

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

RACE-HORSES AND GAMBLING

Much of the evidence given before the special committee appointed by the House of Commons to consider the bill to suppress race-track gambling is amusing to our hard-headed farmers who are interested in the greater horse breeding interests of this country. The opponents of the Miller Bill to prohibit race course betting, judging from their testimony, are convinced that the standard of the Thoroughbred horse can only be obtained and maintained by racing and that interference with the legal right to make wagers on the course would deteriorate or destroy racing.

Several of those whose expert testimony was heard claimed that few race-horse owners in Canada make expenses meet even with the present sized purses and that all would retire if this bill was passed; that it would certainly kill racing. If the game is such a losing one to breeders under present conditions, why not let it be dropped? Why bolster it up with legalized betting, which has been the ruin of so many?

Let horse-racing die its natural death as the opponents of Mr. Miller's bill claim will surely be its fate if the bill is passed. It would be a distinct gain to the agriculture of this country, for then more attention would be devoted to raising such horses as are in demand at remunerative prices. Again we say, let racing die if it cannot live without its gambling features and let Mr. Miller's bill receive hearty support.

CANADA'S CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission that convened last week at Ottawa may well be looked to for instruction and leadership on those problems concerning our natural resources. The work in which this commission is engaged is a great one and is not begun too soon. In the accomplishment of its purpose, greater things than have been will surely develop.

That we should seek to conserve the abundance of nature's resources lavished upon this fair land, not for the enrichment of a few trusts, but for the service of all the people, is most laudable. Conservation of our Canadian natural wealth of water, mine and forest, our agriculture and our citizenship, is but the taking of those steps that will the sooner place this country in the fore-front of nations. Great things are to be expected of our commission on conservation, and judging by the proceedings of its first annual session, we are not to be disappointed.

WEED LAWS ARE EFFICACIOUS

"I find men who a short time ago were prominent growers of weeds now pushing for the enforcement of the Act."—J. J. Golden, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

This is but one of the several advantages mentioned by Mr. Golden when writing to Farm and Dairy in regard to the stringent weed Act in force in Manitoba. Other benefits noted were that it educates the farmers to the danger of weeds; and it makes them more careful and brings home to them the necessity of destroying weeds, whereas before the passing of the Act there was comparative indifference upon these points.

Manitoba is not alone in having taken up this matter of weed control. The province of Alberta also has proved the efficacy of an Act respecting noxious weeds. The Seed Control Act passed by the Dominion Government and which has been in force now for some years, has been of distinct advantage, not in compelling farmers to sow clean seed unless they wanted to, but rather that it offers them the means of protection against sowing weed seeds unknowingly.

Weed laws as we know them best, therefore, have proved to be real benefits. Those who know sow thistle from dire experience with it on their farms, to whence it came from a neighbor's farm and perchance a distant one at that, hold up both hands in favor of legislation seeking to control sow thistle. They anticipate that action will no further be delayed but

that the Ontario Legislature this session will seek to enact such legislation as will effectually control that pest.

THOSE WHO STOOD BY SWINE

Fortunate is he who has hogs for sale these days. Prices never were so high before. While there has been general increase in the cost of feeds, it is quite certain that those with hogs for sale—hogs that were raised on the farm and were fed with home grown products—are making handsome profits.

The situation justifies those who, like Farm and Dairy some time ago, gave counsel to stay with the business when all were rushing out of hogs. The wisdom of that counsel is now most evident as it has been on former occasions. May we hope that this experience in the hog business will tend to lead a greater stability to any branch of agriculture that is in the best interests of the country and which has proved to be one of profit.

A DUTY OF THE SEASON

The advantages of a supply of ice upon a dairy farm are so evident that it is a wonder that this question needs to be constantly urged upon the dairy-men of this country. Cheese-factory men, creamerymen, dairy authorities in general admit that the question of cooling milk and cream in the summer months is the great need of the business. Especially is it so in connection with the creamery business. Enormous losses which producers evidently do not fully realize, are common to this business. These losses every time, are borne by the producers, not by the creamerymen.

As producers it is up to us to store ice. We need to place ourselves beyond the reproach of the manufacturers and the dairy authorities interested in the business and make it impossible for anyone to characterize as "a monstrosity," a patron of a creamery who stored and used ice.

Only the simplest of buildings is required for an ice house. Ice in this country for the most part is as free as the air. All it costs is the labor of storing. It is our duty as milk producers to store it. Shall we be found wanting in this particular when the summer season again rolls around?

APPLY WOOD ASHES TO THE SOIL

Enormous quantities of wood ashes are exported annually from this country. The returns from the Department of Customs, Ottawa, show that recently in one year, \$43,393 worth of ashes were exported from Ontario. In all probability they were bought from the original owners for not more than five cents a bushel.

These ashes would bring much greater profits if kept at home and applied to the soil. When properly applied as a fertilizer they are of great value for increasing both the quality and the quantity of the various crops of the farm and garden. Wood ashes are rich in potash, phosphoric

acid and lime. Professor Gamble of the Ontario Agricultural College, estimates that wood ashes contain on an average seven per cent of potash, two per cent of phosphoric acid and ten per cent of lime. Were we to buy the two former elements at current market prices for artificial fertilizers, the investment would many times exceed the paltry sum received from the ash dealer. It is evident that we can ill afford to sell ashes off the farm.

But in addition to this loss through the export of ashes, tons and tons of this valuable fertilizing material are allowed to go to waste through being exposed to rains. Some means of preserving wood ashes until they can be applied to the land should be a part of every farm. We need to appreciate more fully the dollars and cents value of this product. Thousands of acres of land in Ontario are deficient in potash and many of the crops of the farm, especially vegetables and fruits, are in particular need of this constituent. Let us then discourage the ash dealer in his business and preserve this fertilizing material and apply it to our own soils that too often are in such dire need of it.

PRIVATE TESTING WITH TUBERCULIN

Each live-stock man has it in his power to hold in check bovine tuberculosis among his own stock. Were all stockmen equally active and willing to comply with the conditions necessary to eradicate this dread disease, the ultimate results would be highly satisfactory. It is now generally believed that from eight to ten per cent of the cases of human tuberculosis are caused from bovine tuberculosis. As stockmen our responsibility is great.

The absolute reliability of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent is a debated question. But there are few of us that would not rather have a herd of non-reacting cattle than a herd, a number of which would react to the tuberculin test. We have not yet reached that stage where compulsory testing and the slaughter of all reacting animals is advisable, although many medical men and some veterinarians whose seal outruns their discretion, advocate compulsory testing. In private herds, where there is even a slight suspicion of tuberculosis, it is wise to have the cattle tested and, should there prove to be reactors, to quietly dispose of them to the butcher. Animals with pronounced symptoms of the disease should be destroyed outright.

The Veterinary Director General's Department at Ottawa, of which Dr. J. G. Rutherford is at the head and which has now apparently decided that it is time to begin some action looking towards the absolute control and if possible the complete eradication of this disease, supplies on the request of owners of cattle who desire them tested, tuberculin free of charge to any reputable qualified veterinary surgeon, on condition that he send to the Department the results of the tests made by him on charts that are furnished for that purpose.