



Final Appeal Judge Gives Ruling on Exemption of Farmers

Mr. Justice Duff (the Final Court of Appeal) Declares it is Essential that there shall be No Diminution in Agricultural Production.

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Hon. Mr. Justice Duff gave judgment on December 6th, in the first test case brought before him, as Central Appeal Judge (the final court of appeal), for the exemption of a farmer. The appeal was made by W. H. Rowntree in respect of his son, W. J. Rowntree, from the decision of Local Tribunal, Ontario, No. 421, which refused a claim for exemption. The son was stated to be an experienced farm hand, who had been working on the farm continuously for the past seven years, and ever since leaving school. He lives and works with his father, who owns a farm of 150 acres, near Weston, Ontario. With the exception of a younger brother, he is the only male help of the father on the farm. The father is a man of advanced years.

In granting the man exemption "until he ceases to be employed in agricultural labor," Mr. Justice Duff said:

"The Military Service Act does not deal with the subject of the exemption of persons engaged in the agricultural industry; and the question which it is my duty to decide is whether the applicant being and having been, as above mentioned, habitually and effectively engaged in agriculture and, in labor essential to the carrying on of agricultural production, ought to be exempted under the provisions of the Military Service Act.

"These two propositions are indisputable:

"(1) In order that the military power of the allies may be adequately sustained, it is essential that in this country and under the present conditions, there should be no diminution in agricultural production.

"(2) The supply of competent labor available for the purpose of agricultural production is not abundant, but actually is deficient.

"The proper conclusion appears to be that the applicant, a competent person, who had been habitually and effectively engaged in labor essential to such production, ought not to be withdrawn from it.

"It is perhaps unnecessary to say that such exemptions are not granted as concessions on account of personal hardship, still less as a favor to a class. The sole ground of them is that the national interest is the better served by keeping these men at home. The supreme necessity (upon the existence of which, as its preamble shows, this policy of the Military Service Act is founded) that leads the State to take men by compulsion and put them in the fighting line requires that men shall be kept at home who are engaged in work essential to enable the State to maintain the full efficiency of the combatant forces, and whose places cannot be taken by others not within the class called out."

Ottawa, Dec. 8, 1917.

Team-work Fertility.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Often the question of crop feeding is wrongly made one of maintaining crop yields by the use of either fertilizer or manure. It isn't a matter of choosing between the two, when both are obtainable, but of using both, to secure best results from each.

Fertilizers and manure make a good two-horse team. They pull together evenly on the heavy load of increased yields of profitable crops. Each is most effective when the other is effective. The importance and worth of adding fertilizer to manure—doubling the increaseability of the latter—has been one of the important teachings of leading experiment stations.

Let's look at some facts, first about manure. It furnishes plantfood, organic matter, promotes the growth of useful soil organisms and is the means of returning home-grown fertility to the soil. The greater part of the plantfood in this year's crops, when fed to live stock, may be returned in the manure to the soil, to be used over again by following crops.

Something else happens, though. The animals retain part of the plantfood as body builders to make the meat or milk. Manure is poorly balanced as a ration for crops. When the "natural fertility" of the soils is likewise only partially suited to the crops, as is almost always the case, it is easy to understand why the addition of even small amounts of fertilizers of favorable analysis results in such decided increases in yield.

The reason manure (especially fresh manure) is not so effective alone is due to other factors, as well. Being high in nitrogen, much of which is in the form of ammonia, or soon becoming so, the change into the nitrate form which the plants are able to use, takes place much faster than do the changes in the phosphorus that are necessary before it can be utilized by the plants. Therefore, in the early part of the season, the crop has to depend, as far as the manure is concerned, upon a diet too largely composed of nitrogen. When the manure rots much of the nitrogen or ammonia escapes into the air while the remainder becomes slower in action, because it is locked up in the insoluble protein body substances of bacteria, which must die and in turn be decomposed before the nitrogen becomes available.

The early period of growth is most important. The crops that make a rapid early growth mature quicker—a very important factor. So, when fertilizers carrying immediately available food in concentrated forms are used with the manure, the slowness of the manure to act doesn't do any harm.

The fertilizers give the rapid start and co-operate with the manure in carrying the load on through the season—team-work in fertility. The fertilizers should be high in phosphoric acid to make up for that particular weakness in the manures—again team-work. Manure, relatively high in ammonia and low in phosphoric acid; fertilizers, relatively low in ammonia and high in phosphoric acid, make a team hard to stall.

Now, just what definite results may be expected when the two "fertility horses" are hitched together? Here's what Dr. Frank T. Shutt of the Dominion of Canada Experimental Farms says in Bulletin 32 (April, 1917):

"A ton of average, well-conserved stable manure contains about 10 pounds nitrogen, 5 pounds phosphoric acid, and 10 pounds of potash, so that manure may be considered a complete fertilizer. Experience has shown, however, that for the majority of crops, a fertilizer containing at least twice as much phosphoric acid as nitrogen is desirable, and we may, therefore, conclude that manure is not a well-balanced fertilizer for certain crops. It is here that commercial fertilizers find a profitable use in supplying deficiencies as balancers and in permitting more economical use of the manure."

"Numerous experiments in Canada, as well as in Europe, have proved that in the production of large yields of first-rate quality, especially of market garden crops, the combination of a medium or moderate application of manure with a suitable fertilizer has produced results superior to those obtained from manure alone."

There's a great advantage in applying the manure lightly—over more acres—rather than heavy applications on a few acres. This fits right in with the

use of fertilizer and manure together. Twelve tons of manure per acre at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station, on a four-year rotation of corn, oats, wheat and hay, paid \$2.16 per ton, while 20 tons per acre paid only \$1.44 per ton, at before-the-war crop values. The lighter application paid best. Manure is so scarce and getting more so as livestock decreases, that it must be spread over more acres and its best returns secured. Balance it with fertilizers—quick-acting and furnishing what the crops need—and you secure the most effective and profitable team-work in soil fertility.

MELVIN RYDER.

Gossip.

The Niagara Peninsula Sale Postponed.

The Niagara Peninsula Holstein Breeders' Club have decided to hold their sale on December 18 instead of December 11 as previously advertised. The Club's advertisement appears on page 1970 of this issue, and all interested parties are referred to the same for information. W. L. Houck, Black Creek, Ont., is the secretary, and will supply any particulars concerning the offering. Keep the date in mind, December 18, and plan to attend the initial sale of this organization. Some richly-bred stuff will be sold.

The Fallis Sale of Shorthorns.

Shorthorn breeders everywhere should be interested in the dispersal sale of the Fallis herd of pure-bred Shorthorns, selling at the farm near Brampton, Ont., on Friday, December 21st. The herd comprises forty females and ten young bulls, and the entire lot are put up without reserve. Taken throughout, the herd is mostly of Scotch breeding, including many of the more fashionable families, and it is doubtful if there is another Ontario herd of equal size that contains more big, thickly-fleshed matrons than the one in question. Many of these, too, are far above the ordinary for milk production. There are Marr Floras, Snowdrops, Butterflies and Clarets that are from 40 to 60-pound-a-day cows, and their combination of size, type and record milk production makes them one of the most attractive offerings that the Advocate representative has seen for some time. Mayflower, a choice, red Flora-bred cow running in the R. O. P. gave almost 6,000 lbs. in five months. Her yearling daughter, as well as a 1917 heifer, is also being catalogued, and she is again safe in calf to Braemar Champion 10th. Lady Gay 2nd, a Pansy by Prince Koral, has somewhat of a plainer pedigree but may well be classed as a dual-purpose show cow, and has given as high as 60 lbs. of milk per day, under private test. Josephine, by Lord Roseberry (imp.) is much the same type and was bred in September to Braemar Champion 10th, while Gladys Ida, by one of the best sons of Butterfly King (imp.) and Lady Braemar by Braemar Champion are two young cows that would command attention in many of the stronger shows of the season just passed. Both cows have 1917 heifers in the sale, and the former is due again in January, while the latter will freshen in December. The Kilblean Beautys are represented by Kilblean Beauty 11th, a granddaughter on the dam's side of Kilblean Heather (imp.), and is got by the noted Butterfly King (imp.). She is also due in December. These are only a few rambling comments on several of the mature cows, but the younger heifers, including a number that are got by the good breeding bull Master Robin and are in calf to the straight Lavender-bred bull Lavender Lad, are, if space permitted, equally worthy. These with 10 young bulls offered will make up a real choice offering throughout. Plan to attend the sale and see the stock sold even if you do not buy.

Mike was home wounded from the front, and he was stopped by a friend one day as he was hobbling down the street on his newly-acquired crutches.

"And how did you get on in the big battle?" asked the friend, gazing with compassion on the gallant soldier's useless limb.

"Sure, Oi had the toime of me loife," replied Mike, decidedly.

"But you got very badly knocked about," retorted the other.

"Yes, Oi know that," cried Mike, enthusiastically; "but, begorra, it was the first fight I was ever in that the police didn't stop."