

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
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OUR GUARANTEE

We guarantee that every advertiser in this issue is reliable. We are able to do this because the advertising columns of Farm and Dairy are as carefully edited as the reading columns, and because to protect our readers, we turn away all unscrupulous advertisers. Should any advertiser herein deal dishonestly with you as one of our paid-in-advance subscribers, we will make good the cost of your loss, provided such transaction occurs within one month from date of its occurrence, and that we find the facts to be as stated. It is a condition of this contract that in writing to advertisers you state: "I saw your advertisement in Farm and Dairy."

Rogues shall not ply their trade at the expense of our subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns; but we shall not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honorable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts.

The Rural Publishing Company, Limited
PETERBORO, ONT.

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

Now for an Inventory

HAS the year 1915 been a good one for you? Just how much have your possessions increased in value in the past twelve months? You don't know? In that case there is no time like the present to turn over a new leaf and value the development of your business in a real businesslike manner. Here is a plan that may be adapted to any farm in the land.

Take an inventory the first of the year. Make a list of everything you own, including all money due you. These totalled up constitute your assets. In another column make a list of all your liabilities, such as implement bills not paid, notes coming due, mortgages that you may have on your property, and so forth. Deduct your liabilities from your assets, and the difference is the value of your estate. Draw up a similar inventory in another twelve months, and the difference between the balance now and then will show how much you have gained or lost in the year's operations. If the balance is a good one, it speaks well for your business ability as a farmer and stockman. If, on the other hand, your inventory shows that the business is standing still or going backward, you will realize your standing and be spurred on to greater and more intelligent endeavor.

Why He Left

"**Y**OU have written reams on rural depopulation," a young man remarked to an editor of Farm and Dairy recently. "I can tell you the whole story in one sentence—A boy will find the place where he is used best and stay there."

Our young friend did not tell the whole story,

but he did come very near to it. Economic factors alone are capable of explaining rural depopulation on a national scale as we have had it in Canada, but personal factors in individual cases are still stronger. It was the personal factor that had driven the young man to whom we refer to the town. He was brought up on one of the best hundred-acre farms in Western Ontario. Until he was twenty years old, he worked with his father, had his own driving horse, lots of pocket money, but nothing whatever to say in the management of the farm and no prospects so long as he stayed at home, of being anything better than a superior sort of hired man. In the course of time his father would die and he would step into his place. Such a prospect does not prove alluring to any energetic, ambitious young man, and our young friend is now in the city and is doing well. He would just as leave be in the country had conditions at home been more to his liking.

A Problem: Its Solution

THE problem that this father had to solve was quite as difficult as that of the son's. He is a man in the prime of life, a good farmer, and a successful manager. The idea of retiring, even to give his son full sway, is distasteful to him. He had started an older son on a farm of his own, and it was his dream that the younger boy should stay with him on the old farm. Every acre of it was dear to the elder man. But he failed to hold his son there, and the farm may drift out of the family altogether. This is the problem.

A few years ago another of Our Folks found himself face to face with a similar problem. He asked our advice and got it, such as it was. He, himself, gave hours of careful thought to the subject. Finally, a partnership agreement was drawn up between him and his son. A lawyer was consulted in the drawing of the papers and the conditions of the partnership were made binding and legal. The boy was given a portion of the capital and the management of stated branches of the farm business. The two consulted together on all important problems. A fixed dividend was paid on the capital, and in lieu of wages, they divided the profits evenly. This agreement has now been in force for some years, and both father and son are well satisfied. This, in many cases, may be the solution.

One Source of New Weeds

IN an address at the recent Guelph Winter Fair, J. R. Dymond, of the Seed Laboratories, Ottawa, drew attention to the danger of importing new weeds on to Eastern farms through the medium of bran, shorts and chop. The greatest danger lies in chop. On one hundred and forty-nine samples of chop feed selected all through the country and analyzed at Ottawa, thirty were found to contain wild oats, fifteen mild mustard, ten stinkweed and eight hare's ear mustard. One sample contained 1,648 weed seeds per pound. Another sample with fourteen kinds of weed seeds and six of them noxious, averaged 6,940 wild seeds per pound. Investigations conducted by the Department are more favorable to bran and shorts. It used to be the practice of some millers to mix their underground screenings with their bran and shorts, but they are now becoming more careful.

The danger of weed infection from these three feeding stuffs is still worth watching. How may the farmer protect himself? Bulletins issued from the Inland Revenue Branch at Ottawa, give the name of the dealer in each sample analyzed and the number of weed seeds found in his pro-

duct. This is one source of protection. Farmers may also send sample of feed they are contemplating buying to the Seed Laboratories, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, where they will be analyzed free of cost. We have enough weeds to fight now in the Eastern provinces without importing new ones through any medium whatsoever.

The Comradeship of the Farm

THE western sky was ablaze, but not with the sunset. A neighbor's buildings were going up in flames. He was a young man, just getting on his feet. His friends for a couple of miles around turned out and fought the fire as well as they could, but in spite of their best efforts, the barn, part of his crops and almost all of his machinery and stock were destroyed. The young fellow was down and out with discouragement. But when he declared that he could not re-build he did not count on his neighbors. They quietly passed the hat, purchased the materials for a new barn and then helped him to build it.

This instance of neighborly generosity occurred in a little valley in Nova Scotia. Such instances, however, are not uncommon among country people. They are practically unknown in towns and cities. And yet the average townsman considers farmers as a class close and tight fitting. When we get right to the bottom of things there is more genuine comradeship on the farm than anywhere else on earth.

The Written Word

SEVERAL dozen times a year Farm and Dairy receives letters from those of Our Folks who are having trouble with their hired help. In fifty per cent of these cases the difficulty would never have arisen had there been a proper written contract between the employer and his man, or men, as the case may be. Many other disputes that are brought to our legal department for solution are also traceable to a lack of the written word.

Verbal understandings are almost certain to lead to disagreements. We cannot impress too strongly on Our Folks the necessity and value of the written contract properly drawn up and signed. In all more important contracts, it is well to have a lawyer draw up the papers. His fee may be money well spent. Contracts of less importance may be drawn up by the contracting parties and properly witnessed. In an agreement between employer and employee, the signatures of the contracting parties alone should be sufficient. Back of all agreements, however, we should have the security of the written word.

Do Dairy Farmers Die Poor?

(Hoar's Dairyman.)

DAIRY farming, like all other farming, has its shady spots; but, after all, we can't recall that we ever knew a farmer who followed it steadily and intelligently who did not increase in wealth. This is especially true of the all-round dairy farmer who patronizes a creamery. That man's farm increases in fertility for he grows young stock and hogs and makes lots of manure. There is money coming in to him all the time for pork and young cattle. He is all the time selling off his older cows, culling out his herd.

Those creamery sections that make a point to keep registered sires and produce cows and heifers for sale are going ahead in the accumulation of substantial wealth much faster than any other class of farmers we know of. At the end of the year, or, we may better say, two or three years, they can show more clean money than those who depend on the milk product alone for their money.