

Farm and Dairy

AND

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper of Canada's Dairy Farmers"
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 for postage.
ADVERTISING RATES, 12 cents a line flat, \$1.65 an inch an insertion. One page 48 inches, one column 12 inches. Copy received up to Saturday preceding the following week's issue.
Peterboro Office—Huntar and Water Sts.
Toronto Office—37 McCall Street.

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

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Sworn detailed statements of circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by counties and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

Munition Workers Released

ONE munition plant in Toronto has released twelve hundred of its workmen. Other factories have already laid off, or are planning to lay off, their workers in like proportion. Recently in Toronto we saw 500 men, ex-munition workers, lined up at an employment office seeking for similar work in other establishments.

The reason for discontinuance of activities in munition plants is not far to seek. Shell contracts are not being renewed. It is rumored in some quarters that the British Government is finding difficulty in financing its foreign contracts. A more reasonable explanation, however, is that Great Britain now has immense supplies of munitions on hand and her own factories are turning out sufficient for current needs, the risk of Atlantic transportation being thereby avoided. That a renewal of contracts is not expected in the near future, is proven by the action of the Munitions Board in advising ex-munition workers to find employment in other industries.

The discontinuance of shell contracts will be far reaching in its effects. Wages in all urban industries will decline. Rents will fall in proportion and business will contract. Unemployment may become a serious problem. It is doubtful, however, if labor, which has been enjoying high wages ever since the commencement of the war, will be content to seek other productive work, and, probably, obliging governments, provincial and federal, will endeavor to meet the demands of labor by instituting unproductive public enterprises, such, for instance, as the construction of the good roads contemplated in the Good Roads Scheme of Ontario. There is abundance of work to be done on the land and in the mines and forests and this is work that would

add to the wealth of the country and help solve our pressing financial problems. This work, however, does not appeal apparently to either ex-munition workers or returned soldiers, and if their demands have precedence, the burden of taxation, already almost unbearable, will increase and its main weight will have to be borne by the farmers. Already it would seem that the hard times predicted for the after the war period, are beginning while the war is still with us. A policy of conservation of resources rather than extensive expansion, would seem to be a wise one for men in all lines of business, rural and urban.

Protecting the Public

WE would like to believe that all the forces of the nation were so enthused with patriotic zeal that graft and plunder would be forgotten for true time being, but the sordid fact is that only the plain people have had their attention diverted by the war. Men of finance are taking advantage of this diversion to dig still deeper into the public exchequer for their own benefit. It would seem, however, that in the C. N. R. deal as now proposed, the Toronto group of financiers who would be the chief beneficiaries of government purchase of the common stock, have been a little too greedy and people are awakening to the menace right here at home. The following resolution recently approved by the Single Tax League of Ontario, expresses, we believe, the sentiment of the Canadian people in this connection. The resolution reads:

"We, the undersigned, most emphatically protest against the purchase of a bankrupt railway at the price of a solvent concern or any payment being made for the common stock of the company; and insist that if the Government, which is now a creditor to the extent of many millions of dollars, find it necessary to make further advances in order to protect its claims against the company, it shall safeguard the interest of the general public, whose agents it is, by taking over the assets of the Company without further payment to the promoters, who, as is well known, have already made enormous profits out of the promoting and building of the Road with public money and have amply recouped themselves for any investment of their own capital and time."

Other non-partisan organizations have been expressing similar sentiments. The easiest and most sensible way of solving the problem would be to allow the Canadian Northern Railway to pass into the hands of a receiver as, in the natural course of events, it would do, and then for the Government, as the principal creditor, to take over the line at the valuation established by the Receiver. Such a course would not appeal to the millionaires who have been buying C. N. R. stock at bargain-counter rates, expecting it to advance to par value on Government purchase, but it would ensure that the people of Canada would get the road for what it is worth and Government ownership and operation of the system would have a chance for financial success. Should the present bill pass the House in all its stages it deserves severe amendment in the Senate.

Wheat and Alfalfa?

IT is officially stated that the acreage in winter wheat will be greatly extended in 1917 and 1918, with tractors playing an important part in the increase. This is as it should be. The world needs food and bread is still the staff of life. Along with the extended area of wheat, however, plans should be made to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to get the land re-seeded to alfalfa and red clover. Wheat is an ideal nurse crop for either. It stools lightly, usually stands up well and is off early in the season. In case the clover seedling is not needed for hay it is a cheap source of fertility when plowed under. Many of our best dairy farmers tell us that they would never think of seeding

any grain crops without at the same time sowing clover, just because of its fertilizing value.

In this connection we will mention one method of seeding to alfalfa that we would like to see tried out in Ontario. A few years ago a correspondent in Grey County, seeded alfalfa along with the fall wheat. The alfalfa made an excellent growth that fall and a perfect stand was secured for the following year. Where this plan is followed the land needs to be worked unusually well, the seeding done early in September with, of course, good seed of the best varieties and inoculated. The land, too, must be well drained and not sour. We would not advise this method of seeding alfalfa on a large scale. One of the editors of Farm and Dairy is sowing four acres in this manner and would like to have others of our Folks to cooperate in giving the method a good trial. Next fall we would like to receive reports on results. Will you investigate along with us?

Production and Type

THE ideal dairy cow is the one that, while a great producer, is also a model in type. To this most breeders will agree. In actual breeding operations, however, difficulties arise. It is always easier to breed with one end in view than two. It is just exactly twice as difficult to breed dairy cattle that are great producers and models in type as to breed for great producers only, or show ring winners only, and unless the breeder is a model of constancy and perseverance, he will soon be diverting his efforts to one end or the other and losing sight of the great ideal. That it is possible, however, to achieve both characteristics in the same animal and that many breeders are meeting with success in developing cows, combining producing ability and good type was amply demonstrated at the Canadian National Exhibition this year.

Take Holsteins, for instance. We well remember the classes of a few years ago in which there were as many different types as there were individual entries, and in which drooping tails, heads and other undesirable characteristics were everywhere in evidence. This year the classes were wonderfully uniform. Most of the entries conformed to the requirements of good dairy and breed type. Also the official records of many of the milking animals on exhibition were much higher than those held by the homely producers of a decade ago. This improvement is due in part to more skillful development, but the main improvement must be attributed to the careful selection of sires that combine in themselves and in their ancestors the most desirable characteristics. In the Jersey and Ayrshire classes, too, good type was combined with milky appearance and there were not a few excellent semi-official records held by the winners. Breeders who have lost sight of the dual object of good dairy breeding, should find much to bring them back to the higher ideal in the dairy classes at the Canadian National this year.

The man behind the plow is destined to play the leading role in restoring the country's fortunes as peace is restored. Good prices for farm products now will enable the farmer to play his part in national reconstruction more efficiently.

Feed is high in price, but it is not so high that young stock, from the growing pullet to the colt just ready to wean, should be restricted in their rations.

Farm and Dairy was in error recently in stating that bounties paid on the manufacture of iron steel, lead, manilla fibre and crude petroleum totalled \$21,669,965 in one year. This is the total amount paid to date in subsidies to these industries.