

The Farmer and Labor Legislation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I desire through your columns to call the attention of my fellow farmers to a bill now before the Dominion Parliament, introduced by Alphonse Verville, M. P., for the constituency of Maisonneuve, Montreal City, and who, I understand, is President of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the main provisions of which are as follows:

EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

"1. Every contract to which the Government of Canada is a party which may involve the employment of laborers, workmen or mechanics, shall contain a stipulation that no laborers, workman or mechanic in the employ of the contractor or sub-contractor, or other persons doing or contracting to do the whole or a part of the work contemplated by the contract, shall be permitted or required to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day, except in cases of extraordinary emergency, caused by fire, flood or danger to life or property.

STIPULATION IN CONTRACTS.

"Every such contract hereafter made shall contain a provision that unless the person or corporation making or performing it complies with the provisions of this Act, the contract shall be void and the person or corporation shall not be entitled to receive any sum, nor shall any officer, agent or employee of the Government of Canada pay or authorize payment from the funds under his charge or control to the person or corporation, for work done upon or in connection with the contracts which in its form or manner of performance violates the provisions of this Act.

DAY LABOR.

"This Act shall apply to work undertaken by the Government of Canada by day labor."

While the design of the proposed legislation is to arbitrarily restrict labor on Government contracts only to eight hours per day, it would initiate a movement in respect to all labor that would never rest with that result. Compulsory eight-hour work generally would be the end. We, as farmers, have many interests in common with working men, just as we have with the manufacturing and other business classes of the country. In a broad sense, we stand or fall together. Being individually the most isolated of all classes, we are not, and judging by the history of the past, never can be effectually organized for mutual protection as are the manufacturing and laboring classes, unless these latter interests so far overstepped the bounds of fairness as to rouse the antagonism of farmers as a mass, who have the power to overwhelm all others in Parliamentary representation. We have received less and stand to lose more through class legislation than any other element in the country, but we have preferred to rest our cause upon the general principles of justice.

What is the situation to-day in Canada in respect to industry and labor? The progress of farming is most seriously hindered in Ontario and other portions of Eastern Canada for want of population to till the soil to advantage. Obviously this bill would tend to make labor more scarce. Thousands upon thousands of acres have been laid down to grass, and we are everywhere resorting to neighborly co-operation and machinery to perform our work. Public works, and nearly every manufacturing and other similar industry, are hampered and unable to fill their orders for want of help. Rolling stock for railways cannot be supplied, and both producers and consumers suffer for the non-delivery of goods. Yet, in the face of all this, agitators seek to restrict immigration on the one hand, and on the other to cut down by law the day's work to eight hours. This enforced reduction would make necessary the presence of probably 100,000 more men instead of fewer to do the present work, without regard to the growth of the requirements of the country. Is this reasonable or just? I believe in a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. The workman in our great industries should not only receive enough to maintain and educate his family in comfort, but make provision for the future. In other words, he should have enough not only to produce, but to reproduce labor of an efficient class. What about the manufacturer or other large employer of labor who invests his capital? He should have some reasonable prospect of security for his enterprise. He must take large risks, provide ahead for depreciation of plant and buildings, improvements required by changes in demand, danger of fire, etc., interest on capital, and superintendence, beside a fair return for himself. When one looks over the record of, say, 35 or 40 years, in any city or town with which he is acquainted, how many enterprises have survived? Now, we may frighten or cripple capital by enactments, and thus hinder legitimate progress and destroy employment. Let us be fair to each other.

Public interests demand restrictions on human actions in certain cases, but it seems to me this bill, without due warrant, exceeds the limit in restricting the liberty to employ or to work if one wishes to. Incidentally, it will add immensely to the cost of public works to be paid for by the masses. It is a move that will hardly commend itself to farm help, for, as a rule, the hired man expects in due course to be a farmer himself, and what would be prejudicial to the interests of his employer to-day, he would regard as detrimental to his interests to-morrow. Such legis-

lation tends to foment class distinctions, widen the rift between capital and labor, and should be rejected. Western Ontario. FARMER.

Cost of Cement-block Building.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

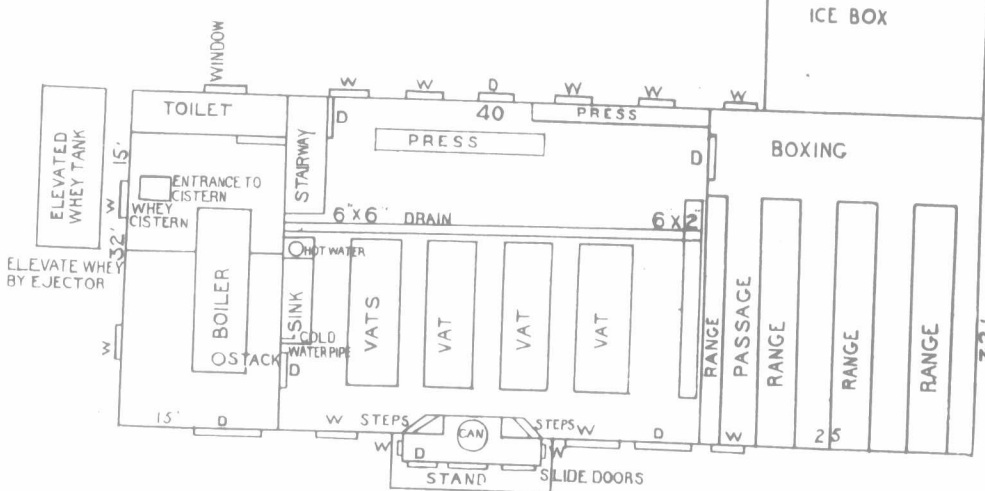
In reply to D. H. T.'s inquiry in your issue of Jan. 24th, re cost of cement-block house, I will give you my experience in making a number of solid cement-concrete blocks, 8 x 10 x 20 inches, the concrete being composed of one part Portland cement to eight of good clean gravel, not screened, throwing out the largest stones during the process of mixing. The price of material and labor was: Gravel, delivered, 50 cents per yard; cement, delivered, \$2.35 per barrel; labor, with board, \$1.75 per day; two men, making 100 blocks per day; cost of blocks, 12 cents each. It is impossible for me to give cost of laying blocks in wall; my opinion is that about three cents per block for labor and cement for mortar would cover it (use rock cement for mortar). A building, 24 x 28 x 19-ft. wall, less the ordinary space for windows and doors, would require 1,250 blocks, at a cost of 15 cents each in wall, amounting to \$187.50. These figures are based on above prices of material and labor. I have not figured on rent of machine for making blocks. Norfolk Co., Ont. E. L. STICKNEY.

A Sixteen-share Beef Ring.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In response to your inquiries as to experience with beef rings, I might say we have in this neighborhood a sixteen-share ring. It has been working satisfactorily during the past seven years, and is organized again for the eighth year. I have been the butcher for two years, and cut from the chart published in "The Farmer's Advocate" two years ago. It gives each patron a boil and a roast, the steak going to make up weight of any light shares. Each beast should dress 320 pounds. If the beef is too heavy, the overplus goes to the owner. I receive \$2.00 for killing and cutting up each beef. Our aim in the ring is to have all the animals as uniform as possible, whether stall or grass fed, and no difference is made. This ring generally starts on the second or third week in June, running, of course, for 16 weeks. I think there is no better way for farmers to get fresh meat during the summer months. INTERESTED READER.

Grey Co., Ont.

THE DAIRY.

Floor Plan of Quinte Cheese Factory, Ameliasburg, Ont.

A Prince Edward County Cheese-factory Plan.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am sending the plan of my factory and cost of construction of the same. It is built of a solid cement 12-inch wall, 13 feet high, cement floor, 8-inch partition walls; cost of cement, gravel and work \$750; cost of completion of factory in 1905, \$1,400.

In 1906 we lined up curing-room, according to the Government specifications for cool-curing rooms; cost, \$200. Building an ice box 20 x 20 x 13 feet, after the Government plan; cost, \$400. We think we have the most up-to-date factory in Prince Edward County. Prince Edward Co., Ont. W. J. KEMBER.

Meal for Calves.

Hoard's Dairyman suggests the following recipe for calf meal: One part pure ground flaxseed, two parts finely-ground corn meal sifted, two parts finely-ground oatmeal sifted, and the whole well mixed; then boil and allow to stand for twelve hours covered. Begin with one-fourth pound per day for calves a month old; new milk for the month previous and no solids. Increase the allowance as the calf grows older, but not to exceed a half pound a day. Keep fresh, sweet, second cutting of clover or alfalfa hay before them.

A Profitable Dairy Herd.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the first place, our farm is known as Maplehurst Dairy Farm, and consists of 100 acres, about 20 in bush. We keep about 30 head of cattle, and we milk the year through. We ship our milk to Montreal. On an average, we milk about 15 cows. We have them coming in at all times of the year. For winter feeding, we feed ensilage twice a day and clover hay or green-cut oats at noon. We give them after ensilage, in the morning, a feed of straw, and they always pick some out of it; also bran and shorts thrown on the ensilage, which is our principal feed. We used to feed a lot of carrots, but it is so hard to get help we have quit growing them. If we have ensilage left over, we feed it in summer if pastures are dry. Last summer we had none, and we just gave them clover hay and nothing else. We fed every month but June and August. The grass was good in June, and in August we let them on some after-grass. We got last year 17 cents a gallon in winter and 12 cents in summer, and there is 11 cents of freight charged on every 4-gallon can of 40 pounds of milk. This year we are getting 18 cents in winter and 13 cents in summer. I might say we did not ship steadily this last two summers, as it paid better to send to the cheese factory, cheese was so high, and our city buyer let me stop a while when some of his customers were out of the city for the summer. As to statement of pounds of milk to each cow, I could give that, but it would be considerable trouble. However, we made an average of \$70 a cow for the season for milk alone, not counting anything on calves sold. We never let our cows out in winter, but curry occasionally and keep them well bedded and clean, as it is a very particular piece of business shipping to Montreal, but I can say I have been at the business about 15 years, and I never lost a can yet through dirt. Stormont Co., Ont. VICTOR BEGG.

A Milk Record Enthusiast.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Keeping individual records of cows pays the best of any time spent, either in a small or large herd. I started in the spring of 1905, with pencil, and long, perpendicular rows marked out on sheet of paper for each cow; but thanks to the Government for the nicely-arranged sheets furnished free for the asking, we are able with these and a small platform scale to weigh and mark down the weight in less than 30 seconds by the watch. We tack the sheets on a planed board in rotation, just as the cows stand in the stable, place it just above the scales, where plenty of light shines on both, and bore a hole or two in the post slanting downward to hold the pencils, which is much handier than hanging by a string. One of the many advantages in keeping records is the satisfaction of knowing your cows, and being able

to tell exactly what each cow gave yesterday, last week, or in the season; and if anything will create in the hired help or the farmer's sons an interest in the individuals, this weighing each milking will do it, as it takes but little effort by the owner to get up a little rivalry by giving each milker cows that give about the same amount of milk each, by a few encouraging words. I have seen them go back immediately and restrip a cow to get two ounces more to equal or beat the other cow. This clean stripping is both paying and beneficial to the cow; besides, the more interested we get the helpers, the lighter the work, and the easier it is to keep the boys on the farm. By weighing each milking, we found out that our cows give three pounds of milk more a day on our sweet cornstalks than on good mixed hay. This we have tried week about, with the above difference both tests, other conditions being equal. We also find, by leaving the cows out a couple of hours after drinking, we lose a pound or more of milk, although we have an enclosed barnyard, protected by evergreens. And by the same method we learned that our cows gave two pounds more milk a day by watering twice a day than only once—as we have only normal condition: a spring well in the yard—and we now always let them out twice a day to have a rub and a lick,