FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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Farm and Dairy."

Rogues shall not ply their trade at the expense of our subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns and the column of the additional tradition of the column of the colum

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.

A Partner with Nature

THE farmer is God's partner. His privilege it is to work in conjunction with Nature, to produce and create. And the man who creates in company with the Almighty gets the satisfaction that the soul demands. The city man does not create. He handles what has already been created on the farm, or in the mine and the forest. There never was and never can be the same satisfaction in trade and exchange that there is in the works of creation.

It is this basic principle of human nature that turns the thoughts of city men to the soil. It explains why the farmer, who owns his own farm and appreciates his position as a creator, is the most to be envied of any man on earth. Farming may often have its drawbacks but truly its compensations are greater if we are only big enough to appreciate them.

Butter or Butter Fat

THERE is no definite relationship between butter and butter fat. When we say that a cow has produced a certain number of pounds of butter fat in a year no supplemental evidence is necessary. We have a fair basis for judging that cow's production. To say that a cow has produced a certain number of pounds of butter, however, is to name a varying figure and one that is apt to be confusing to the average dairyman as the breed definitions of the relationship between butter and butter fat vary widely, and there is no definite commercial relationship whatever. One association, for instance, expresses its butter records on an eighty per cent. basis, whereas if a commercial maker were to attempt to incorporate such a percentage of moisture in his product he

would be jailed or fined as a manufacturer of adulterated food. Another breed association gets its records within the limits of the law by expressing butter records on an eighty-five per cent. fat basis

But why use the variable factor, butter, at all? Why not express all records in terms of butter fat which term really stands for something As long as butter records are recognized by the breed associations breeders will speak in terms of butter because the figures are larger and look better on the sale catalogue or in the advertisement. In the long run, however, we believe that breeders would be wise to stay by the butter fat record. the record that stands for one definite value.

A Boys' and Girls' Institute

66 THERE is not a single person who'd be doin' business now

Or have medals, if it wasn't for the man behind the plow."

With this as their motto, expressing the dignity and usefulness of the calling of their parents, the boys and girls on the farms of North Dakota have organized themselves into the North Dakota Boys' and Girls' Institute. They have their own president, secretary, treasurer, and board of di-Their work is under the supervision rectors. of the Extension Bureau of the North Dakota Agricultural College. This organization of juveniles is a live one. During the coming summer they are planning to conduct alfalfa and corn growing tests and poultry raising copetitions, with butter making and sewing classes for the

This movement is similar in its conception to the Rural School Fair Movement in Canada. Educationalists in both countries are going on the principle that an old person does not learn easily and that greater improvement in agricultural methods and country life may be attained by influencing the next generation now in their tender years. The rapid growth that the movement is making on both sides of the international boundary shows how fully its possibilities are becoming appreciated.

Survey Your Own Farm

D ID you ever take an afternoon off and stroll over your own farm, viewing it in the impartial manner in which you would survey a neighbor's farm? Looking the farm in the face in this way is a wonderful educator, and all of us can afford to do it at least once a year. Sticking too close to hard work makes us nar-

row in our vision. Obvious faults are apt to escape our notice. For instance, it is easy for one of us who has plowed for 40 years around a large boulder in the middle of an otherwise clean field, to come to regard that obstruction as a necessary evil; a few pounds of blasting powder and half an hour's work would remove the obstruction and improve the field immensely. The barnyard may be very unsightly and mussy to a stranger, but all right to us because we have become accustomed to seeing it that way. A gate that insists on sagging and dragging may lose us enough time and energy in a year to build half a dozen new ones to take its place, but we have become so accustomed to hauling that old gate around that it, too, is classed as a necessary evil.

It is wonderful how many small points in need of improvement we can find if we will only give our farm a square look in the face. Many of the most obvious faults may be remedied by half an shour of energetic work. There are few of us whose farms are so perfect that they would not be the better of an annual clean-up.

The Wealth of the Land

B E sure your sin will find you out," admonishes the Book of Books, and many of us are now coming to see the application of this scriptural truth to our own calling. For years, perhaps generations, we have been living on the wealth of the land in the same manner that the miner lives on the wealth of his mine. We have been robbing our soil and now we are reaping the fruits of our sowing in decreased crops and decreased profits or no profits at all. Even on many of the so-called stock farms of Canada the soil has had only a fraction of its fertility returned to it. Many dairy farmers (again socalled) derive half of their income from crops sold off the farm. Such a continual drain from the soil with no commensurate return must in the end decrease its producing power. In planning our operations, we farmers must

be more far-seeing than the most of men. We must see ahead of present bountiful crops to the results, perhaps many years ahead, of constant cropping. The man who has this vision is the one who is manufacturing his crops at home and marketing butter, cheese, beef, pork and live stock. Additional fertility is secured by growing leguminous crops and by buying feed or fertilizers or both. True, crop farming involves a minimum of expenditure of capital and labor and occasionally yields greater present returns. But what of the future?

Help for the Poor Farmer

ANADIAN Farm makes a timely protest against the holding up of the farmer as the one individual in the community who needs help to run his business. Seemingly many a city editor feels himself more competent to run a farm than are his rural subscribers and does not hesitate to offer copious advice, which, fortunate ly, we generally allow to pass unheeded. Lately it has become quite a hobby with leading bankers railway magnates, and men of that ilk, to delive addresses on the subject of agriculture, pointing out wherein the farmer falls down, thus empha sising his need of more education. All of thes efforts, however, pall into insignificance when compared with the efforts that are being made by government departments to educate the posfarmer.

This advice is well intended, and to a certain extent beneficial. Many important reforms have been brought about through the propagandas agricultural colleges and departments of agriculture, and the advice from these sources is to b relied upon. What we want more than advice however, is a chance to run our farms an a fa and even basis in competition with the rest of the community. It is useless to expect farmed generally to get enthusiastic over increasing the output of our farms, employing more labor, all so forth, while we must sell those products in free trade market and buy our supplies in a protected market. It is kind of discouraging t make splendid efforts for the upbuilding of com try life and then find that a large proportion the results of our toil have been swallowed up i increased land values, principally city la values. We do not resent particularly the hea of advice that are coming our way, but we wou appreciate just a square deal. The men who at freest with advice are often those who are exe ing all of their influence on our legislators to pt vent those economic reforms that would ensu greater profit to the farmer and hence the cap with which to consummate the improvements at vised. Is such a course consistent?

Happiness is a state of mind. Like the crop of the field it can be cultivated.

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