

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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## FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

## DO WE WANT A NAVY?

Farm and Dairy looks with considerable misgiving upon the proposed expenditure by Canada of \$20,000,000, during the next few years, in the establishment of a Canadian navy. If voted, this \$20,000,000 would be only the initial expenditure. It would be but the thin edge of the wedge. What the final burden on this country of such a navy would amount to, no one can tell.

It is a question if we are not already expending excessive sums for military purposes. The Dominion Government devotes approximately \$1,000,000 a year for the encouragement of agriculture and over \$6,000,000 for militia and defence. Can there be any question as to which line of expenditure is productive of the most good?

Few of us can realize what \$30,000,000 means. It would, for instance, provide for the construction in our rural districts of 50,000 miles of good macadam roads, estimating the cost

of such roads at \$1,000 a mile. It would provide a substantial start towards the construction of another Canadian transcontinental railway.

What are we going to do with a navy after we get it? War vessels cannot be used for the transportation of produce. They may be fine to look at, and brag about, but they do not produce wealth. They would be immensely expensive to maintain, and the greater part of the time they could only play tag with themselves up and down our shores.

What also would be the general effect of such an expenditure upon other countries? Japan and China will see it and in all probability will conclude that they also must increase their expenditures for the same purpose. The effect on Germany, the United States and other countries would be the same. As soon as they increased their expenditures, we would be told that it had become necessary for us to still further enlarge our navy. Thus the merry, but expensive, game of building navies would continue.

Supposing \$20,000,000 was to be voted by Canada for the encouragement of peace, the greatest step the world has ever known for the establishment of international peace would thereby be taken.

It may be that we need a navy to protect our trade routes. We doubt it. In any event, we feel that this question deserves more thorough consideration than it has yet received. The Government would be well justified in leaving this matter to the vote of the people. Farmers who agree with this view, and on whom the burden of such a navy would mainly fall, will do well to write to their members of parliament and to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, protesting against the expenditure of this enormous sum until the question has been submitted to the country for its approval.

## WHAT IS YOUR BEST COW WORTH?

How much would it take to buy your best cow? Would it be \$50, or more? Or have you any basis of telling just what she is worth? A strong argument in favor of individual testing of dairy cows is that it forms a ready basis on which to compute their value.

A cow is a poor one that is not worth at least \$50, though ordinarily that is a fair average price. High prices are the exception rather than the rule chiefly through lack of knowledge as to what each cow produces. Where records are available (and they are rapidly becoming more common) it is a poor herd in which the best cow would not realize more than \$50. In the case of Mr. B. Rothwell's herd, mention of which was made in Farm and Dairy, October 21, a cow is not considered a good one unless she gives 8,000 pounds of milk, testing not less than 3.8 per cent., a year, in her four-year-old form. Such a cow Mr. Rothwell considers worth \$100, and she is cheap at that.

The Illinois Experimental Station in a recent circular entitled "Cow Index of Keep and Profit," have

simplified the matter of telling what a cow is worth, by means of a table based on the experience and findings of the Department of Dairy Husbandry during the past 13 years. The table makes it possible for anyone, knowing the number of pounds of milk produced yearly, to tell at a glance just where he stands as to profit and loss in connection with each cow. An extract from this bulletin is given elsewhere in this issue.

## MAKE WASTE LANDS PRODUCTIVE

One of the important questions of the day, so far as the Province of Ontario is concerned, is the reforesting of her waste areas. Farm and Dairy readers will remember, from the information brought out during the discussion of this question through these columns last spring, that there is in the Province at least 125,000 acres of non-agricultural land, most of which is drifting sand.

Of these lands, Lambton County is said to have 40,000 acres, Simcoe, 60,000; South Norfolk, 10,000, Northumberland, 8,000 and Durham County, 6,000. These lands, for the most part, at one time were covered with valuable timber. Since the timber was removed, and after a few years of exploitation for agricultural purposes, these soils have proved unsuited to such an extent for the growing of farm crops, that they have been utterly abandoned. A bright side of the situation is that these lands will grow forest trees. How to have these areas set apart, replanted and devoted wholly to the growing of trees, is the question of the moment.

Realizing the soundness of the principle of reforesting and being informed as to the conditions prevailing on these waste lands, Farm and Dairy on March 18th outlined a forestry policy whereby the counties interested could take over their waste lands and manage them under Government assistance and direction. At the same time, it was suggested to the wardens of the various counties in which these lands were located, that they call mass meetings of their ratepayers and others to consider this matter. Warden Powers of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, acted upon this suggestion, which resulted in a convention being held in Cobourg last June. Resolutions passed by the convention affirmed our contention that there is a large area of waste land there dangerous to surrounding lands, and that these should be taken over and reforested; and that efforts should be made by the councils of the counties to secure the co-operation of the Provincial Government in working out the policy of reforestation. A committee of meetings next autumn to inform the ratepayers on this subject, the series to conclude with a monster convention at the December meeting of the council of the counties when definite action is to be taken. In connection with this some definite announcement will be made shortly.

In view of the reviving interest in this matter of reforestation, the address of Dean Fernow of Toronto University, delivered at the June convention and reproduced elsewhere, is worthy of careful perusal. It deals with many facts and figures not generally known, and points out that Governments are justified in reforesting waste land, just as they are in assisting railways or other internal improvements on broad lines.

## THE GRANGE AND FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

"To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves," "to enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits," "to foster mutual understanding and cooperation"; by "meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together," by suppressing "personal, local, sectional and national prejudice," and "all selfish ambition." These are some of the specific objects for which the Dominion Grange and Farmers' Association exists, and some of the methods whereby it works. It is each member's duty "to do all in his power legitimately, to influence for good the action of any political party to which he belongs," and "to do all he can to put down bribery, corruption and trickery, and see that some competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by the public interests, are nominated for all positions of trust."

In these days, when politics are run by the "Machines," when nearly every other industry except agriculture is carefully organized, and brings its influence to bear to secure special legislation in its own favour, when there is the subordination of the public welfare to that of privilege and vested interests; in these days it is highly important that farmers awake to a realization of their position, and the country's need. No other organization than the Grange and Farmers' Association seems as likely to meet the situation, and solve the problems of the day. The farmer is not adequately represented in public life: let him organize, think, study, speak, and use his influence for the uplifting of the standard of political morality: let him "go into politics"; not as a partisan, but as one who intends to elevate the tone of public life, and not as one seeking special favours for himself or his fellow-workers, but as one who demands a "square deal" for all.

The Grange commends itself to all public-spirited agriculturists, and should be warmly supported. The Farmers' Institutes have done, and are doing, splendid work along technical lines, but, owing to their financial dependence upon a party Government, a very large element of independence is sacrificed, and they do not meet all the needs of the present time. Two years ago The Old Dominion Grange amalgamated with the Farmers' Association. A revised and liberal constitution was adopted, and the combined organization

now solicits to the welfare of their members. They be held in a prospect of a Growers' and of Manitoba, Alberta. The

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