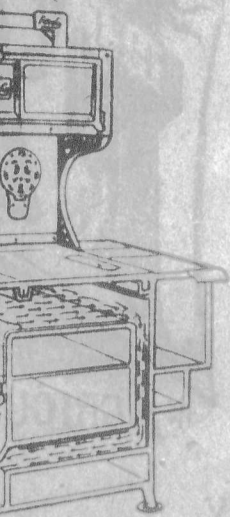


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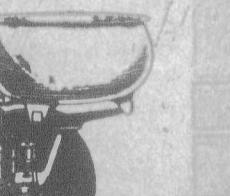
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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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LV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 30, 1920.

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## EDITORIAL.

A Happy New Year to one and all!

Make production and quality of product a slogan for 1921.

Take time to visit the school; you will then be better able to appreciate its needs.

Payment for milk according to quality is fair and just in all lines, and milk is no exception.

Start the New Year with a little of the good old-fashioned kind of neighborly visiting; it will not be time lost.

We hope the delegates to the next annual breeders' meetings in February will go prepared with some good constructive ideas to place before the various gatherings.

The New Year is a clean page to every one. Let us so order our lives and direct our efforts that after a twelve-month there will be nothing we should like to see erased.

On the morning of January 1, 1921, hang a set of milk scales in the stable and start in to get acquainted with the herd. The First is a good day to start on such a good enterprise.

Don't skimp the hens on green feed and milk or animal food in some form. They will not produce winter eggs without feeds such as are plentiful under summer conditions.

Premier Drury acted wisely and with political sagacity when he urged, at the last U. F. O. Convention, that the Farmer Government be not tied to the parent's apron strings.

It would be worth millions of dollars to Canada and our people if every producer of live-stock would subscribe to the resolution not to use a scrub sire in 1921. This New-Year resolution could be easily lived up to, and yet how hard it seems to dislodge the scrub.

Is there any effort being made locally to provide entertainment for the young folk, or are they obliged to travel several miles to see the movies and cheap vaudeville? Develop local talent in the community and create an interest in local entertainment and social functions.

If our fairs and exhibitions would concentrate more on educating the young people, all our industries would be well taken care of in the years to come. The fairs are making rapid strides in bringing out young feeders and judges of live stock, and that is well. The boys of to-day are the builders of to-morrow.

In the late Eighties and early Nineties Canada transformed her entire hog industry and built up her exports from seven and three-quarter millions of pounds to 138 millions of pounds in 1903. That was the peak, and since then a huge home market has developed which has lessened our exports, but our hog population has almost trebled. We need the export market, but our organization for holding it is faulty and inefficient. The swine breeders of this country should bestir themselves and institute another campaign with some of the fervor and earnestness that characterized the movement twenty years ago.

### A Parent's Duty.

Parents blessed with children should consider it a sacred duty entrusted unto them to see that their children have every advantage of modern science so they may grow into useful, happy citizens unencumbered by physical defects or mental inferiority. Thousands of children in the urban and rural schools of this country are being discovered with defective eyesight, decaying teeth, diseased throats, and other infirmities that are a serious obstacle to their physical and mental development. They are not neglected children in the general acceptance of the term; their parents are careful, devoted and painstaking, but they have not considered the probability of there being anything wrong with the children, and have never consulted a physician. Medical inspection in the schools is bringing these defects to light, and the too-common opposition to this laudable innovation is beyond comprehension. Some parents feel that the State is taking the children out of their hands, so to speak, and casting a reflection on their ability to care for and rear their own children. Nothing of the kind is intended or implied. The State is simply assuming part of the responsibility, for which parents should be thankful, and the State should go further and provide more free clinics for the benefit of children whose parents cannot afford to pay for the operations required.

Many instances have come to our attention where parents were opposed to medical inspection. Recently in one section three mothers visited the school on inspection day. They were converted when the nurse revealed to them the badly-diseased condition of their children's tonsils. Defective eyesight is common, and it is retarding children in their work. Decaying teeth are too often ignored in the early stages, with the result that children suffer unnecessary pain and frequently lose at an early age the teeth which should last them for a life-time. Medical inspection is a blessing to parents and children alike, and should receive the whole-hearted support of all.

### The Dairy Standards Act.

At the 1916 session of the Ontario Legislature an Act known as "The Dairy Standards Act" was passed. This Act provided for the compulsory payment for milk and cream on the basis of its fat content, or according to the fat-plus-two method. For reasons which are probably not yet clear to hundreds of dairymen who believed in the justice of this Act, it was never enforced, although it is still on the statute books of the Province and, like a wagon that has been lying idle over winter, is all ready for use except for lubrication and motive power. It was intended to put the Dairy Standards Act into force for the season of 1917 and an interim period of one year was allowed by the Department of Agriculture, which was intended, according to the late Hon. Jas. Duff, then Minister of Agriculture, "for education and discussion." Discussion did take place, some of it, unfortunately, of a rather acrimonious nature—but such of this discussion as resulted in unfavorable conclusions as regards the virtue of the Act was in part at least, beside the point and had little or nothing to do with the essence of the Act itself, namely, quality payment for milk. Unfortunately, Prime Ministers who assume the portfolio of Agriculture are not always in closest touch with the industry, and in this instance we suspect that The Dairy Standards Act was not enforced because someone mistook noise for public opinion. An atmosphere favorable to the ready acceptance of the Act was not encouraged either by some of the Department officials whose divided counsel in some cases served only to befog rather than clarify the issue for those who were presumed to stand in need of "education." Ontario has had sufficient of

such a spectacle and it should be safe to take it for granted that it will not be repeated.

It is not our desire to minimize any difficulties that may lie in the way of enforcing the Act. These are difficulties which the Department of Agriculture was created to solve and it may, we believe, be trusted to do so in the interests of the dairy industry at large. Neither do we profess to say how the test of a milk sample should actually be calculated. There are two ways provided for by the Act, and the local patrons can be trusted to decide which one they prefer. There is only one principle at stake in the whole Act, and that is the payment for milk and cream on a quality basis. No intelligent man can say that this is unfair, whether it applies to the testing of milk or the grading of cream. Nearly 12 per cent. of the 787 factories in Eastern Ontario were paying for milk by test in 1919, and 27 per cent. of the 129 cheese factories in Western Ontario are now applying the same principle voluntarily. The cheese industry in Ontario, particularly in the East, stands badly in need of the Act, so it is difficult to see why it should be withheld any longer.

This matter is to be discussed at the coming meetings of Ontario dairymen, and we believe that they will subscribe to the principle of the Act if it is placed fairly before them. With its administration they need not concern themselves until it is proven faulty. We believe also that the Act should be extended to apply to milk offered for sale for human consumption, and we are glad to know that the President of the Ontario Milk & Cream Producers' Association has taken this stand. Producers should express their views plainly for the Act during the coming meetings so that any necessary alterations in its wording may be made at the next session of the Legislature. Let us all get behind quality payment for milk and cream grading and push them over the top for the benefit of the dairy industry.

### The Bacon Mystery.

Canada's bacon industry is an outstanding example of a country's success in transforming and building up an industry adapted to conditions, and perfecting a product so it commands admiration, even in company with the keenest rivals. This splendid vantage point fought for in the nineties and consolidated in the early years of the present century is in danger of being lost, and conditions now unquestionably call for plain speaking and concerted action, such as made Canada famous as a bacon-producing country twenty years ago.

There is no more appropriate place to start a revival than at the coming annual meeting of the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association, and on that occasion it would be well to clarify the situation by analyzing the statements and counter-statements that have been made by prominent officials during the past few months. Since the war started the hog and bacon industry have been shrouded in mystery, so far as the producer is concerned, and we can never expect healthful conditions to exist in the field of production until that same spirit prevails that carried Canada over the top as a producer of bacon rather than lard hogs. The Honorable Manning W. Doherty brings back word from England that Canadian bacon is there held in disrepute. A press dispatch from London declares that all is well—who is right? Ontario's Minister also intimates that the British Ministry of Food made an offer to the Canadian packers that would provide a differential of five cents per pound between hogs in Canada and the United States. The Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers refute the statement. What are the facts? There are all sorts of rumors abroad about the way Canadian bacon is doled out in Britain, and how it is used to season and sell the less desirable bacon obtained elsewhere. It is also mooted that product deteriorated by long holding and bad curing is branded as Canadian and sold as such.