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The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land. -Lord Chatham

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TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER 16, 1916.

The Problems of Agriculture as Seen by the Farmers H. BRONSON COWAN, Editor-in-Chief,

The Wrong In Existing Methods

HIS, then, brings me to my third point, What is wrong with the methods we have been following in the past to improve agricultural conditions? That something is wrong is manifest

The answer is that our efforts have not struck at the root of the difficulty. At the very time we vote millions of dollars to aid agriculture we are apt to pass laws that enable other classes in the community to heap on the farmer vastly greater burdens than we remove. What we give with one hand we take away with the other. There are two ways in particular in which this

In the first place our tarin laws are absolutery unjust to the farmer. They take from the farmer, through the combines and trusts which they foster, and hand over to the manufacturing industries probably \$20.00 to every \$1.00 we give the farmer in the form of legislative grants. Only recently a well-informed writer in the Farmer's Advocate estimated that the tax which the protected interests are able to collect from the public amounts to \$270,000,000,00 annually. This, with the customs duties added, he estimated to equal a tax of \$350.00 a year on every rural family in Canada. His estimates have not been seriously questioned. If this is even only approximately correct need we wonder that farming is not prospering as "it should, or that scores of thousands of our farmers are leaving their farms " in despair?

A second mistake we have made has been that we have not understood the effect of increasing land values in our rural communities as well as in our urban centres. Every time we succeed in doing something to increase the prosperity of the farmer land values in country and cities, but particularly the cities, leap up by millions of dollars, and thus through increased rents and the greater cost of doing business deprive the farmer of the very benefit it was intended he should gain. These increasing land values, which we have been accustomed to hail as a sign of increased rural and national prosperity have, in fact, been a principal cause of rural decay. At this point, If we desire to see things as they are, we must turn our customary method of looking at things completely inside out.

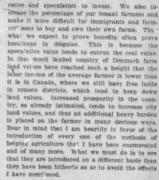
Increasing land values, if not offset by a corresponding tax on land values, in the long run prove a handicap rather than a benefit to agriculture. There is only one way in which a farmer can benefit from them, he must sell or mortgage his land. If he sells he must pay as much elsewhere to obtain equally as good land, so he is no better off. On the other hand, increased land

This is the second and last instalment of an attick which is an amplification of an address delivered in London, Ont., Oct. 11, before the members of its Liberal Club Federation of Ontario whom Mr. Owns addressed by special request of the officers on its subject of agriculture. The first instalment appeared in our issues of Oct. 50.

Farm and Dairy. values make it difficult for the agricultural immi-

grant to buy land. He thus moves on and settles in our cities, thereby increasing the problem of the unemployed. In the same way they make it difficult for our farmers' sons to acquire land, and, therefore, many of them also drift off into other occupations. In the days of our early settlers good farms could be secured in Ontario for little or nothing. To-day a good farm cannot be obtained for less than \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Right here is where we have made one of our greatest mistakes. Every time we strive to benefit agriculture by organizing co-operative societies, or by building better roads, introducing farm telephones, free rural mail deliveries, hydro-electric power and radial railways we increase land values, and just as fast as we increase land values we encourage farmers to sell out and





Dairy Education

AIRY education is not a goal, it is not the end sought; it is a tool to be used in attaining the desired end, and just as some can not drive a nail without marring the wood or even saw a board straight,

so some may never profit by education.

Education is training the eye to see, to read, and the mind to think and draw right conclusions from conflicting data and evidence. But education is not only training; it is profiting by the experience of others; It is avoiding the experimental period, the cutting and trying and proving a truth that has already been proved and demonstrated many times over. It accepts that which is

The ancients knew that to keep milk a it must be cold. Science has shown us why, and the very beginner in the business of dairying can learn what temperature is necessary to secure the keeping of milk; he can learn whether or not he has that tem-perature and know that given that temperature, the milk received in the right condition will keep. Education then is but the tool that enables him to secure this information and profit by it immediately. The young man who expects to rise to a peetton of re-spensibility and individual independence, who hopes to have his own business in any branch of the great dairy industry, can af-ford to add to his natural endowment and practical experience the help that come, with systematic training.

A Change in Policy Needed.

If, then, these are the facts, what are we going to do about them? In the first place our political parties should recognize them as facts and act accordingly. As yet they have not done so. Both political parties are stiff shouting for more experimental farms, cheaper money for farmers, and other similar innovations, the ultimate effect of which, under existing conditions, will be to aggravate, not benefit the situation. The political party which first recognizes these conditions and acts accordingly will confer untold benefit upon our country.

The Remedies.

What, then, is the remedy for these conditions? The farmers themselves believe that they have found it. Through their now increasingly powerful organizations they are making their platform known.

In the first place they say we must make farming more profitable, not by handing out money grants and appointing more government officials, but by removing the burdens under which agriculture is now laboring.

A long step in this direction will be taken when we remove the tariff burden off the main articles. at least which the farmer buys. In this way \$150 to \$300 a year could be added to the labor returns of every farmer's family in Canada. farmers themselves are in favor of ultimate free trade between Canada and the Motherland.

A second step which the farmers urge is the taxation of land values, both urban and rural, not only as a means of raising municipal revenue, but for provincial and Dominion purposes as well. Such action would have an immediate beneficial effect. It would squeeze out the speculative value and reduce existing values to real values. It would bring onto the market hundreds of thou-