

## Farm and Dairy

AND  
Rural Home

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**The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd**  
PETER ORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to court, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

### The Boy and His Schooling

THERE is an old notion, not yet extinct, that to be a farmer, education is unnecessary.

This notion proves most persistent and finds the greatest number of adherents when labor is scarce. During the holidays, the boy who is just reaching high school age takes almost a man's place on the farm. He makes himself invaluable, and when school opens in the fall, father cannot see it's way clear to part with him. The boy decides to stay home another month. Too often the month extends to two or three months, and it is not until the winter when the lad gets started to school. He finds himself behind in his classes, loses interest and is soon keen to leave school altogether.

This is a crisis in a boy's life that all wise parents will guard against. There will be much justification this year for delaying the return to school for a few weeks, but this delay should be only in cases of great necessity. In pioneer days, with rich soil and simple standards of living, neither knowledge nor skill was necessary to reap abundant harvests and provide all material necessities. To-day, soils have been depleted of their virgin riches and must be fed as well as cropped; goods must be marketed as well as produced; at every turn the farmer comes in contact with men in other walks of life, and must be able to hold his own in business dealings with them. The rewards to-day are to the men of trained minds—and that is just another way of saying that the rewards are to the educated. The mental training of your boy is of vastly more importance to him than the amount of work he can

do within the next few weeks is to you. We hope to see the boys back at school this year in just as great numbers as they have been in the past.

### The Dairy Standards Act

WHEN the Ontario Dairy Standards Act was withdrawn last spring because of strong opposition to its provisions, friends of the measure feared that its enforcement would be delayed indefinitely. Evidently, however, the government has no intention of dropping the measure. An educational campaign has been going on quietly all summer. In eastern Ontario, where opposition to the Act was most in evidence, large scale experiments have been conducted taking all the milk of two cheese factories, which prove that the results of previous experimental work, dealing with the relationship between yield of cheese and fat test, to be correct. In addition, the milk of every cheese factory patron in eastern Ontario has been tested, the average test at each factory has been ascertained and each patron now knows just how the enforcement of the Dairy Standards Act would affect him.

This is good work and bound to make many friends for a more equitable means of dividing cheese factory proceeds than is the pooling system. We congratulate the Department of Agriculture for the sincerity of purpose they are showing in connection with the Dairy Standards Act.

### The Safe Line

M R. A. J. REYNOLDS, one of the directors of the Rural Publishing Company, is quoted recently in the Toronto Globe as saying:

"There is this great point in favor of dairying: It brings in revenue every month of the year, and in every month the dairyman knows just what his income from that source is going to be. There is another important point: Dairying is a safe line; there are fewer ups and downs and fewer exceptional losses in it than in any other branch of farming."

Mr. Reynolds is right. Sometimes we dairy farmers are inclined to feel that we are tied rather closely to our work. But does not the stability and safety of the industry more than compensate? And to safety we must add financial return.

The profits of dairying, as compared with other lines of farming, are reflected in the class of farm homes and farm buildings that are characteristic of the dairy districts of Canada. At the present time, with grain at record prices and all purchased feeds abnormally high, there may be some grounds for believing that perhaps the grain and stock farmer has a little the best of the bargain. Certainly the grain farmer is getting splendid prices for all that he has to sell, and his labor bills are not so great. Present conditions, however, will not last forever. At best they can last but a few months after the war is over. The dairy farmer will then have his turn, and Mr. Reynolds' contention that "dairying is a safe line," will then be even more abundantly proven than it now is.

### What Shall We Do?

RECENTLY two official documents reached the editor's desk, both from the same source.

The first of the two emphasized the need of grain and more grain to feed the hungry people of the world. Farmers were urged to break up their meadows and increase the area of fall and spring grain. The second document emphasized the importance of live stock, related the mistakes of the Germans in reducing their breeding flocks and herds, deprecated the use of veal and lamb and urged farmers to increase their live stock holdings. To this latter end a nationwide bacon campaign is in prospect.

What shall we do? It must be evident to anyone with a moderate amount of common sense

that the farmer cannot plow up his meadows for grain and at the same time increase his live stock. One or the other must suffer. We fear that these two documents are merely a sample of the conflicting nature of too much of the advice that is being heaped gratuitously on farmers nowadays. All that we can do is to sift the wheat from the chaff, and the proportion of the latter is usually large, and use our own common sense. The policy that will appeal to dairy farmers at least is one of "carrying on." With help as it is, an increase in live stock holdings is almost impossible. Whenever possible, however, the breeding herd should be kept at its normal strength and, if reduction is necessary, only the poorest animals should be sold. This carrying on policy is in the best interests of the country at the present time and is necessary to the future well being of the dairying industry. Of this we may be certain—that milk and its products will command relatively higher prices after the war than will grain and mill feeds, which are now at a premium.

### For Farm Bookkeeping

THE late C. C. James, during the course of an Institute lecture, strongly urged that all farmers should keep books and know something of their receipts, expenditures and costs. He was promptly met with an objection from the audience to the effect that if all farmers kept books and began to look for business returns from their farms there would soon be no farmers. Mr. L. H. Newman, the secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, has recently turned this objection into an argument for accurate farm accounting, when he writes as follows:

"There is an appalling lack of reliable information as to the real condition of affairs on the average Canadian farm. Many of us realize that the average farmer is not receiving the returns on his investment that he should and yet in the absence of exact data, neither the farmer himself nor those who would act for him, can present his case. At the present time there is a rather general impression in our cities and towns that farmers are making a great deal of money owing to high prices. This opinion, in fact, has been more or less prevalent for some years with the result that the farming industry has not always, I fear, received just consideration from those who make our laws. Our city friends forget that while food stuffs are high in price, the things which the farmer must buy are correspondingly high. If a number of farmers in each province could be induced to follow a system of accounting which would provide the real hard facts of the case and would make this information available to those who, in the words of Tennyson, are required to 'Shape the whipsaws of the throne,' I am inclined to think that the problem, which is really a financial one, would soon be solved."

There is much wisdom in Mr. Newman's argument. With a good system of farm accounting, such as the one designed by Mr. Newman himself, farmers would soon be able to speak in no uncertain voice regarding the economic disabilities under which they labor. We have great hopes that the farm survey to be undertaken by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, will be indirectly responsible for creating a new interest in farm accounting. Certainly it will reveal the business status of the farmer in a new light among the powers that be.

Tests made at the North Dakota Experiment Station indicate that corn that is in the glazing stage makes about as good seed corn as that which is ripe. Corn in the dough stage gave a pretty good germination, but not nearly as good as that which was more mature, while corn saved for seed in the milk stage gave a very small germination. To make seed suitable for field planting, the corn must be at least in the dough stage, but it can be saved in the milk stage for the purpose of saving some particular strain of corn that did not get any more mature. The more immature the corn, the harder it is to cure.