

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

A STATESMANLIKE UTTERANCE

"On the other hand, the vast accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few men is not only a source of 'possibility' that great national resources may pass into the hands of an oligarchy of wealth, and may be used for the oppression rather than for the benefit of the people. We in Canada are not insensible to this danger, and in this, as in other respects, we hope to profit by your experience."—Hon. R. L. Borden, before Canadian Club, New York City.

It is encouraging to hear such a statement by the premier of Canada. One of the chief reasons for the high prices in Canada including the depopulation of rural districts, is due to the fact that most of our natural resources, such as our timber limits, coal and iron mines and water powers, have passed under the control of private individuals and companies, who because these are necessities are able to charge the common people of the country excessive prices for their use. This is one of the explanations

of the fact that during the past twenty-five years millionaires have been springing up all over Canada, while the lot of the common people has not improved.

Premier Borden will have his hands full defending our remaining natural resources from those who desire to gain their control. An intelligent public interest in this question will do much to strengthen his hands. It is a matter that is of great importance to the farmers of Canada, but unfortunately many of us do not seem to realize how important it is, nor how much the fact that we have not got a larger balance in the bank at the end of each year is due to our neglect of these matters in the past.

SOIL FERTILITY AND LEGUMES

It is a mistake to believe that the growing of such leguminous crops as alfalfa, clover, peas, and so forth will increase soil fertility. We have heard so much of the beneficial effects of these legumes on the soil that many of us are coming to believe that all that is necessary to ensure continued productivity is to have one of these crops on the land every three or four years.

The growth of alfalfa or clover does not increase the fertility of the soil, but depletes it very seriously, and it continued for many years will leave us an unproductive soil. The idea that legumes enrich the soil probably comes from the fact that in many instances in our experience our soils have produced larger crops following leguminous than following non-leguminous crops. This is due to the fact that alfalfa (and other legumes to a less extent) extends its roots many feet into the ground, utilizing fertility not reached by the roots of other plants. Alfalfa also leaves the soil in good physical condition. But this deep rooting property of alfalfa leads in time to even greater impoverishment of the soil than through other crops, as the subsoil as well as the surface soil is being robbed of its fertility.

The enriching of the soil through the growth of legumes does not come so much from the actual growing of legumes on the soil as in the feeding of them to farm stock and returning the manure to the soil. The nitrogen that the legumes extract from the air is almost all found in the stems and leaves of the hay. So with the mineral ingredients that are extracted from the subsoil. These are returned to the soil as manure, and its productivity is thus increased.

Let us grow leguminous crops as extensively as our rotation will permit, but let us also return the fertility thus obtained to the soil by feeding the legumes on the farm.

England and Germany were on the verge of war. And yet the common people in the Empire, the men who would have to pay the bills and spill the blood had such a war been declared, had nothing whatever to say about it. Is there not something wrong with a system of administration that makes such a condition of affairs possible?

CHANGE INSPECTION METHODS

A matter of great importance to the fruit growing industry in Canada and one that should be taken up at the coming Dominion Conference of fruit growers is the matter of a change in the Act relating to the official inspection of apples packed for sale. This matter was thoroughly discussed at the annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association held in Toronto recently, and they unanimously passed a resolution requesting that sufficient inspectors be appointed to make it possible to inspect fruit at point of shipment.

Our present system of inspection is good so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. It practically leaves the shipper at the mercy of unscrupulous commission men. Were the apples inspected by a Government official before they had left the hands of the grower this difficulty would be overcome. The fruit growers do not ask that the Government stand the full expense of this inspection. They are willing to meet at least a part of the expense themselves.

Some of the objections raised to inspection at points of shipment are that it would require a great number of inspectors, that where several growers are contributing to a carload, proper inspection would not be possible, and the expense would be so great that growers themselves would soon begin to object. The question, however, is too important a one to let stand as it is at present, and a thorough discussion of the subject at the coming conference would bring to light much information that would be of value in the formulating of legislation later on.

Further evidence of the increasing popularity of dairy cattle over beef cattle is to be found in a recent editorial in the Breeders' Gazette.

An extract from that editorial reads as follows: "All doubts about a beef cattle shortage have been dispelled by the census report that the decrease in numbers in the last ten years has been 6.8 per cent. Horses, mules, and dairy cattle increased to a much greater extent than any class of meat producing animal. We cannot escape the conclusion that the production of meat producing animals, particularly beef cattle, has not kept pace with other branches of the live stock industry." The same condition prevails in Canada. The dairy cow is a more efficient producer of human food than is the beef animal. Therefore she must increase while the latter must decrease.

In a recent issue of Farm and Dairy we claimed that the Canadian parliament, in that there are in it 76 lawyers and only 36 farmers in farmer members, is not truly representative of the Canadian people.

A contemporary journal ridicules the idea of farmers in parliament, claiming that the House of Commons is a place for lawyers and that the presence of lawyers there in large numbers is necessary for the proper formulating of the law. A few lawyers in the Commons may be a convenience

for the proper phrasing of parliamentary acts, but, further than that, their usefulness is no greater than that of any other class of men. Their ideas on economics are not sounder, their standards of honesty are no higher. A comparatively few lawyers can perform the function for which their training fits them just as well as the large number that are now there. The Dominion House should truly represent the interests of all classes in Canada, and that it cannot do when the largest class of all, the farmers, are so poorly represented.

In reality there is no such thing as a laborer. To do the work of the world we have only men and women.

The Labor

Question

We have become so accustomed to the speaking of the "hired help" class that some of us have almost lost sight of the fact that "A man's a man for a' that," and that when dealing with our hired help we are dealing with men and women like unto ourselves. Their services in value to us increase in exact ratio as we eliminate the feeling of servitude. A smile, a strong clasp of the hand, and open and fair dealing between employer and hiring will straighten out many of the kinks in our labor question.

The Nature of Our Laws

(The Grain Growers' Guide)

Every intelligent man in Canada knows that the chief legislation on our statute books is the result of the least of the people. The door of opportunity is partially closed to 95 per cent. of the population by laws enacted for the few. We have recognized the fact that the government, so-called. Therefore these laws prevail by the consent of the people. These laws are skillfully designed to make an unequal distribution of wealth. They operate to the end that the greater part of the wealth created by all the people is gathered in by a few. This is no mere theory. It is an indisputable fact. Every man knows it. But, by keeping the people divided against themselves by appeals to prejudice or passion, Special Privilege remains continually in the ascendant.

Suppose that a masked highwayman stood at the door of every store in the land, at every railway depot, at every market place, in every quarter section of land, and every town lot. Suppose that at every point of sale to every man, woman and child to drop into his hat in cash the equal of 25 per cent. of their purchases or sales. How long would it be tolerated? But the highwayman there just the same. He is unseen, but his toll is levied with unerring precision. Every man pays the tribute, no matter whether he be a Conservative or a Liberal. And it is just because so many men are tied to party that this relentless highwayman is allowed to stalk through the land. If just for five years all men were free from party and they ever belonged to a political party and would remember only that they were being plundered, the scene would change.

No matter under which of the old political parties a man allows himself to be fooled, it costs him just as much. Every great reform has originated with the people and it will always be so. There is no use to look to our government for relief until popular opinion is strong enough to compel action. Politicians always take care that they have something from the West, and hear it plainly.

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