to note that dairy farmers are coming to see the importance of feeding records and that the Dairy Branch is laying greater stress on their importance than heretofore.

But perhaps the greatest harm due to the in-

discriminate use of the milk test has occurred in pure bred herds. There has been a great craze for record making. More than a few breeders have neglected individuality and sacrificed vigor in order that they may have great records to their credit. Here, too, we note a tendency to come back to common sense. We are coming to realize that the biggest producer is the best cow only when she possesses constitution and vigor to transmit her great qualities to her offspring. The family of uniformly high producers is now coming to be valued more than the family who only claim to merit its its few phenomenal producers. The test is finding its true place.

#### A Slicking Up Time

DID you ever visit a farm so orderly that you couldn't find a chip in the yard with stick to scrape the mud off your shoes? We had that experience recently. We commented on the neatness and order of the farm. The owner was quick to give credit where credit was due. "I just took a lesson from my wife," said he. "When she started in to spring housecleaning I decided on spring farm cleaning. Later, when fall housecleaning came around I was equally busy with farm cleaning. I followed this twice a year clean-up until I found that it was just as easy to keep a farm orderly all the time as to have things in order."

That man is a prosperous farmer. But that is characteristic. We have often noticed that orderly farmers are prosperous farmers. The poor farmer may say that he hasn't time to put on frills, that he can't afford to keep his yards in order and so forth, but the chances are that the very disorder that prevails around the buildings is a sign of the disorderly management that accounts for his lack of prosperity. Why not start with a twice a year farm cleaning, and see where it will end?

#### The "Going Wage"

A MAN who is worth his salt wants to go along. The really worthy while man won't take a job that doesn't offer chances of advancement. If such a position does not offer to his own community he will go where it does. The intelligent and efficient man must be rewarded in proportion to his ability, or he will not be retained.

Do we farmers give enough attention to the very human trait in mankind? Has farm work offered chances of advancement to the laboring man? We fear that the practice of paying the "going wage" has been an important factor in driving the best class of help from rural districts. Too often when a man asks for as a wage in pay he is reminded that the "going wage" in the locality is such and such, that men can be gotten for that money, and if he isn't satisfied he'd better quit. The fact is that man has proved himself efficient and adaptable and probably worth more than the majority of help offering at the "going wage" is not considered as carefully as it should be. We do not offer encouragement to initiative; we will get only the class of help that lack it; and if there is any place where initiative is demanded it is on the farm. The old practice of paying the "going wage" is breaking down because it has not held the best class of labor in the country. The sooner ability is rewarded the better.

Germany cannot afford to win in the present struggle. Victory would fasten still more firmly on the German people the yoke of military despotism. Defeat would result in the triumph of the Social-Democrats with their great program of disarmament and social reform.

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