

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
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PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

The Toll of War

THE ready sympathy of the farmers of Ontario goes out to Hon. Jas. Duff in the death of his son, G. Clarke Duff, B.S.A., on the field of honor. Those whose privilege it was to be personally acquainted with Pte. Duff knew him as a bright, clean young man, a type of the best that rural Ontario produces. The proof of his devotion to the cause for which he gave his life is found in the fact that instead of taking out a commission, which he could readily have secured, he preferred to go to the front as a private, believing that in that capacity he could render a more needed service. A letter to his father, which appeared in the press some months ago, was a touching appeal to the young manhood of Ontario to enlist in the cause of freedom, and revealing his complete abandonment to the work of curbing the aggressions of German militarism. His untimely death is a reminder of the drain that the war is making on the best blood of the country, but the war can only prosper by the willingness of young men like G. Clarke Duff to make the supreme sacrifice.

The Heart of the Problem

PEOPLE wonder why, in an agricultural country like Canada, population increases in cities so much more rapidly than in country districts. One principal reason is the following: Suppose you went to buy your ticket you found all the reserved seats sold. You would have to join the crowd in the bleachers or the "railbirds" along the fence.

When immigrants come to Canada they find our best farm land occupied. The higher the price of that land the more difficult it is for them to obtain any. Therefore they drain into the cities and become renters until they can find something to do; and as more continue to come, city land values and city rentals rise higher and higher.

Fortunes are thereby made for the few at the expense of the many. In time the poorer immigrants are crowded into the shums and into "shacktowns" on the outskirts of our cities.

Thus we are beginning to face in Canada a "land problem" of exactly the same character as confronts the people of the Old Land. That is why we are hearing more and more, and why we are sure to hear still more, about placing taxes on land values. The contention is that a tax on land values will force idle land into use, and thus create more opportunities for people without land to find employment. It is the heart of a great problem. Keep your eye on it.

The Packers Are Prosperous

THE high prices that abator men are paying for hogs are evidently making no inroads on their profits. The Armour firm of Chicago is paying this year a stock dividend of 400 per cent, while Swift & Company are reported to be distributing some \$25,000,000 in cash dividends. Canadian packers are doubtless making profits that are in keeping with those of the big Chicago firms. If they are not it is due to less efficient methods of handling their business for there is no appreciable difference between the prices paid and received by them and those paid and received by United States packers.

If the consumer, when paying thirty cents a pound for his breakfast bacon, were able to trace the distribution of his money to the various interests connected with bacon production he would probably find that bigger profits are made in manufacturing, bacon than in growing it. But the case is not easily analyzed. What happens to the hog from the time he leaves the weigh scales on the station platform until he reaches the counter scales of the city butcher, and how the profits in handling him in the meantime are distributed, is a profound mystery to producer and consumer alike. There is no mystery, however, about what the farmer receives for supplying the raw product. Prices are quoted daily in the market reports, and it is seen that he is getting twice as much as he did a few years ago, the conclusion seems to be reached that he is the only one being benefited by present prices. This applies with equal force to other food products that he supplies. A closer investigation would show that he is not getting rich, even with present high price levels. The waste of an inefficient system of distribution, and the undue profits of middlemen, have more to do with the high cost of living than the initial increases in the price of food products.

The High Cut Plow

WHETHER the work of the high cut plow should receive the recognition that it does at plowing matches is a matter on which there is considerable difference of opinion among those who are interested in good plowing and good agriculture. Some hold that the high cut plow has won the contest, and that since the high cut plow has won the matches should be to encourage good plowing on such farms the ordinary plow that every farmer uses should be the only one recognized. Others claim that good plowing being an art, it should be encouraged as an art, and that since it can only be expressed in its highest form by means of the high cut plow this implement should be officially recognized at plowing matches. They further claim that though the man who excels in handling the high cut plow may not use it in his fields, except to get his hands in for the competition, his pride in good plowmanship ensures that he will not do slovenly work with the ordinary plow. This, they say, removes any objection that can be raised to the recognition of the highest form of the plowman's art. There the matter stands. The interest

taken at all matches in the work of the high cut plow indicates that it will be many months before its use will be discontinued.

A Clean Bill of Health

BRITISH COLUMBIA claims to have practically eliminated tuberculosis from her dairy herds. This has been accomplished by carefully weeding out affected animals and confining importations to those that have been tested. Throughout the prairie provinces there are many herds that are entirely free from this dreaded plague and their owners are exercising the greatest care in buying to secure only animals with good health certificates. So insistent are they in demanding that additions to their herds be tuberculosis free that some of them have declared that they would not take the best animal in infected districts as a gift for fear of introducing the disease into their herds.

With the rapid advances in dairying that are being made in the West a rapid increase in the demand for pure-bred dairy stock is sure to develop. That demand should largely be met by purchases in eastern Canada, and especially in Ontario. If full advantage is to be taken of this widening market it must be by meeting the requirements for healthy animals. Though for this and other reasons careful breeders are paying the strictest attention to this matter and are in a position to furnish tuberculosis tested animals, there is need of emphasizing the importance of still more effective effort in stamping out the disease. Investigations have shown that the isolation of tuberculous animals, the removal of calves at birth, and the pasteurization of milk before feeding it to the young stock soon results in building up a tuberculosis free herd. Only by such thorough-going measures of prevention by every breeder can the eastern provinces hope to achieve the results that have been secured in British Columbia and to meet the demand for healthy dairy stock. The complete elimination of tuberculosis from his herd should be the aim of every dairy farmer.

The Cheese Situation

THE high levels reached by cheese on country boards, calls forth the following comment from The Trade Bulletin of Montreal, which is in closest touch with the export cheese situation:

"When exporters will pay 22 1/4 cents a pound for cheese in the country, bringing the lay 'down price here to 22 1/4 and 22 1/2 cents a pound, 'depend upon it that figure was not paid for 'speculation. The cheese was bought to fill 'bona fide orders. It now seems probable that 'all the cheese Canada can produce will be 'wanted for the British market, at pretty high 'prices. . . . The reason for the continued high 'value of the values is that Britain has a greater 'number of men at the front than ever; that 'these millions are steadily increasing, as they 'will go to the end of the war; and that cheese 'has been proved to be one of the most 'nutritious of foods, and at the same time most 'convenient for army purposes. Whilst this 'extra demand from the government continues, 'much lower prices can scarcely be expected."

There has been some feeling that the high prices paid for cheese indicated a tendency toward speculation. It is becoming evident, however, that there is probably as little of the element of speculation in cheese prices as in the prices of any other food product. Present values are based on the value of cheese as a food, as compared with competing foods. The current market quotations for cheese are not relatively higher than those of other food stuffs.

Pleanty A Big Trade

THE pot is in the farmers' hands in Ontario. Taking deep root greatly increased being done, the once being coming office and the 'that in now encourage matters. This interesting feature the moment.

As previously mentioned in Toronto Farmers' Commission business from the ed to try and Clubs for itself, clubs soliciting offering low price, in an effort leave off trading Farmers' Company 'is trying to win the clubs to its oblige they have of fee a commission, carload quantities ed from them, and eral offer of one per tes for business men pretty clever move.

The secretaries men's clubs. It is try to bite at any ba through some may old. They know th the farmers' move stand by the Centra through thick and thin, this secretaries of their local clubs secret commissions clubs do business possibility that the selves open to acti the club. Not only bers of the clubs u to have their clubs Central Company, they pared, if necessary for it. Secretaries v from firms, trying to business should n to the Central Com Central may be ke what their oppositi port of this charac success of the far. They should, alth the Central if necessary prices before even the orders elsewhere.

Another development that the Central Co doing business w around and now thr cedimen against it. The Company are th over the situation. The lawyer, Mr. W the matter has been interesting point is a stree of the effort, made to disrupt and in mers, whenever they and work together f benefit. All these i left before the represent farmers' clubs at the meeting of the Farme the meantime the clu by the Central Comp Progress of the

A meeting of the United Farmers' Com last Friday and Satur who important busi ness. Those represent ed. J. Pritchard, Gen. Preston, W. E. E. Drury, Barrie; Brantford; Geo. C. Manover W. C. Currie J. Morrison. There w Mr. T. A. Crear, p Grain Growers' Grain shes; President R. H. United Farmers' of