

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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country forever by permitting this deceptive substitute to come in to tide us over six months until grass comes again for our cows? Can this country afford to incur all the trouble which the manufacture and sale of colored oleo would cause? Would it be a good thing for Canada, producers and consumers? We answer "No" to all three. Let us discuss them.

Some doubt whether the importation of oleo would lower the price of good Canadian butter very much. If it did there would be fewer cows kept or less butter produced because the producer is not getting too big a price for butter in comparison with the price of other dairy products, and considering the cost of production. He would either turn his milk into other channels or would sell his cows.

If he eventually had to get rid of the cows this would mean smaller production and consequently higher prices for some other necessities. No country can be depleted of live stock and maintain a high standard of production over a long period of years. The three Western Provinces must be considered. They are just turning from exclusive wheat growing to mixed farming. Butter making and general dairying are going forward in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The effect of oleo coming in would undoubtedly check the dairy industry in these Provinces. Farmers would hesitate before making radical changes from wheat to cows with a prospect of oleo going into the settler's shack and into every restaurant in the West. Cows mean fertility and bigger crops to the West. The fertile prairie is not inexhaustible. The good dairy cow is the most economical producer of human food on the farm, and she feeds the land as well. If she goes, the demand for beef will not be increased so Canada will lose just that much fertility, and loss of fertility means higher-priced food for the consumer.

Regulating the sale of the substitute has caused more trouble in the United States than the regulation of sale of any other one product. All countries permitting its manufacture or sale have had to legislate to control coloring. Time and again it has been sold as dairy butter to the detriment of dairying and the loss of the consumer. It leaves so many loopholes for deception that to properly regulate its manufacture and sale would be work for an army of officials whose

salaries and expenses would eat up the revenue which might accrue through its limited use. The people would pay an indirect tax, but no less direct because labelled "indirect." Once it got a foothold the powers behind it would see to it that it always remained.

There are arguments for it. It is cheaper now. It is said to be wholesome. But what consumer would take it in preference to good butter if he knew it? Who wants to pay ten cents or more for coloring in every pound? Who would like to run the risk of higher prices for other necessities if the dairy industry was hard hit? If it doesn't bring down the price of butter, what good is it? If it does, it will eventually injure both producer and consumer. The manufacture and sale of butter, an honest business, is controlled so that the consumer is assured of a good product. The manufacture of oleo cannot be controlled for there are too many chances for the deceiver. For six months' cheaper fat to cover our bread can we afford to wage a hundred years' war on oleo? Could our Government make and enforce a set of laws to prohibit coloring, sale in packages resembling butter, sale in stores where butter is sold, use in hotels, restaurants etc., where butter is sold, sale as butter, etc? Some doubt it. If oleo should be admitted to this country under a war measure, could we ever get rid of it?

These are some questions for those who would permit its free importation. Think them over.

The Merry Miller.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

It is really too bad that the high cost of living is causing the public to regard the miller with a bilious eye, for the merry miller is one of the most cheery figures in literature. Poets have celebrated him in some of the finest songs in the language, and at concerts and tea-meetings millers have been seen blushing happily while their praises were being sung. But during the past few years the attitude of the people has changed. If the miller attends a public meeting he is likely to hear "curses, not loud but deep," and his popularity is certainly on the wane. In starting to review the case of the miller I cannot resist quoting Burns.

"Hey the dusty miller,
And his dusty coat;
He will win a shilling,
Or he spend a groat."

Wait a minute! Haven't we the whole cause of the difficulty right in that stanza. Burns saw the same weakness in the miller, that we are complaining of to-day. He was everlastingly after the coy shilling, and he didn't want to spend more than a groat in getting it. While the miller was doing business in a small way his thrift might serve as the subject of a joke, but now that he is in Big Business his thrift seems to have developed into insatiable greed. I am afraid a time has come when we must stop singing pretty songs about the miller and go after him with a club. If Burns were alive to-day he would probably amend his song and ask us to sing something like this:

"Hey the dusty miller
And his dusty coat;
It would save us millions
If we could get his goat"

Of course, the obvious explanation of the high price of flour is that the millers have formed a combine, but I hesitate to repeat the charge. I have heard it denied so often that out of politeness I am forced to at least let the matter drop. But I cannot help remarking that if the millers are not in a combine they are the most unanimous business men I have ever observed. When the price of wheat goes down they are perfectly unanimous about it, and when the price of flour goes up their unanimity is wonderful. Besides, I cannot help noticing how well they are getting along in spite of the fierce competition they claim to be facing. A short time ago I read the annual reports of several milling companies in the Montreal Journal of Commerce, and I really felt like writing to them and congratulating them on their prosperity. In spite of the fact that they put away vast sums of money in their profit and loss account, and built or bought new elevators and kept their equipment right up to date, they couldn't hide their profits entirely and were forced to declare remarkable dividends. I think one declared a dividend of sixteen per cent. and another gave twenty per cent.; so they do not need to worry even if the price of bread goes up a few cents a loaf. They can afford to buy it. Of course, it must distress some of them to have the public say unkind things about them, but I suspect that most of them are like the miller described in another song that I hear the young people singing. It is really strange how the poets manage to size people up.

"There was a merry miller of the Lowlands I am told
Who never cared a rap for love, but mickle cared
for gold.
O the rusty, dusty miller,
Mickle cared he for his siller."

I have noticed that when city people try to reason with the millers they are overwhelmed with facts and figures. By exhibiting the capital involved, the high cost of labor, cost of wheat, and such things, the millers never fail to show that they are barely able to wiggle along and that they are really philanthropists. But when the farmers begin to grumble they advance an entirely new line of argument. There are plenty of farmers who still remember the days when they used to take grists to the mill, and paid for the grinding by letting the miller take his toll. They tell me that they used to get forty-two pounds of flour from every bushel after paying the toll, and besides they got the bran and shorts. And the bran they got was worth while. As Bill Nye's farmer remarked: "The brand didn't have all the goodness jerked out of it by this new roller process." Nowadays, if the farmer takes a grist to the mill he must sell his wheat and buy flour, and even with wheat at the present price he seldom gets more than thirty-five pounds for each bushel, and sometimes he gets less. This shows that the present miller gets about seven pounds more flour as his toll than was taken by the old-time miller, and besides, he gets all the bran, shorts and middlings. With offal of this kind selling at over thirty dollars a ton it must mean quite a bit to the modern milling industry. And I suppose right here is where the millers will trot out their talk about overhead charges, cost of labor and all that. Well, when the new style of milling came in it was so economical that it drove the old millers out of business, so the inference is that the new process is cheaper, even though they take an extra seven pounds and all the offal. The millers certainly seem to have a strangle hold on us, and I feel like singing to them:

"O miller let me go,
My mother's making griddle cakes and waits for
me I know."

And I have no doubt that if I sang that at him the miller would chirp right in and answer with a slight change of the song:

"You must pay another penny, said the miller to the
maid."

I hear that the Hon. Mr. Crothers intends investigating a few combines in an effort to solve the problem of the high cost of living. It is understood that he is going to start with the canners, but I think that is a mistake. Canned goods are not an absolute necessity. We can do without them if forced to do so. Besides, Mr. Crothers will encounter difficulties, for, if I am not mistaken, there are several prominent members of parliament who are engaged in the canning industry. If the Minister wishes to make an investigation that will be really popular he should give the millers "The once over." Bread is an absolute necessity, though it is becoming a luxury to the poor. I really hope that Mr. Crothers will take this hint, for we want to know the truth about the milling industry. Personally, I do not want to see the miller pushed from his pleasant place in literature and song if he doesn't deserve it. If he is being maligned it is time that we knew it, so that the people can go on singing the dear old songs even if they are hungry. But if the millers are really enriching themselves by taking the bread from the mouths of the poor it is high time that they tasted the fullest measure of public contempt. I hope that Mr. Crothers will look into the matter, and if he does we will chant this little chorus while he is doing it:

"Hey the dusty miller
And his dusty goat
Get him Mr. Crothers
And you'll get our vote."

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

In the late fall the Screech Owl is more frequently seen and heard than at any other season. During the summer it keeps pretty much to the woods, but in the fall and winter it comes about the habitations of man in its search for mice and house sparrows.

This little owl is the smallest of our common owls in the East, being only ten inches in length. It bears, on the top of its head, two tufts of feathers which are usually referred to as "ears" or "horns". There are two distinct types of coloration in the plumage of this species, known as the gray phase and the red phase. In the former the general aspect is gray, the upper parts being speckled with black and the under parts being whitish, splashed and streaked with black. In the latter phase the general plumage is reddish-brown, the back bearing sharp streaks of black and the under parts being white, tinged with reddish-brown and streaked with black. Some time ago it was believed that the red birds were males and the gray females; but it is now known that this difference in coloration is due to neither sex nor age nor season. Neither is it due to geographical causes in the sense that only the gray or the red phase is found in a certain locality. It is true that a certain phase predominates in a given

locality, and as far as gray phase which J. H. Fleming says rare, usually occurs and then disappears. Though this little owl is a matter of fact, very much a rather sweet, with a ventriloquist matter of some distinction from whence justifies its name. At hand, a decided well acquainted with I ever heard one that its name was that a place is called is no mountain with little less green than named "Park View" it. Then one ever four feet of my fully made up for not heard.

The Screech Owl protection and instead of being unfortunately often eater among our being grasshoppers. In the investigation the United States insects destroyed as fifty grasshoppers eighteen June before worms in a third, particularly worth the pests of the aggravating pest destroys a whole of things for the future been the object of was a seedling and of the little ring of of it. Meadow mice are the mam Screech Owl, and not often destruct immense amount of barn. An occasional Mole is also taken captures most of the breathing hole as come to the surface birds, but its bird of House Sparrows and dirty pests its farmer.

The nest of which it lines with from four to six this species in Canada Manitoba, and it allied races.

Now that the many birds are bro their existence was opportunity to st interesting case of summer. A Warbler a yard of one of made frequent visit though it might be unusual occurrence soon found that it and carrying off to very largely composed new nest some hundred

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Favors

EDITOR "THE FAR

Some land being leaves an opening horse. The light horse but when you want dip down for cash; it demands the high get away from. I company desires to Of course, they are plenty of horses so the company 1,350-lb. horse will do more most breeders is t advice is breed the kind of big horse and big-looking horse, flat and clean-boned with a good broad for feed, hasn't the a horse as possible is where the heavy breeders to breed a horse, then back to What breed and wh have ten years her we may breed to the going to say a wo