

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME  
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd  
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

## Lowering Production Cost

THE high cost of living, by which reference is commonly, though incorrectly, made in particular to foodstuffs, is not an incidental thing. True it is that war and the crop shortage has resulted in abnormally high prices, but these are not the only factors to be taken into consideration. Deep-seated social and economic conditions, entailing a shifting of population with a resultant disproportion between the numbers of producers and of consumers, have been the cause of the gradual rise in price of all the products of the farm since the early nineties. Since then the trend of prices has been generally upwards. Slight fluctuations have occurred, but the tendency has been too strong to be checked by depressing influences for any length of time. Now the climax seems to have been reached.

In attacking the problem of the high cost of living, it is necessary to take cognizance of those conditions which have been its main contributing factors. Isolated attacks on the producers of eggs here and of city milk there, though they may have a certain political effect, will never make any appreciable or permanent reduction in the cost of living. There is much that can be done, but the duty that seems nearest to hand, is to strike at those interests which seek to enhance prices by creating artificial shortages, rather than to drive out of business those who are doing their best to increase production. Another thing to do is to recognize that the steady march of prices upward has not been sufficient either to attract men to the land, or to hold those that were there. The reason of this is not far to seek. The gradual increase in prices of the last twenty years has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the cost of production, and there are not wanting those who say that the condition of the average farmer shows but little improvement over what it was during the period of low prices that prevailed a generation ago. Lowering the cost of

production for the farmer would mean the lowering of the cost of living for the city consumer. The cost of producing the foodstuffs turned out by the average farmer each year is, according to our most capable agricultural economists, unnecessarily increased by at least \$200 by the tariff alone. The supply of foodstuffs will be increased and the prices lowered only by widening the margin between the farmer's receipts and expenditures, thereby inducing more men to engage in agriculture. Threats of terms in jail for collectively protecting their interests is a poor way of encouraging men to become or remain farmers, and is, therefore, a poor way in which to attack the problem of the high cost of living.

## Traffic Regulation

THE need for regulations by which some control of the traffic going over our main roads can be exercised is strongly favored by many of the farmers we have met. The benefit of such control has been amply demonstrated. For instance, Prince Edward county some years ago passed a bylaw compelling all people drawing loads over their county roads to use a certain width of tire. The advantage of this is now quite obvious to those who use those roads. It has saved the roads in a way that possibly nothing else would have done.

There are certain seasons of the year when the control of heavy traffic is more urgent than at others. If heavily loaded motor trucks, or even heavily loaded wagons are allowed on the roads when they are not in a condition to carry them, almost an irreparable damage is done. In the spring of the year, a wagon or motor truck carrying a load of from two to eight or ten tons will often break through the crust of stone or gravel that forms the wearing surface, and other vehicles following soon widen and deepen the rut thus started until it becomes dangerous and perhaps impassable. If, however, there was some restriction placed upon these loads, making the load carried in accordance with the condition of the road, much of this damage could be avoided. Even when we get all our main lines of traffic built with the most approved and scientific methods, the same trouble will prevail, unless the load is restricted.

The initial cost of our permanent main roads runs into thousands of dollars a mile. It would be far from wise to allow them to be speedily broken up by the city dray man or the thoughtless farmer, who think only of their own selfish ends. The control of traffic should be one of the questions considered by both the government and the county councils when working out their good roads systems.

## The Made-in-Canada Slogan

THE Howard Smith Paper Mills, Ltd., in sending out a Christmas card wishing their customers the compliments of the season, suggest as a resolution for 1917 the following: "I will buy only goods made in Canada." To emphasize its importance, they print in red ink the words, "Made in Canada."

As a general rule, Farm and Dairy prefers to buy goods made in Canada, and therefore has no objection to the slogan in question, excepting to the fact that it is frequently used to cover an immense amount of hypocrisy. Let us take the paper mills as an example.

The theory is that we should be willing, for patriotic reasons, to give Canadian goods the preference, even although we may lose a little in other ways by so doing. At present the paper mills in Canada are insisting on about doubling the price of paper to Canadian consumers, and even in troubling it in some cases. They claim that they can obtain a market for all their paper in the United States, and are shipping immense

quantities of it to the United States. It has been pointed out to them that if they continue to ship paper in this way it will mean that many Canadian publications will have to cease publication. It has been proved by Government investigations that the cost of producing paper has not increased in anything like the proportion that the paper mills are advancing their prices, and it has been suggested that the paper mills continue to supply the Canadian publishers with paper at a reasonable advance while they charge foreign publications as much as market conditions will permit. To all of this the paper mills have turned a deaf ear. They prefer to sell in the United States, or wherever they can get the highest price, and allow Canadian industries that may be adversely affected by their action to look after themselves. If we are supposed to buy made in Canada goods, ought not the firms who advocate the adoption of such resolutions to be willing to sell in Canada in preference to selling abroad, even though they may have to lower their price a little to do so in order to promote the interests of the country?

We frequently see another form of the same brand of deception when town and city merchants proclaim from the house-tops that you should spend your dollars in your home towns and villages and thereby build up your local industries. According to these men it is almost a sin to send money away to another town to buy goods that you may need, even if you can buy them cheaper by so doing. The deception in this case consists in the fact that these men do not take their own medicine. Take a grocer for instance. There may be a wholesale grocer in his own town, but does he buy all his supplies from this wholesale grocer? Not by a good deal. He buys his supplies from the travellers representing wholesale grocery firms elsewhere, who will supply them the cheapest, and he would think himself fearfully abused if the public expected him to do anything else. The same is true of every other merchant. They would not think for a moment of buying their supplies only from their local wholesale houses, but prefer to buy and do better wherever they can to the best advantage. Yet these are the men who demand that the public shall buy only home-made goods. Isn't it about time that we got wise to how these cries are used to deceive us for the sake of financial gain to the men who play on our loyalty for their own purposes?

When cows are being fed for high records so that the cost of feed is of minor consideration, or in cases where the number of cows is too small to warrant the use of a silo, sugar beets are one of the best sources of succulence. They tend to increase milk production, but corn silage is far more economical as a source of succulence for ordinary purposes where many cows are kept.

Ten years' experimental work in Ohio has shown that two pounds of dry matter can be produced in the form of silage at a less cost than one pound in the form of sugar beets. The convenience in feeding is also in favor of silage.

Recent investigations at the Ohio Experiment Station, in which it was endeavored to discover the peculiar tastes of horses in the selection of the most palatable feed, have shown that they prefer mixed clover and timothy. Brome grass was also to their liking and timothy hay stood third. None of the horses were fond of tall oat grass, while blue grass and red top also stood near the bottom of the list for palatability.

Plowing 15 inches deep, with a subsoil plow following ordinary plowing, has been found unprofitable on test plots at the Ohio Experiment Station. Subsoiling has produced an average increase of less than half a bushel to the acre. Corn yields have been increased only one to two bushels an acre, clover has shown no benefit, while oats have yielded most with ordinary plowing.