

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Farm for the Future.

WHILE the theory and practice of agriculture have improved very much in recent years, and agricultural education is on a higher plane and more popular than ever before, there is still too much planning for the present and not enough for the future in the farming operations of this country. There are many farmers, even in older Ontario, who own their farms, and yet who farm as if this were their last year for operating them. There is no building up of soil fertility for a year or two hence; there is no planning in crop rotation and soil cultivation, looking to the maintaining of the fertility there is in the land, and it would seem as if the present were the only thing to be considered in all their farming operations. Too many farm owners to-day farm their land as if they were yearly tenants only.

There may be some excuse for the rattle on the western prairie, who has little to begin with and whose only hope of permanently owning his farm is to make the first year or two tell in wheat production. But even on the virgin prairie it is a "penny wise and pound foolish policy" to be constantly drawing upon nature's storehouse of fertility, without doing something to replace what has been taken out. There are many farms in the older parts of the west that formerly produced splendid wheat crops, but to-day are impoverished, non-productive and the rendezvous of all kinds of noxious weeds, just because their owners thought present needs more important than endeavoring to maintain fertility for future crops. Permanent, progressive agriculture cannot be maintained in this way. There must be a constant building up. If the capital stock of soil fertility is drawn upon for a year's crop, some effort should be made to replace it. If this is not done the crop of the following year will be less than that of the previous one, and so on, a continual lessening in soil fertility and a decrease in productive power. The agriculture of England is a striking example of system and foresight in maintaining the fertility of the land. There are farms in the old land that have been farmed for hundreds of years, and are just as productive to-day as they ever were, and what is more, these farms to-day produce larger yields per acre than many of the virgin soils of the new lands of earth. On the American continent to-day is the all too important time in agriculture, to-morrow must take care of itself. The New England States, and the Southern States as

well, are striking examples of this. Even the great corn belt of the West is said to be losing in productiveness because of the too general practice of taking everything out of the land and never replenishing it. In Canada the same thing is noticeable in many sections, there is no building for the future, the present is everything.

And what is the remedy? Some definite system of crop rotation, suitable to the district, in which clovering plays an important part, and the keeping of more live stock. One agricultural authority has stated that the best paying farm crops are those which walk to market. And there is a whole volume of truth in it, too. There is no better way of maintaining and increasing the fertility of the farm to-day than by live stock husbandry. If carried on judiciously and under proper conditions it will also pay a good profit. In figuring up the profits of live stock many fail to give

show that the present Government will make the raising of the embargo against Canadian cattle a part of its policy, though its leader gave a semi-promise to that effect before his election to office.

But whatever the future may bring forth, the indications at present are that the embargo will remain indefinite, though it is possible that some modification of the restrictions might be secured in favor of Canada. In fact, it might be worth while for the Dominion authorities to take some action in this direction. If the time for slaughter could be extended from ten to thirty or even to twenty days, it would be something worth while, and enable our beef cattle to recover from the effects of the ocean voyage.

In the meantime we might as well settle down to the present order of things, and endeavor to meet the situation as we find it. If our cattle trade is to cut any large figure in the British market it can only be by establishing the dead meat trade in this country on a large and permanent basis. The governments, both at Ottawa and in the provinces, should set machinery in motion looking to the establishment of this trade in Canada at an early date. Such an industry would safeguard our cattle interests and make us independent of embargos, present or future.

The Farm Separator Again.

The Montreal Produce Association is again in the limelight. This time it is a circular to the trade pointing out the inferior quality generally of butter made from hand separator cream. The letter of "A Quebec Dairyman," published elsewhere in this issue, deals with this matter, and makes a good defence of the farm separator system.

Our Montreal friends are rather late in the day with their gratuitous advice on the farm separator business. That question was definitely settled several years ago, and in such a way that thousands of farm separators are sold annually in Canada, and the end is not yet. The farm separator is more popular to-day than ever before, and the day is not very far distant when every farmer who keeps cows will have one. It is therefore only a waste of time and energy to even try to stem the tide. The farm separator is in this land to stay, and our exporters and dairy teachers will serve the trade a good deal better if they devise ways and means of improving the system rather than condemning it. When such authorities as Prof. G. L. Mackay, of

Inquiries Answered.

There is no better way of securing information than by asking questions. This holds true with the agricultural journal as with the farmers' meeting. There is this difference, however, that the farm journal enables its readers to ask questions all the year round.

We have special facilities for answering any questions upon agricultural topics of any kind which we desire our readers to avail themselves of. Send along your questions and we will answer them in THE FARMING WORLD. If you have information to give that will be beneficial to our readers generally send it along also. You will help others and help yourself at the same time.

the business full credit for the increased fertility it has brought to the land. Take the case of cattle feeding. It not only adds materially to the fertility of the land, but also provides a market for a lot of coarse grains and rough fodders that would be unsalable otherwise. So with the keeping of other kinds of stock. The profit is not altogether in the direct cash return, but in these secondary advantages that help to increase the farmer's stock in trade, the soil fertility of his farm and to make it more productive for future crops.

The Cattle Embargo Stays.

The cattle embargo question has again been side-tracked in the British House of Commons, and while those who are agitating for its removal are confident, nothing has transpired to