

Farm and Dairy

AND

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
Published Every Thursday by
The Rural Publishing Company, Limited
Peterboro and Toronto

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year. Great Britain, \$1.20 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c for postage.
ADVERTISING RATES, 15 cents a line flat, \$1.65 an inch an insertion. One page 15 inches, one column 12 inches. Copy received up to Saturday preceding the following week's issue.

Peterboro Office—Hunter and Water Sts.
Toronto Office—37 McCaul Street.

United States Representatives:
Stockwell's Special Agency.
Chicago Office—People's Gas Building.
New York Office—Tribune Building.

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO.

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

Hon. Martin Burrell

EVENTS of national and international importance are transpiring with such rapidity we are apt in days such as these to overlook matters that under normal conditions would receive more attention. The resignation of Hon. Martin Burrell as Dominion Minister of Agriculture, after six years of capable service in that office, is one of these. During his administration the Department of Agriculture made noteworthy progress and was strengthened in a number of important respects. The greatest achievement of Hon. Mr. Burrell was the setting aside of \$10,000,000 to promote agricultural extension work throughout all the provinces. Such excellent work has been accomplished by means of this fund, and the Dominion and provincial departments of agriculture have been brought into closer touch with one another than ever before. The appropriations for the different branches of the department of agriculture were increased by Hon. Martin Burrell and their opportunity for service increased in proportion.

Among the most important improvements made might be mentioned the separation of the fruit from the dairy division, and the appointment of Mr. D. Johnson as Dominion Fruit Commissioner. Mr. Johnson has proved himself to be the right man in the right place, and has accomplished valuable work for the fruit interests during his term of office. A similar forward step was made when the live stock and veterinary divisions were separated and the former placed under the capable management of the late Live Stock Commissioner, Jno. Bright. Breeders of pure-bred stock throughout the Dominion bear testimony to the excellent

work the live stock department has accomplished during the last few years. One of the best steps made by the department was the creation of the markets division under the supervision of Mr. H. S. Arkell, B.S.A.

Under the direction of Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Director of Experimental Farms, the work of the experimental farms throughout Canada has been placed on a more practical, and therefore more serviceable, basis than formerly, and the various farms have made marked expansion in the scope of their work. Much more might be said for Hon. Mr. Burrell's administration. He leaves behind him a very creditable record of work well done.

The new Minister of Agriculture, Hon. T. A. Crerar, is fortunate in finding a well-organized and efficient staff, ready to carry on with him such policies as he may approve. With the exception of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who has never been properly qualified to fulfil his responsible duties, the head of every division of the service is well-known and highly thought of by those with whom their duties have brought them in contact. This being the case, still greater expansion of the work and usefulness of the department may reasonably be looked for under the administration of Hon. Mr. Crerar.

How About Oleo?

OLEOMARGARINE is now a fact. Before this issue of Farm and Dairy reaches Our Folks

it may be on sale in Canada. Our efforts for its continued exclusion have failed. Just how seriously dairymen's protests were considered is indicated by the fact that final action was taken without consulting any representatives of the dairy industry. And now the question is, what shall be our attitude in the future?

Farm and Dairy is disposed to agree with the claim of the Food Controller that the introduction of oleomargarine will have no present influence on the price of butter. Much of the butter now produced in Denmark, Norway and Sweden is finding its way into Germany. The same is true of the output of Holland, although butter has never been an important export of the Netherlands. Siberian supplies have not been reaching Britain since the outbreak of the war. The natural result of these war conditions has been a strong demand from Britain for Canadian butter, and it is this export demand that regulates the price of butter in Canada at the present time. But what of after the war, when the market drops back into normal channels and the export demand is greatly decreased or ceases altogether? It is then that oleo competition will make its influence felt on the butter market, and the manufacturers of oleo may be able to use their product to force the butter market up or down at will. Fortunately, the present Order-in-Council admitting oleo to Canada is a war-time measure only. If, from our experience in the meantime, it appears that oleo will endanger the natural trend of the butter market, then it will be up to our farmers' organizations to exert their full power to have the restrictions replaced on oleo when the war is over.

There is a present duty for the dairymen's associations. The restrictions on the use of oleomargarine are severe. They will not be pleasing to the packers. They are calculated to keep oleo in its own clothes. Such clauses as those which prohibit coloring, and giving publicity to its use in eating places, will be a subject for constant attack. We, who are interested in maintaining these restrictions, should see to it that the government stands firmly by our interests and that the restrictions are properly enforced. In this we will need to be vigilant. Even more vigilant will we need to be in guarding against attacks

on the time limit of the Order-in-Council. Already prospective manufacturers of oleo are asking that this limit be removed in order that they may erect plants in Canada, and the interests supporting them are powerful.

In one respect the regulations of the present are unfair. Imported oleo is not subject to tariff restrictions. The buttermaker, on the other hand, is hemmed in by tariff restrictions. All of his supplies are subject to a heavy protective tariff. The same is true of the farmer who produces the cream. At every turn the protective tariff enhances its cost of production. Would not dairy farmers be justified in contending that they be given the same unrestricted conditions that oleo manufacturers, who will be shipping their products into Canada, enjoy? In demanding the removal of tariff restrictions the farmers' organizations of Canada are already united.

Automobile Thieves

THEY are a continually increasing pest. They are found in every part of Canada, but more particularly near towns and cities. We do not refer to the men who steal other folks' automobiles. Oh, no; our reference is to the folks who ride in their own autos, paid or not paid for as the case may be, and who consider it quite legitimate to climb the roadside fences and despoil orchards and gardens. Many of these pleasure seekers, with their moral sense absolutely perverted, consider it quite clever to come home from the country loaded down with green corn, pumpkins, melons, apples, and even chickens, pilfered from the long-suffering, hard-working farmer.

Did these people steal the same produce from the store front of their local greengrocer they would expect to be run into jail for it. They would never think of taking a bottle of milk from a neighbor's doorstep. They would draw a huge distinction between these two kinds of theft, though from a moral standpoint they are identical. We would not care to suggest that a loaded shotgun might help to correct the perverted senses of these marauders, but if this kind of theft continues to increase, it is quite evident that farmers, in districts surrounding towns, will have to organize for their own protection.

Wiring the Farm House

A few weeks ago we visited a new home of a farmer friend of ours. It was most complete. With great pride he showed us the bathroom upstairs, the well equipped laundry in the cellar, and hot and cold water on tap everywhere it was needed. Finally he called our attention to the wiring. "We have no source of electricity yet," said he, "but when electric power does come our way, we will be all ready to use it in lighting our home."

We regarded this last as an instance of real foresight. Hydro-electric power lines are being pushed rapidly over rural Ontario. Rural radial lines in contemplation will also furnish electric energy to many thousands of farmers. At the same time home plants for the development of electric energy are being perfected and adapted to the farmer's requirements. It is not too much to say that within a few years the majority of farm homes, in the older sections of Canada at least, will be electrically lighted. In the most of these the wiring will have to be exposed, and it is unsightly as well as unsafe. The wiring of a house can never be done so cheaply or so well as when the building is being erected and the wiring is all confined between walls. Prospective builders will be wise to plan for the wiring of their new home, and wise builders will have competent electricians to do the work, for electric wiring is safe only when the job is well done.

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