622

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A "Law" or a "Theory"

Editor, Farm and Dairy,-I have een watching Farm and Dairy closely these last few weeks expecting to se an answer to the "law of production advanced by Dr. J. W. Spillman at the Chicago Conference, attended by your editor. In case some of the readyour editor. In case some of the read-ers of Farm and Dairy have forgotten Dr. Spillman's contention, I will briefly review it. Dr. Spillman claim-ed that cooperation could not benefit the producer in the long run as the higher prices that the cooperating prolucers would receive would induce other farmers to go into the same line of production, prices would be forced down and the consumer would receive the whole benefit. He illustrated his contention in this way:

Suppose that the Texas producer Suppose that the Texas producers of garden truck were to organize and practically double their profits on the truck sent to the Chicago market. Other farmers in Texas, seeing the good things their brethren were getting through cooperation, would them-selves go in for garden truck, produc-tion would immediately increase, glut-ted markets would follow, and Chicago consumers would buy at their own price. Consequently, the grower would not get any more from his crops than not get any more from his crops than before there was any cooperation whatever. This may be a real nice theory, but it is not a law. EXPERIENCE VERSUS THEORY

We farmers out here in British Col-umbia have had some experience with the ultimate effects of cooperation on the producer and we regard our ex-perience as of more value than Dr. pillman's theorizing. Take the case f our orchard lands. When i rmers of our orehard lands. of our orchard lands. When I rmers first came to the Okanagan Valley there was the bare land there worth practically nothing. Down by the side of the Rockies was the great prairie market waiting for fruit. The land was cleared, orchards planted, and due time the crops marketed. The profits were great. Cooperative so-cieties were formed and the profits became greater still. Now if Dr. Spillman's reasoning is correct every other farmer in British Columbia who had land suitable to orcharding would immediately rush into this line of immediately rush into this line of agriculture, production would increase agriculture, production would increase enormously, prices would go down, the consumer would get all of the benefit and the farmer would be no better off he was before our cooperative cieties were formed

It is true that returns that the fruit growers are getting are not much greater, if indeed they are as great, as they received when each man marketed his own produce. So far Dr. Spillman's theory is working well. The prices, however, are not lower than prices, however, are not lower than they were before and consumers are not deriving the benefit. Something wrong with the doctor's law. Something else has happened that the doctor did not consider at all. Land in the Okanagan Valley that was worth nothing when the first settlers arrived is now worth hundreds of dollars an acce. Even burn sourch \$100 to \$200 an acre. Hence the farmer who goes into that valley, buys land or bearing orchard and starts into fruit growing, will have the greater fruit growing, will have the greater part of his returns eaten up in interest on his investment.

est on his investment.

The same thing has happened around Vancouver. Prices for dairy products, particularly fresh milk and cream, are, I believe, higher in Vancouver than in any other part of Canconver than in any other part of carry-ada. What a grand chance for dairy-men living near the city to make a fortune out of dairy products. Some of them may have done so years ago, but they do not now. Bare stump but they do not now. Ba land is valued from \$150 a land is valued from \$150 a acre up and good improved farms within easy hauling distance of the city are valued hundreds of dollars an acre. Here

again the price of land has risen to absorb all of the advantage afforded the farmer by the extra good market.

Increasing prices of farm land, due to the formation of cooperative socie to the formation or cooperative socie-ties or proximity to good markets, may be alright for the first holders of the land, but these high values are regular millstones around the neck of regular mustones around the neck of all succeeding generations who must pay interest on these high values. I know whereof I speak for I am trying to farm on land in which I invested

It strikes me that Dr. Spillman is a perplexed philosopher. No body of farmers need to be deterred from organizing in cooperative societies through the fear that the consumers will get all the benefit because Dr. will get all the benefit because Dr. Spillman said so. I believe that all of the benefit will be represented in increasing value of land.—John Car-ter, New Westminster Dist., B. C.

A City Opinion

"Consumer." Montreal, Que.
Although not a farmer, I always
look with interest for the copies of
Farm and Dairy that come into our
office. I was particularly interested in an article in a recent issue written by an editor of Farm and Dairy, re-porting an address of Dr. J. W. Spillby an editor of Farm and Dairy, re-porting an address of Dr. J. W. Spill-man, of the United States Depart-ment of Agriculture, on the question of cooperation. In the article in question Dr. Spillman claims that all of the benefits of cooperation accrue the consumers, as large profits to the producer would lead to greatly inproducer would lead to greatly in-creased consumption, glutted markets and hence lower prices at the city end. I am a consumer, have always lived in the city, and hence know something of how lower prices affect the average city working man, and if my observations are correct, Dr. Spillan must be wrong.

In the first place, most of the working people of Montreal live in tenements or rented houses. If all of the producers supplying Montreal with farm produce were to organize, produce more and glut our markets, prices would decline but the consumer ultimately would not get the benefit. Living would become cheaper in Montreal so far as eatables are concerned, but the immediate effect that would be an increase in Rents would advance and all that we would save in our bill meats, groceries, green stuff, etc. would be eaten up in the increased rent. Hence it is the city landlord and not the city consumer who would benefit through the increased produc-tion mentioned by Dr. Spillman.

I do not know much about the o try, but it seems to me that the effect there would be somewhat similar. Land values would advance through the increased profits due to coopera-tion, and the country landlord and the city landlord would ultimately get all of the benefit. I would like to know what Dr. Spillman thinks of my theory. I have not a sufficiently high opinion of my "theory" to call it a "law," but I almost believe that it is.

How About Stable Lighting?-Window glass is not dangerous nor is it ex-pensive, but from the small amounts sed even by many of our best dairymen, one would think that it is both dangerous and expensive. One of the dangerous and expensive. One of the finest stables that we have ever been in, that of R. R. Ness, of Howick, has about one-half of the linear wall length devoted to window glass. Consequently Mr. Ness' atable is as light as out of doors. Mr. Ness once tremarked to the writer, "Light is the near the core." marked to the wroter, Ing. and only germ killer we can get for nothing, so we might as well have it." We would suggest that a few very large windows are preferable to many small ones, and that these be placed nest

Issued Each Weel

Vol. XXXII

Pertinent remar

OW many o made by dough with ing in from work into the carth she ium slips in? We jacket and boiled while we cracked

Well, how many ly say that we have to milk without wa on a hot summer n hauling out manur really think of it t operation, unless fa excepted, from whi go to milking wi smoothing the rough

TWO CONSUMIN In considering the milk for city trade the market and Trom the producing end. all of Arr large citie two classes to whi There is the man wh pay any price for a and the man to whom pended looms larger t received.

Even admitting the the necessity of supply requirements we have in supplying milk to the life fluid to the ch must, of course, get ducts to enable our ch. be able to do this and

What is needed? ] tions as incorporated by the City of Toronto of proper milk reads fluid drawn from sensi by clean, healthy milk under sanitary surroun and kept coool while o easy, and is if the proc HEALT

No one, I take it, w from a diseased animal or did not know where

Mr. Gunn is one of our cas he preaches. On his Ont in Farm and Far