

Increased Land Values in B. C.

W. J. L. Hamilton, Nanaimo Dist., B.C.

A committee of enquiry has recently been appointed by the City Council of Victoria, B.C., to enquire into the increased cost of living in this province. Farm products are dearer than it used to be, and lately milk has been raised two and a half cents a

quart in that city, and that, too, in spite of a great increase in population and the consequently increased consumption of milk.

One great cause of the high price of dairy products is the high price of labor, about \$3 a day on the average, so that it is difficult to obtain farm hands.

LAND WORTH OVER \$600 AN ACRE
Another very important cause is the phenomenal rise in land values. Many of the farms around Victoria are now being built over, having been sold at fancy prices. Land values for many miles out have been greatly enhanced, so that farming, which was profitable on land worth \$200 an acre, becomes a losing proposition when that land is worth anywhere from \$600 to several thousand dollars an acre; especially when this money, invested in safe mortgages, will bring interest at the rate of eight per cent.

This increase in land values has largely affected the dairy interests. Soiling has been the exception rather than the rule, and a large acreage has, therefore, been necessary for the maintenance of a dairy herd. With changed conditions and more intensive methods of dairying are being employed, but by no means universally, so it has been incumbent on the dairymen to raise the price or see their profits seriously diminish. Even with the best methods speculation has made dairying precarious on the land nearest the city.

Truly the sudden awakening into phenomenal expansion of a province creates problems which only a few of the forehand can utilise to their advantage.

Why I Believe in Sheep Raising

John A. Turner, Calgary, Alta.

Sheep are easily managed and are the most profitable animal any farmer can keep. One reason why they are the most profitable is that they yield two profits a year,—wool and mutton.

There is a breed of sheep that will do well in every location. Where one breed would starve, another will thrive. We must not confine ourselves to the breed we like best, but adapt ourselves to the conditions in which we live and select animals best suited to bring us success and profit.

We do not neglect to secure the best ram that can be bought. He will more than pay for himself in one season's crop of lambs.

Sheep help to keep the farm clean. They are fond of many weeds that are destructive to crops, and will even eat them in preference to good, green grass. They will clean fence corners and keep down weeds in the summer fallow.

A pure bred flock will pay much larger returns than a grade flock. At least that is my experience. I had 1,000 grade ewes from 1886 to 1888 and did very well with them. As the range became settled, I went into a pure bred flock on a good foundation, and have made for several years over \$1,000 annually from the flock, selling the lambs as rams and a few of the later ones as yearlings, and keeping the flock down to about 50 breeding ewes.

My advice to beginners in sheep breeding is to start in a small way. It is a business one learns by experience. In raising stock of any kind, one makes his own luck.

I cannot emphasize too much the necessity of good care. That is the only way profits will be realized. If one is interested in his business it becomes a pleasure and, as well, it is interesting.

It costs \$33 to \$40 a year to feed a cow a maintenance ration. The feed that we give her over and above this amount is the feed that returns the profit to us.—R. W. Ward, Peterboro Co., Ont.

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A great number of people in recent weeks have been wondering where we got the slogan that forms the tail-piece of the advertising talks each week.

We promised some weeks ago to tell you, so shall proceed with the story herewith.

It had its beginning at least four years ago when THE RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY was organized to take over the business of two farm papers that were formed into one, which has since come to be known as FARM AND DAIRY.

At that time we laid down the policy that this paper should be one of CHARACTER.

It would have to be of THE HIGHEST CHARACTER—as regards its articles and news, as regards its advertisements, and as regards all its dealings with the public.

We planned, that NO MATTER WHAT IT COST US in immediate loss of revenue, NO FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS, no advertisements of Patent Medicines, Electric Belts, Liquor NOR QUESTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS of any nature would ever be permitted to gain entrance to its columns.

We formulated a definite editorial policy to make this paper of the greatest possible help and interest to the average farmer; to fight his battles, through thick and thin; to stand ever for what we believed to be the right in spite of opposition from whatsoever quarter.

The paper must be A FARMER-TO-FARMER—not a swivel arm-chair theorist to farmer PROPOSITION. It must lead the way and be aggressive on the great farmers' questions of the day.

Such a policy we have followed and developed. RESULTS HAVE BEEN MOST GRATIFYING. Our people have appreciated our efforts. They have stood by us. THEY HAVE CAUSED THIS PAPER TO GROW WONDERFULLY during the past three years.

While seated at dinner one day over a year ago in the Walker House, Toronto, one of our editors chatting with an editor of another farm paper was thus addressed:—"I don't know what there is in your little paper, but SOMEHOW THE FARMERS ALL SWEAR BY YOU."

And so this is the history of how this paper, FARM AND DAIRY, came to be—

"A Paper Farmers Swear By"