# FARM AND DAIRY AND RURAL HOME

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#### FARM AND DAIRY PETERBORO, ONT.

### THE POULTRY CIRCLES

Last December, when much was being said from the public platform and in the press about the "success" of the Peterboro Poultry Circles, Farm and Dairy deemed it wise to issue a warning to the public, through these columns, not to be misled into believing that the poultry circles were firmly established or that their success was assured. We pointed out that the movement was only in its infancy and that while encouraging results had attended the preliminary stages of organization much still required to be done before its success would become a certainty. We regret that it now seems necessary to repeat this warning and to make public some plain facts.

Reports that have reached our office from the west show that Prof. F. C. Elford, of Macdonald College, and Mr. John I. Brown, representing Gunn, Langlois & Co., are making an extended tour of the prairie provinces be firmly established in Peter-

and British Columbia, addressing numerous meetings in the interests of the poultry industry and that incidentally reports are appearing in the press claiming phenomenal results for the poultry circles in Peterboro county. It is stated that the production of eggs and poultry in this county has been greatly increased (one paper placed the increase at 400 per cent.) as a result of the formation of the circles and that everybody here is greatly delighted with the results. The truth is the circles to-day are practically out of business. This has been the case for several months. There has not been a meeting of the officers of any of the local circles since they were first organized a year ago, none of the circles are operating as circles nor is there any likelihood apparently of their doing so at any early date.

The officers of the central committee have held several meetings, one only recently, in this office, and they are thoroughly disgusted with the manner in which they feel they have been treated. Their repeated requests, made to Gunn, Langlois & Co. for certain detailed information about the volume of business done and the program for this season's work have either been completely ignored or answered in a most unsatisfactory manner. Before leaving for the west Mr. Brown stated his intention to spend a week with one or two poultry authorities holding meetings in Peterboro county in an effort to place the work on a better basis. This he not only failed to do Lut he neglected to even send any explanation concerning his actions to any member of the central committee. We venture to say that more good would have been accomplished by Mr. Brown had he kept his word and held the promised meetings in Peterboro county to forward the work started last year, than will be by giving the farmers of the west reason to believe that the poultry circles in this district are a success when such, as yet, is not the case.

Last year the firm of Gunn & Langlois, with the assistance of this paper, did commendable work organizing the circles and in encouraging their members to deliver their eggs and poultry to its representative in Peterboro. It kept control effectually, however, of all the details of the bus iness done and thus the true cooperative features of the movement were never permitted to develop. The firm incurred considerable expense launching the movement but this its representative, Mr. Brown, repeat edly stated its willingness to do. We regret that we feel it necessary to make these facts public. We do so only because we consider that the public is entitled to have the full facts and not a portion of them only that are very misleading, if not absolutely inaccurate. The firm of Gunn & Langlois still has it's representative in Peterboro, Lut he is dealing with the farmers in the same manner as any other buyer and not on a cooperative basis.

The poultry movement

boro county before this section is tor of Farm and Dairy last week are held up as a model for others to pat- about to seed some of their wintertern after. This it has not been and killed meadows to alfalfa, sowing it the responsibility for this condition of affairs does not rest with the farmers.

## CAUSING MEN TO THINK

The census enumerators in the rural districts are doing, though it be quite unintentional, a real missionary work in that they are causing men to think and to give an accounting of their affairs. Were it not that the enumerators are under oath not to divulge the information they gather they would have available a fund of things worth while which could be turned into a golden harvest were it accessible to news-gathering journalists.

An enumerator in western Ontario, in a district where the dual purpose Durham cattle predominate, while conversing with an editor of Farm and Dairy who was in his district last week, made the statement that not a farmer out of the many he had called on could tell what their cows were producing. They did not know how much butter they were making. They had the most abstruse idea of the returns they were getting from their farms and from their work; and while the district was a fairly progressive one, the farmers, it was found, hardly knew what they or their lands were worth.

After the enumerator, with much interrogation and reasoning, had at last arrived at fair answers for his numerous questions, the enumerated invariably, we were told, took on a pleased expression, an indication of inward feeling happy in that he had discovered he was worth some thousands more than he thought.

The census taking demonstrates to every man the great and vital need of accounting in connection with all lines of farm work. And since the census enumerators have brought the weight of this question home so forcibly to people throughout the length and breadth of the land, happy will they be if they forthwith and henceforth start in to keep accounts and to know not guess (or leave wholly to Providence) the financial details of their complicated business.

#### OVERCOME FAILURE OF CLOVER HAY

Prolonged drought and hot weather in May caused much of the spring seeding of clover in western Ontario to be a total failure. All clovers winter-killed Ladly and old meadows other than timothy are not common this season. Even the timothy seems to have been injured more or less by the unfavorable winter, and hay bids fair to be an exceedingly light crop. The situation is a serious one to all dairy farmers who look to clover hay as an indispensable portion of the ration for their cows. No clover for this year and no new seeding coming on for clover meadows next year is indeed serious; but a solution to the problem now confronting many far- they were paying 50 per cent. divimers in the matter of their hay crops is to be found in alfalfa.

June 15, 1911

as soon as possible now without nurse crop. These men expect to cut from one or two tons of alfalia hay to the acre in September from this seeding and secure sufficient growth afterwards to carry the alfalfa through the winter. Next year with the possibility of from four to five tons of good alfalfa hay to the acre they need not feel any anxiety about being without red clover as many will be owing to the peculiar conditions of this season. Those who in years gone by have

own alfalfa late in June or in early July, sowing it without a nurse crop have met with splendid success. Mr J. W. Clark, of Cainsville, who until some years ago farmed 220 acres Lelow Brantford, told our representative last week that he had secured splendid results from alfalfa sown in this manner and that one virtually ran no risk whatever in sowing alfalfa now, provided preparation was thor. ough and plenty of moisture is available

It looks like a good proposition to plow up a meadow, having a prospect of one half ton yield per acre of inferior hay, in order that two tons of good alfalfa may be secured this fall and then have a splendid showing for a four or five ton crop next season. The plan is worth a trial.

# WATERED STOCK AND THE TARIFF

Numerous are the methods resorted to by our protected interests to conceal the dividends that they are enabled to make through the protection afforded them by the tariff. The theory on which our protective tariff is based is that it costs more to manufacture in Canada than in other countries, and in order to have manufacturing industries we must have a tariff equal to the difference in cost of production in Canada and in competing countries. Did a manufacturing concern pay large profits it would immediately be evident that the tariff was larger than necessary and should be reduced. It is to conceal these profits and still insure and retain the same from year to year ad infinitum that watering of stock is practised.

The watering of stock in itself does not increase the cost of the goods manufactured to the consumer. The tariff alone increases the price. In a free trade country watered stock is never heard of since under free trade there are no tariff advantages to be retained. In Canada and the United States, both highly protected countries, watering of stock is becoming a common practice.

A Government investigation disclosed the fact that 90 per cent. of the stock of the Dominion Textile Company is water. This "infant" (?) was calling for higher protection on the plea that they were only able to pay five per cent. dividends. As a matter of fact, as the investigation showed. dends on the actual capital invested. Sir Sandford Fleming has recently Some farmers in the vicinity of St. charged that when the Canada Ce-George, Ont., interviewed by an edi- ment Company was incorporated,

## June 15, 1

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