

A Reply to Mr. McLennan

Government assistance in the paying of farm help was the solution of the labor problem advocated by Mr. J. McLennan, Glenora Co., Ont., in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy. Briefly Mr. McLennan suggested that the farmer retain his help for eight months in the year, and that the government supply their wages for the other four months. The publication of this letter brought a reply from Mr. G. G. Hardin a York county subscriber, whose letter follows:

"I would like to improve on Mr. McLennan's suggestion. I cannot see why the farm help should be scarce with the number of unemployed there are in the country at present. Neither can I see why the farmer should pay an eight months' wage and the government four. I myself would rather work on the more cooperative basis of master and man. If a married man is employed he must have a cottage to live in. I say give the man a fair living wage and he ought to be able, after working steadily for eight months, to live the other four without government assistance. If he is a good man and worth keeping, a farmer could afford to let him live rent free and also allow him a fair-sized garden in which he could grow vegetables and potatoes for his winter's use.

Liberal Treatment

"I would suggest that instead of paying extra wages for the harvest as some farmers do, that it be arranged to keep an extra pig for the man. On most farms there is an orchard. Why not let the man have just as many apples for winter as he would require for his own use. If there is plenty of wood on the farm why not supply the man? When we consider how little these extras would cost, would not the expense be more than counterbalanced when the winter was over by finding the man right on hand and ready for work? We would not need to wonder where help was coming from or of what kind it would be. This plan would enable the farmer to build up a larger herd and cultivate more land, and soon there would be enough work feeding stock and other extras to keep the men wholly employed without asking the government for assistance. I am one of the unemployed who would readily give such a plan a trial."

Expense vs. Savings

Chas. F. Whitley, in Charge of Dairy Record, Ottawa.

Here and there one finds a dairyman who hesitates about taking up cost testing because of the initial expense of about \$3 for the necessary outfit of scales and bottles.

This would seem to be an extreme case of "Penny wise and pound foolish." So many examples are constantly cropping up of distinct saving through the small expenditure that they should be noted for the encouragement of those who still hesitate.

Cows have been bought at auction time after time, discarded by owners who were evidently absolutely ignorant of their high value as good producers. After one or two months' test the new owners have often refused \$50 and \$100 on their bargains. That is a quick return on the cost testing outfit expenditure. In fact, amongst such discards at auction were picked up one or two world's champions worth thousands of dollars. This vital fact should not be overlooked: Hundreds of poor cows are being kept at huge expense of whose low value the owners are also probably ignorant. Yet a \$3 outfit would help to discover them soon, turning the present loss into distinct savings. Then, thanks to that small expense, many dairymen are now making an additional income of \$300 from 30 cows, because the poorest have been discarded. It will abundantly pay every dairyman to keep dairy records.



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