

A SMALL COUNTRY MADE GREAT BY ITS AGRICULTURE\*

Denmark was once the poorest country in Europe per capita, now it is the second richest in the world. Dr. Jas. Robertson tells how the farmers of Denmark wrought the wonderful change.

"WE Canadians have been content to add to our knowledge chiefly by our own experience. Other nations are wiser. They learn much by observation and so they incorporate into their own practice any good things that have been discovered elsewhere. Denmark stands out as an example in this respect. Every farmer in Denmark gets thors out of his experience strength and wisdom for future use, and then he adds to his own knowledge and to that of his neighbor. We have not learned in Canada the meaning of being neighborly. That is a harsh thing to say, but it is a truism I have gleaned from watching ourselves and other people. We are not offensively unneighborly; we do not steal a man's apples nor put our dog after him, but we are a most unneighborly people. The Danes are the most neighborly people I ever knew, and that is why their farming has been so successful.

**DENMARK VS. CANADA**  
"There are some striking differences between Denmark and Canada, and perhaps for that reason we can never be quite as neighborly as they are. Neighborliness is the secret of all strength and stability and character and prosperity. Denmark has not had half the advance we have in Canada. When I was seven years old she was the poorest country in Europe, without exception. In 1910 she was the richest nation in the world, after England and the United States, and distributed among all the farmers, whereas in England the greater portion of the wealth is in the hands of a few rich people.

"I have traveled all over Denmark and I never saw one poor man. You can picture the size of Denmark by taking all that piece of land that lies south of the St. Lawrence from Beauharnois down to a point south of Quebec city, which represents only a small part of Quebec province. Copenhagen is about the same size as Montreal. Three-fifths of the Danish population (14 millions) live on farms in the country—a large number for a small area. There is a population of 20 for every 100 acres of land. We Canadians have become as thin in our neighborly spirit as we are thinly spread over the country we live in.

**ONE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE**  
"One of the laments of Denmark is that they cannot grow Indian corn. They grow it half as fast again as at present. Their climate is not so cold in winter nor so warm in summer as ours. They grow roots wonderfully well. In 30 years the acreage in roots has increased from 46,000 to 600,000.

"There are a few big farms in Denmark called 'middle holdings,' about 70 acres in extent. The building is in the form of a hollow square, with a large clover yard in the center of an archway for driving through. The small farmer who has seven or 10 acres is called a houseman. He is dominated by the love of beauty, the exaltation of purity and the joy of having a good home."

"The Royal Agricultural Society maintains an expert who examines all implements before a farmer will use them. The yearly yield of milk per cow is from 8,000 to 13,000 lbs.

\*A report of an address by Dr. Robertson at the Annual Convention of the Bedford District Dairy Association in Quebec province, partly in Dr. Robertson's own words and partly according to the reporter of the Sherbrooke Record.

and a good price is realized for their milk.

**HIGH SCHOOLS IN CANADA**  
"They have high schools for country young people who have left the ordinary schools and been at work for a few years. No one can enter under 17 years of age. There is a five months' winter course for young men and a three months' summer course for young women. They have been so useful that one-fifth of all the young people attend them. The boys and girls before entering these schools have to spend a certain number of years in farm and domestic work respectively. These are residential schools and a distinctive feature is the singing. The study of history, physical culture and singing has made the Danes a happy and contented race.

"They make the place where they live beautiful; we do not know the meaning of the joy of country life like they do,—they have a 'bower of beauty' outside the farmhouses where they spend their evenings. In 1881 their whole exports of butter, bacon and eggs amounted to \$11,500,000—this has been increased to \$2,600,000. In the same period the Canadian exports have only increased from \$1,500,000 to \$26,000,000.

**THEY GET A QUALITY PRICE**  
"While they increased their exports they got improved their quality that the prices they received from England in excess of any other nation who sent the same quantity, more than half that of the other nations of their people. They cultivated clover, alfalfa, roots, barley, oats, peas, some wheat and large crops of potatoes. Sugar beet factories are increasing and breweries are quickly diminishing. They have good rotations. They grow their own seeds for mangoldia, beets, etc.; they select their own seeds and so get a larger crop. They grow all the bulky feed themselves. They move their cows three times a day and do not fence their pasturing land, thus they get more milk. One-third of their land is very good, two-thirds indifferent. They have very large areas with scrub growth and very poor soil.

"There are 1,250,000 milking cows in Denmark. In 20 years they have increased their exports of butter 169 per cent, nearly all of which is attributed to improvement of the individual cow. The extra care of the single cow is very important. It may be more profitable to have 10 cows and give them the best individual care than to have 25 and not do so.

**REVENUE FROM COWS**  
"The yearly revenue from the cows of Denmark on small farms is \$120. Seventy thousand persons farm less than 11 acres. There is no dairy commission; the Danish Government does not employ any expert to help the people. The experts are employed by the farmers' organizations known as Agriculture Associations. The chief one has 800 members who pay \$5 per year each. There are 116 Farmers' Associations with 86,000 members. The Agriculture Associations are in charge of the conditions of each locality. If a man discovers a better way of killing weeds or cultivating roots he informs the association.

"There are three kinds of these associations, county, provincial and national. They hold live stock shows, field experiments and farming competitions. There are also 723 small farmers' associations with 98,000 members. Two-thirds of the entire number of (Continued on page 12.)

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