

Farm and Dairy

AND
Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
Published every Thursday by
The Rural Publishing Company, Limited
Peterboro and Toronto.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year. Great Britain, \$1.50 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c. Tribune Building, New York.

ADVERTISING RATES, 12 cents a line per week, \$1.50 an inch insertion. One page 50 inches, one column 12½ inches. Copy received up to Saturday preceding the following week's issue.

Peterboro Office—Main and Water Streets.
Toronto Office—37 McCaul Street.

United States Representatives:
Stockville Special Agency,
Chicago Office—People's Gas Building.
New York Office—Tribune Building.

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

The Military Service Act

THOSE farmers who feel disappointed that the U. F. O. is unable to bring sufficient pressure to bear upon the Government to induce it to suddenly revoke the Order-in-Council in reference to the Military Service Act, that has caused all the trouble, are expecting the impossible. With only some thirty-five farmers in the House of Commons out of a House of over 250 members, how can farmers expect that they can compel the Government to change its policy hastily on a matter which it considered as carefully as it did the recent Order-in-Council? Were there 125,000 organized farmers in Ontario instead of less than 20,000, and had these farmers at the last Dominion election elected enough farmers to the House of Commons to adequately represent the rural constituencies, the probability is that the Order-in-Council would never have been passed, and that had it been passed the Government could have been forced to revoke it.

A splendid effort has been made by the U. F. O., and it still being made, to give expression to the strong resentment the Government's action has aroused among farmers throughout Canada. The Government, undoubtedly, is hoping that if it elicits the agitation will in time die out. All that can be done is for the farmers to continue to organize and to continue to bring such pressure to bear on their members in the House of Commons and through them on the Government that in time, if not immediately, the Government will see how disastrous its action is proving to the cause of increased food production, and thereby to the Empire, and be led in consequence to amend its stand accordingly. Just as the Motherland found it necessary to withdraw men from the fighting forces and return them to the farms in England, it is not impossible that some of the young men that have recently been drafted, and who may be sent abroad may yet be brought back to the Canadian farms from which they have been taken, because it will be found that there is where they can render the most effective service to the Empire.

If the present situation in regard to the Military

Service Act but serves to prove to the farmers of Eastern Canada their impotence to lead the Government at Ottawa to pay heed to their views, and thereby results in the farmers' movement being sufficiently strengthened to give it the power it now lacks, good will come out of even the present unfortunate conditions. As farmers we should see that it does.

Build the Silo

THE briefest and best argument for a silo on every dairy farm is supplied by the following table, which is being used in connection with Indiana's campaign for 10,000 more silos this year on the farms of the "Hoosier" state.

Comparative Values of Grain and Silage.	
When grain costs	Silage is worth
\$1.25 per hundred	\$ 5.00 per ton
1.50 "	6.00 "
1.75 "	7.00 "
2.00 "	8.00 "
2.25 "	9.00 "
2.50 "	10.00 "
2.75 "	11.00 "
3.00 "	12.00 "

The average price of the grain being fed to dairy cows at the present time is at least \$2.50 a cwt. This would give corn-ensilage a value of \$10 a ton, or a value per acre with only a fair crop of \$120. This estimate may seem high when the price of hay is considered and probably it is high. Silage, however, supplies the succulence that cannot be incorporated into a hay ration and gives it a value all its own. Even with labor as scarce as it is this year, there can be no question but that corn is one of the most profitable crops to grow, and a silo to house it in the best investment that can be made on the average dairy farm. Even in sections where corn cannot be grown successfully, dairymen are finding ways of utilizing the silo to supply them with cheap succulence.

The Dairyman's Future

THE dairy industry is now experiencing its time of testing. Conditions are not so favorable to the dairy farmer comparatively as they were a few years ago. Feeds have advanced out of all proportion to the price of dairy products. Labor, unless one has it within his own family, is difficult to get. As a result, the farmer who has depended largely on the feed men and dairy help is now up against it, and a few dairymen have said they have sold the most of their cows. This discouragement is traceable to several factors over which the farmer has no control and to a still greater number of factors for which he alone is responsible.

Among the first is the war time demand for coarse grains. Human consumptive needs are coming in to competition with the cows for a supply of coarse grains and milling regulations have reduced the quantities of by-products available. This demand for human needs is accountable in large measure for unprecedented price increases. The second uncontrollable factor is the hostility of the consuming public to an advance in the price of milk and its products commensurate with the increased cost of production. Both of these are serious factors in the situation. We notice, however, that the men who have good cows, who grow all of their own roughage and it of good quality and who are placing a minimum of dependence on the feed merchant, are not selling their cows and are probably more prosperous than ever before. Good cows, lots of silage or roots and an abundance of good clover or alfalfa hay, is still a winning combination.

Even with these three, however, the farmer on good strong land may feel that he would have more profit at the end of the year if he specialized in grain growing than he has by feeding the most of his products to dairy cows. This opinion has been voiced by such a good dairyman as E. H. Stonehouse, who spoke for many when he said that last year he would have been further ahead to have sold grain and surplus stock and given milk production the go-by. While this may in a measure be true under present conditions we cannot afford to neglect

the future. The fertility of the soil and future markets for dairy cows and dairy products must both be considered. Dairy cows in Europe have been slaughtered by the millions to me.: the pressing necessities of the moment. Already three foreign governments have commissions in America inquiring into the possibilities of purchasing great numbers of dairy cows here to replenish the herds of Europe when the war is over. Of still greater importance in the lesson taught by all past wars, that grain quotations always drop sharply on the conclusion of peace but that animal and dairy products follow more slowly because of the time required to restore normal production. If present conditions do not seem encouraging, the future at least is filled with hope; and the rewards of the future are to him who keeps his dairy herd at or near its full strength.

Keeping the Herd Clean

ONE of the finest herds of pure bred dairy cattle in Canada has been twice reduced almost to the vanishing point by tuberculosis. In this herd the tuberculin test has been used regularly. For many years all the reactors had been eliminated as soon as detected. For years only an occasional animal would be discovered reacting to the test and the disease never got a dangerous foothold. The two epidemics that almost cleaned out the herd on two successive occasions came suddenly and were traced in both cases to purchased animals. The animals responsible for the infection had been tested when purchased, but failed to react. They were then considered clean and admitted to the herd.

The early experiences that followed were due to a lack of knowledge of the limit of the tuberculin test. It is now known that an animal may be exposed to tuberculosis, but the disease may not have sufficiently developed to cause it to react. An animal far gone with tuberculosis will occasionally fail to react to the test. The test, too, is capable of manipulation; for instance, if an animal has had an injection of tuberculin solution a few days before the real test is made, it will show no reaction. Such manipulation as this was suspected in the case under review.

It would seem that the only safe procedure is to quarantine animals newly purchased for a couple of months at least, and then re-test. If any react to the re-test, the reactors should be eliminated and the remaining animals quarantined for a further period, or until such time as there have been at least two negative results. This may seem an expensive procedure. But it is not one-half so expensive as the loss of a valuable herd through infection by purchased animals.

A Man of His Word.

(Hoard's Dairyman.)

ONE of the real luxuries of life is to deal with a thoroughly honest man. Not long since we received a letter from a hired man who spoke in praise of his employer in very significant terms, but requested that we do not publish his letter. One paragraph of his letter we venture to copy. His says:

"It is a comfort to work for Mr. — for he is as reliable, a man of his word. Whether he makes or loses by his promise it is all the same; he stands by it without a murmur for as he said to me once: 'I consider my word the most sacred thing of my life.' I have worked for farmers of far different character. They were looking for some loophole to get out of doing as they agreed, particularly if they were going to lose by it. A hired man very quickly gets on to the make-up of the man he works for."

When we were a young man in Madison county, New York, we remember that a very high standard of business honor prevailed among all of the leading farmers of that section. It is so to-day with all right thinking men in every calling. But this standard is just as necessary with the hired man as with the farmer. We must all face our duty squarely without hope of excuse if we fail to do so. Money gained at expense of our manly honor has always been paid for dearly. Every man must set up his own standard of business dealing. He will find that it will pay richly if the standard is a high one.