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EDITORIAL.

Well-tilled and well-nourished soils laugh at the drouth.

In all seriousness, the question is now being asked if horns on cattle are worth what they cost?

An average loss of six cents a dozen on mid-summer eggs taken out of the producer by reducing the prices paid! Whew!

Middlesex Co., Ont., farmers have been enjoying life in the cornfield by attaching an old egg-top to the two-horse cultivator during the late "hot spell."

On any farm large enough to employ three or more horses, we would no more think of going out to plow or work the land with two horses than we would think of going out to plow with one. It is killing time.

Both Messrs. Brant and MacNeilage have seemed to concur in our heading placed over the farmer's first letter, viz., "The Beam and the Mote." The only trouble is they cannot agree in whose eye is the beam, and in whose the mote.

Has your cheese factory a cool-curing room? Does its pasteurize its whey? Does it pay by the Babcock test (plus 2)? Do all the patrons cool their evening's milk? Are they all scrupulously clean? If not, there is need for missionary work in your section, as in others.

Young man, which is it to be—a life of unilluminated money-grubbing, or one of intelligent, well-directed, satisfying effort? If the latter, you should make preparation now. Procure the calendar of your nearest agricultural college, and plan yourself a course. Take common sense with you; bring back knowledge and inspiration.

One of the worst troubles with the cheese business is that so many patrons think they have done their part sufficiently well and have no further interest in their milk once it is past the cheesemaker's nose. If they could only be brought to realize that it is their milk and their cheese, and that their real interest is bound up in the goods until it has passed the consumer's palate, many cans of milk would be drawn in more cleanly manner, and more thoroughly cooled in better-washed cans, than is at present the case.

If eggs can be produced at a feed cost of 8½ cents a dozen up to the first of July, as Professor Graham has figured out, and you can sell them for twenty cents a dozen, as the members of the egg circles in Peterborough are doing, that leaves a profit of nearly 150 per cent. I wish I knew some line that would pay me 150 per cent. profit. I'd work at it about two years.—[John A. Gunn.

What's the matter with going into the egg-producing business yourself, Mr. Gunn?

Some people are not content with a good thing when they get it. Because the buyers spent money freely in organizing the first few egg circles in Peterborough County, a few members got the idea their hen fruit was worth fabulous prices, and, notwithstanding that they were receiving a premium of five or six cents a dozen, tried to hold the buyers up for more. It was explained to them that they were already getting all their eggs

were worth, the only way to make them worth more being to keep on producing absolutely reliable eggs, till a strong, steady demand had developed for them. In the end, such a policy will pretty nearly enable a circle to dictate its own price, but co-operators should not attempt to realize on their reputation at full value before it is well established. There is an old proverb which says, "Much wants more, and loses all." We are pleased to add that the Peterborough members listened to reason, and concluded to stand by their circle.

Those who never eat any farm produce except what is produced on their own farms, can hardly realize what a large figure appearance cuts with fastidious customers. These rightly judge the cleanliness and sanitary conditions under which the goods were produced by its appearance on the market or store counter, and by the appearance of the person who brought it to town. Nothing pays better than tastefulness. It enables one to dictate his own price, especially when supplying well-to-do customers. Even such a little thing as grading eggs to color pays well, and stimulates the producer himself to take more of a pride in his product. In the co-operative egg circles in Peterborough, we are told, there is not one of the producers but voluntarily sorts his (or her) eggs according to color, merely to please their own eyes. In the end, this kind of thing will redound to their advantage. Nothing commands a more profitable price than good taste, particularly in the case of food products.

"If I had to dispense with most of the implements on my farm, one of the last I would part with is the manure-spreader," said an intelligent farmer to the editor of this journal not long ago. "Besides the saving of hard labor, the spreader applies the manure so fine and even that it does far more good. In fact, from experiments on my own farm, I believe it doubles the value of the manure. Let anyone who doubts this put three loads to the acre on his meadow, take off a crop of hay, and then plant to corn. It will make a marked difference in both crops."

We believe our friend is quite right in regarding the spreader as one of the last implements to be dispensed with, although he has probably exaggerated the benefit of mechanical distribution. It might in some cases double the first year's benefit by rendering the manure more promptly available. At all events, the spreader is a very valuable machine, and can be used for such purposes as applying lime and ashes and hauling roots.

How would you like your bread baked under a dripping cow just in out of the rain, with mud on her teats and urine spattering on the floor now and then, causing some drops to fall into the dough, not to mention flies, hairs, and occasional bits of manure? How long would you board where the bread was kneaded that way? Yet this bread would be wholesome and good, compared to the average pail of milk a few hours after it is drawn. The bacteria in the bread would be destroyed by baking, in the milk they flourish, finding it an ideal culture medium. Were it not that milk is essentially such a good and wholesome food, and so difficult to replace in the dietary, the conditions under which it is drawn and handled would be enough to make one swear-off ever tasting another drop, unless he knew how the cows were milked. Realizing the danger and the revolting nature of average dairy practice, can we not exercise such pains in milking as will at least exclude the "rough of the dirt"?

The Cause of Strikes.

Upheavals like railroad strikes illustrate forcibly the chaotic condition into which proprietary industrialism has led us, or, rather, which it has aggravated, for the chaos antedates the industrial development. This chaos can never be resolved into cosmos by any amount of labor legislation, beneficial though this may be in some cases as a palliative. Any solution that is worth calling a solution must depend upon far more delicate adjustments and more nicely-automatic relationships than can ever be brought about by human law. The real trouble lies in human character, in its greed and comparative disregard of the interests of others, these faults being multiplied in their capacity for mischief by the corporation system, which establishes an almost purely impersonal relationship between employer and employed. Thus, two armies are pitted against each other, one seeking dividends and fat salaries for its head officers, the other seeking as high wages as can be secured, and, so that it may do this effectually, insisting upon minimum schedules of wages, which, on the other hand, the corporations usually exceed as little as possible with any of their men, lest high wages to some might lead to demands for a further augmentation of the average. Thus the tendency to a deadening level.

The position of the public in this contest is far from being that of a disinterested onlooker. Apart from its vital concern in the uninterrupted continuance of the services of these great enterprises, especially those such as railroads, which directly serve the people, the public is interested in the effect of wage increases in one line upon wages in other lines, and also in the effect of wage increases upon rates, improvement of service, opportunity for taxation, etc. How far an increase in wages necessarily increases cost of transportation, how far it may merely stimulate economy of labor, how far it may reduce dividends on watered stock, and how far it may tend to increase rates, are questions the layman has poor opportunity of deciding. This much is fairly certain, however, that wage increases to any class of workers do not proportionately increase the cost of the service, first, because wages are only part of the cost of operation; secondly, because wage increase is in every industry a direct stimulus to economize labor, making a given amount of it accomplish more than when it was less highly valued.

All this does not explain how the present chaotic conditions are to be improved. Socialists would say socialize all means of production, but this, while it might be helpful in some instances, will not produce a laborer's heaven unless human character is radically changed at the same time. Even public departments have had strikes, as witness the strike of the postmen and telegraphers in France, which nearly led to civil war. Some might say co-operate, letting employees have a voice in the management, and a share in the profits; but experience has repeatedly proven this a failure, when attempted on any elaborate plan, the failure being more largely due, perhaps, to greed, jealousy, suspicion, and lack of business training and judgment of the workers, than to faults of the dominant element.

The real, radical, fundamental need is for a vital religion that will get at people's hearts, regulate their characters, and remodel human nature.