

The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World

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6. WE INVITE MEMBERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Shipments of cattle to foreign ports from New York and Philadelphia were brought to an abrupt close recently by a cattle quarantine established in these states by Secretary James Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. The quarantine followed on the outbreak of contagious foot and mouth disease. As a result of the outbreak, four children in Danville, Pa., contracted the disease.

Buffalo commission men state that the cattle that were shipped from the East Buffalo yards to Pennsylvania, and which started the foot and mouth disease there, came through Canada from the West. The discovery of this disease is a very disturbing incident. The statement of the Buffalo commission men to the effect that the infect-

ed cattle came from Canada should not be difficult to prove or disprove. The Canadian authorities have forbidden the importation of cattle from these states. If the disease appears in other states, they must be dealt with in a similar way. The immense extent of this continent makes the task of the two governments in relation to this disease a very difficult one, but it must, at all costs, be thoroughly performed. The disease must be exterminated before freedom of trade in cattle is again permitted.

OUR FIGHT—THE DANES' OPPORTUNITY

During the past few years, at different periods, considerable space has been occupied in the columns of our agricultural press with discussions between our leading pork packers and our farmers over the prices paid for live hogs. Our farmers have charged the packers with manipulating prices for their own gain, and with making large profits, while not paying the farmers a fair price for their hogs. These discussions have created considerable bad feeling, in some quarters at least. Judging by the tone of one of the letters on this subject published on page four of this issue, this feeling is still prominent.

Without attempting to pronounce on the merits of the points at issue, we would like to draw attention to some aspects of this question which strike us as being of such vital interest, that they should not be lost sight of. It is of supreme importance, both to our farmers and to our packers, that we shall not lose the position that our bacon has won on the British market. Were that position to be lost our export bacon trade would be ruined, many thousands of our farmers would have to give up hog raising, and our packers would lose a large part, if not all, of the money that they have invested in their mammoth pork packing establishments. For three years, Canada's exports of bacon to Great Britain have been declining: During the same period the Danish farmers have increased their exports by about 50 per cent. In other words, while our farmers and packers have been falling out with each other over the price of hogs, and, therefore, not making any progress, the Danish farmers have been stepping in and walking off with the biggest share of the British bacon trade with a fair chance, apparently, that they will get it nearly all if we are not careful.

It, therefore, behooves both our farmers and our packers to try to get together again on this question. The Bible says that every kingdom or house divided against itself shall not stand. While we are fighting, the Danes are making hay. If this keeps up, what will our position be in a few years from now?

The situation is one where it will not do for us to let prejudice or our feelings run away with our common sense. There are some millions of dollars at stake. We believe that the Dominion Government should take up this matter and deal with it in a more

comprehensive and thorough manner than has yet been attempted. If the packers are making anything like the profits one correspondent in this issue claims, the Government might be justified in endeavoring to assist in introducing some of the methods that are proving so successful in Denmark. The first step to be taken is for our Government, our packers, and our farmers to endeavor to get together to deal thoroughly with this important matter.

A BULLETIN ON SOW THISTLE

A bulletin which should prove of great value to the farmers has just been issued by the Ontario Agricultural College. It deals particularly with the perennial sow thistle and, incidentally, with some other weed pests which are becoming more or less serious. Extracts from this bulletin will be found in another part of this issue.

In view of the fact that a number of very bad weeds, including the perennial sow thistle, are steady and, in some instances, rapidly spreading over the farms of this country, the bulletin is particularly timely and its author, J. Eaton Howitt, M. S. A., is to be commended for his enterprise in preparing it.

The neglect of the great majority of farmers to acquaint themselves with the appearance and habit of growth of the worst weeds, is largely responsible for their spreading. In order that we may attack and exterminate these weeds when they first appear, it is essential that all be thoroughly informed in regard to them. Those who have not received this bulletin, (No. 168), should secure a copy of it and thoroughly familiarize themselves with its contents. The weeds treated are profusely illustrated. The bulletin may be obtained free by writing to the Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto, or to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

FARMERS SHOULD ORGANIZE

In an address delivered before the Canadian Club, Toronto, Mr. C. C. James, the talented Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, drew attention to the fact that, while there were 175,000 farms in Ontario, with an investment of \$1,200,000,000, and an annual production of \$200,000,000, out of the total members elected recently to the House of Commons, in Ontario, only six were farmers. This is a condition that should be remedied. The farmers are the only people who can remedy it.

Why is it that our farmers, as a rule, are unable to hold their own in matters of public debate with city men? It is because they do not have enough practice in public speaking. In the United States, we believe it will be found that the proportion of farmers in the State Legislatures and in the National Congress, is larger than it is in Canada. In the United States, the Grange, or the Patrons of Husbandry, is much stronger than it is in Canada. In some of the States forty thousand to sixty thousand far-

mers are members of the state grange.

The local Granges hold meetings at regular intervals. These local organizations are run purely by the farmers. They are independent of the Government, and raise their own funds. They encourage the young men on the farms to attend their meetings, and to debate subjects relating to agriculture. In this way, thousands of young, bashful country boys have developed into capable and powerful public speakers.

The history of the Grange in Canada has not been a success. In the early days of the order some serious mistakes were made. It was a mistake for the Grange to try and run a third party. The order, we believe, has profited by these mistakes. There is need in Canada for a proper organization of the farmers among themselves. Unless we organize through some such organization as the Grange we may expect to have to take a back seat to the city men, and be represented by them in our Provincial Legislatures and in our House of Commons.

A VITAL QUESTION

Possibly some patrons of these factories and of creameries have never faced the one vital question in connection with successful dairying, does each single cow in the herd return a profit? Our attention was recently called to one herd where a little weeding out would result beneficially. On a herd of 22 cows the annual profit was only \$118. But if the eight poorest cows had been disposed of, there would have been a profit of \$129. This means that all the labor attendant on the care of eight cows for one whole year could have been saved, that \$280 worth of feed would have been on hand, and still the profit would have been eleven dollars more.

In many districts whole herds might be raised to a higher profit-earning standard. Grading up and more careful feeding must be considered, but too much emphasis cannot be placed on the necessity of discovering whether or each individual cow in the herd adds to the total net profit. A little time, ten minutes a month, a little arithmetic, and with only a slight cash outlay, the record of each cow can be had permanently in black and white for reference, for study, and for determined vigorous action towards more profit per cow.

Under the present system of cow testing associations organized by the Dairy Division, Ottawa, just the information each man needs is to be had with the least possible outlay. We feel that we cannot give better advice to factory owners, makers or patrons than this, get a cow testing association organized as quickly as possible.

Are you receiving your paper regularly? If not, there is a reason for it. Advise us immediately and we will look into this reason. Our papers are mailed promptly each week, and should reach subscribers regularly. We take it for granted that subscribers receive their papers every week,