

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME  
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## The Rural Publishing Company, Limited

PETERBORO, ONT.

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

### Should Eggs be Inspected

IN the egg trade of Canada we have the nucleus of a tremendous business. Speaking at Petrolia recently, W. A. Brown of the Poultry Division, Ottawa, estimated that the egg production in Canada alone for 1915 would be worth \$30,000,000. This is two and one-half times the value of the whole fruit crop of Canada, six times the value of all the sheep, and half the value of all the cattle produced. The output, moreover, can be increased almost indefinitely. The only difficulty in the way of increased poultry production will be the marketing of the egg crop, and here we come upon our first stumbling-block.

For several years past all of the eggs produced in Canada have been consumed on the home market. Last year, however, the supply over-reached the home demand, and the egg market would have dropped to an unprofitable level, had not war closed off European supplies to the Old Land and we were able to develop an export trade of considerable proportions. The opening of the British market offers to our poultrymen a great opportunity for selling their surplus, but it is an opportunity that has already been seriously abused. Eggs of every description have been shipped and already Canadian eggs have a bad reputation on the British markets, and after the war they will come into competition with the cheap eggs from Russia and other European countries, instead of the quality eggs of Denmark and Ireland, which command a higher and a more profitable price.

This is a regrettable state of affairs, as the continued development of the poultry industry in Canada seems to depend upon our foreign markets. If the future of the industry lies in

the shipping of properly branded eggs, it is too big a problem to leave with the individual shipper. We believe the Government should act in the matter and provide legislation similar to the Fruit Marks Act, with proper provision for inspection of all eggs exported. The time to act is now, before the egg trade of the Old Land returns to its old channels and while we still have an opportunity of re-establishing ourselves in favor on the British market.

### Patriotism and Production

AT the recent annual convention of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, the following motion was submitted and carried unanimously:

Moved by H. L. Winslow, seconded by T. A. Peterson: "That the Executive of the Ontario Plowmen's Association wait on the Honorable Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and request him to get in touch with recruiting officers in the rural districts in an endeavor to arrange, if possible, that at least one capable farm hand be left on each one hundred acre farm in the province so that the campaign for increased production may not fall in 1916."

There are many reasons why the Minister of Agriculture should heed the suggestion made in this resolution. We realize that in some quarters the adoption of such a suggestion may be regarded as class legislation, but there is no reason why it should be. Munition workers are not now accepted for overseas service, and thousands of mechanics have actually been taken out of the trenches to man the factories. Food is as much a part of munitions as clothing, shells, or armament. Numerous industries now employing many men could be allowed to lapse altogether without detriment to the military power of the Allies, but should Canada's crops fall off seriously it would not only mean financial difficulties at home, but actual want abroad. Two men is not too much for 100 acres. In fact, it is an absolute minimum if production is to be maintained. The resolution approved by the Plowmen's Association may be an important factor in bringing the Government to consider this aspect of the recruiting problem. The opinions of Our Folks in the same connection are invited.

### Fruit Growing in British Columbia

A DEPUTATION representing the Fruit Growers' Association of British Columbia recently waited on the Economic and Development Commission at Ottawa to urge upon the Commission the desirability of having such measures adopted as would ensure to the apple growers of that province a fair profit for their labors. We do not know whether this deputation asked for a tariff increase, lower freight rates, direct government assistance, or a combination of all three, but we suspect that the tariff came in for most consideration. We feel justified in asking, are the British Columbia growers fair in their demand that, conditions considered, they should be assured a profit on their labors.

When the first orchard plantings made in British Columbia came into bearing, a profitable market was found in the prairie provinces for the small supplies of fruit then produced. So profitable were these first plantings that the fruit growing industry was boomed tremendously. Orchard planting was rushed ahead apparently without any consideration of where a market would be found for the immense crops of fruit that the future would bring forth. This orchard boom was not confined to British Columbia. Plantings were made on an even greater scale in all of the Pacific Coast states. These orchards are now coming into bearing, and the supply is altogether in excess of the demand. In the meantime the growers who have high interest

rates to meet in addition to their other expenses, are finding it hard to make both ends meet.

Such is the situation. The growers believe that a tariff high enough to exclude United States fruit from the prairie markets would do much to solve their problem. We doubt, however, if even such a radical measure as this would assure a market for all the fruit grown in British Columbia in the next score of years as only a small proportion of the orchards planted are yet in bearing. Even if it did, would it be quite fair to ask the farmers and city consumers of the prairies to pay for the mistakes of the fruit growers themselves who are alone responsible for the rash over-planting and the excessive capitalization of their land? We do not believe the Government would be justified in granting such assistance. The subject, however, is open for discussion.

### Tuberculin Tests

A BRITISH Columbia reader has asked our opinion as to the merit of the tuberculin test, and requests a discussion of compulsory tuberculin testing as conducted in his province. We will discuss the points brought out in this letter more fully at a later date, but let us state here that the more we learn of the effects of tuberculosis, the more are we convinced that compensation or no compensation, no dairy farmer can afford to have the disease in his herd. This is as true of grade as of pure-bred. Aside from being a continual menace to the health of our own families, the tuberculous cow and herd cannot long be tolerated for economic reasons. The cities will see to that.

Milk for city consumption is the most rapidly increasing market for dairy products. The quality of milk supplied to this trade, once left to the initiative of the individual dairymen, is now coming more and more under the supervision of health officials. No authority in the land can prevent a city or town council taking such measures as it deems essential for the protection of the health of its citizens, and some cities have already refused to allow milk from untested herds to be sold within their limits. More cities are falling in line, and the time is not far distant when all milk for city and town consumption will come from herds that the tuberculin test has shown to be free from the disease.

Then, again, dairy cattle buyers are more and more buying milk cows subject to the tuberculin test, and just in proportion as city health authorities demand the test, will city milk men, who are the largest buyers of milk cows, refuse to buy from untested herds. As a result, the district or province which applies the test universally as British Columbia is now attempting to do, will get the cream of the cattle buying trade. We would also call attention to the fact that swine fed on skim milk from an infected herd, very frequently contract the disease, and their carcasses are rejected on that account.

It may be costly to exterminate the disease. We know that it is. But may it not be even more costly to let the disease take its course?

A flock of sheep, under average conditions, will make more money on the investment than any other class of live stock. Why, then, are they so scarce on Canadian farms?

"Dairy cows are valuable to convert unmarketable roughage into a saleable product," remarks a contemporary. Yes and good dairy cows will convert all of the staple crops of the farm into milk, and at something more than the market price. Well, perhaps we will expect timothy from this ruling. Better sell it and buy clover.

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