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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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VOL. XLIX.

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 2, 1914.

No. 1123

EDITORIAL

Keep the light of publicity turned on, and trust the people.

Farming is too big a calling to be laughed at, and the jeers of the town business men are giving place to more merited regard.

Keep the copy of the spray calendar published in this week's issue for reference, and spray as directed therein, if largest returns are desired from the orchard.

The township of Waterloo in Waterloo County, Ontario, is a good example of the successful operation of the municipal telephone system. This system is worthy of the study of those interested in telephones for the public welfare.

When one listens to the discussions which come up at gatherings of men interested in agriculture, he is more than ever convinced that the statement that twelve men form a committee but one moulds its thought and action is true.

It pays to buy in large quantities. Farmers' clubs and all the local farmers' organizations should keep this in mind in making all necessary purchases for their farms. Buy together and sell together, and get the most out of the year's operations.

The business end of the farmer's calling is just as important as the labor end, although in the past it has not been given the prominence which it deserved. Scarcity of labor has been responsible to some extent for this lack of the study of business principles.

Farmers are accused by one of their number, who has made a success of his own operations, as lacking in self-reliance. We say the farmer is independent, but too often he lets someone else attend to the essential business concerning his operations which he himself should do.

Every Agriculturist should do his part in the condemnation of the renewal of bounties or bonuses on iron and steel, which are being asked for by the interests engaged in the operation of iron and steel plants. There are no economic grounds for the passing of legislation granting these. Write your member expressing your views.

Weather conditions were such last fall that considerable soft corn was produced. This makes it necessary to take double precautions in testing this seed. If possible place it in damp sawdust or sand, and watch the growth of the young corn plants. If many of them are weakly and spindly the seed is not as valuable as that of well-matured corn.

It often occurs that farmers' gatherings start from a half hour to an hour later than the program announces, and as a consequence, proceedings are late and often draggy all the way through. This has a detrimental affect upon the spirit and enthusiasm of the meeting. Programs running behind time are as much to be loathed as express trains two hours late.

The New Dairy Bill Excludes Imitations.

About the middle of last month the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Martin Burrell, introduced in the House of Commons, Ottawa, a measure entitled, "The Dairy Industry Act," to regulate the manufacture and sale of dairy products, and to prohibit the manufacture or sale of butter substitutes. It will be remembered that "The Farmer's Advocate" has always taken a strong stand against any inroads of the oleo and butterine industry in this country. The Minister is to be commended upon bringing in such an excellent Bill, which, if it is passed without alterations from the first reading, should place the dairy industry in this country on as sound a basis as any legislation can do.

It is very clear cut in its references to substitutes for and adulterations of the products of the dairy. The Act of 1908, of course, prohibits the manufacture or sale of all substitutes, but there was an agitation on the part of the oleo interests to have this amended, so as to allow these products to be manufactured and sold in this country. The new Act strengthens clauses of the old by making possible the seizure and confiscation of apparatus and material used in the manufacture of butter, cheese or other dairy products in contravention of the provisions of the Act or any regulation made there-under. Under the former Act any person manufacturing goods which did not meet the conditions of the Act could be fined, could pay his fine and go on manufacturing the same as usual subject, of course, to another fine. This Act makes it possible to seize the apparatus and thus end the trouble.

A clause is also inserted governing the weight of moulded or cut-into prints, blocks, squares or pats, which must be a full net weight of one-quarter pound, one-half pound, one pound or two pounds, at the time they are moulded or cut. This does not apply to butter in rolls or lumps of indiscriminate weight as sold by farmers.

Under the former Act registration of creameries and cheese factories was required, but this has been done away with as being useless. All matters of the marking of dairy products has been left to be dealt with by regulation. The Governor-in-Council has the power to make any regulation he deems necessary regarding classification, marking, branding, etc., also covering the seizure and confiscation of apparatus, enforcement and operation of the Act, and all other necessary regulations.

It should be a source of satisfaction to all those engaged in the dairy industry to know that notwithstanding the fact that pressure has been brought to bear upon the government with a view to allowing imitation dairy products to be manufactured and sold in this country, the Minister has had the courage to even strengthen the prohibitory regulations already applying to the trade. Perhaps before this is read the new Act will have had its second reading and been discussed in the House, but it is more than probable that this will not be the case. Whether or not it is so, dairymen should write their members expressing their views on this subject, and by giving their undivided support to this good measure strengthen the hands of those operating the legislative machinery at Ottawa, and by so doing hasten the passing of this Act.

Now is the time when it is likely that the opposing forces will bring their strongest pressure

to bear to have certain clauses in the bill changed or amended, and now is the time the dairy interests must stand pat and back up the measure until it is finally passed and becomes law. Members of Parliament, regardless of politics, should support this measure which is for the good of one of the most important branches of Canada's agriculture. Our dairy interests, one and all, will allow no imitation products in this country. What is good for the dairymen, as applying to the products of his business, is good for the people and the country. Back up a deserving movement to ensure a fair field for dairy products.

In the Fight for the People.

The other day we came across an estimable reader of "The Farmer's Advocate", who was worrying because the big banking interests and Sir Jingo McBores had not lately been receiving an occasional dressing down or prodding up in these columns. The banks got in their fine work last year on Parliament Hill, at Ottawa, by means of a well-paid legal lobby, when the bank revision act was passing through the legislative mill. Long before that date, "The Farmer's Advocate" had begun a searching investigation and were fortunate in having the strong and brilliant services of Peter McArthur, in the vigorous campaign for very necessary reforms in the Canadian banking system which would abate monopolistic privileges and abuses. As we turned on the light, too uncomfortably clear for a few of the high and mighty ones interested, by a remarkable co-incidence some of the regular display bank advertising which the paper had been carrying, began to be withdrawn, which with other confirmatory circumstances disclosed the evident purpose of applying "discipline" to "The Farmer's Advocate"; plain talk and publicity was not relished. To their credit be it said the coercion dodge was not countenanced nor shared in by other and more sanely conducted financial institutions as observant readers well know. The narrow and mistaken policy did not succeed and it never will. It only served to let in more daylight and that is what the people need now-a-days. Our readers were urged to co-operate in the fight and press the demand for reform more strongly upon their parliamentary representatives. In issue after issue, facts and corroborative views of intelligent men, including some of the most enlightened bank opinion of Canada were published and when the Banking Committee, at Ottawa, took up the subject, the paper had representatives present to give evidence in support of its contentions. But the bank charters were renewed, and the act, about as the Big Interests wanted it, with some modifying and beneficial amendment was steam-rolled through Parliament practically settling that phase of the matter for ten years to come. Some people rather like to sit back and look on while others do the fighting, instead of turning in to help when something might be accomplished. Threshing old straw is neither edifying nor useful, but one of these days, banking abuses may necessarily come under fire again and the friends of reform on all sides will have their opportunity and their innings. To-day other issues press for space and attention.

This paper has a wide field of practical farm subjects to cover constructively in every number and in accord with its name, aims also to frustrate designs on the Canadian farmer and the