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The Taxation Question

Proposed Change in Municipal Laws

Ed., Farm and Dairy:—It was recently my privilege to look through the files of your excellent paper, for the year 1908, and I was pleased to see so many letters on the taxation question; especially when I found so many of the writers advocating the exemption of improvements and a single tax on the unimproved value of the land. Permit me to inform your readers that the Single Tax Association has put into circulation a petition proposing a change in the Municipal Tax Laws of Ontario. The petition is addressed to the Provincial Legislature, and asks that the Assessment Act be amended "so that municipalities may tax improvement values; business assessments, incomes and salaries to be classed as improvement values, and the difference in the rates, in every case, to be determined by the municipality."

We submit this proposition to the farmers of Ontario for their consideration, and shall be glad to hear the opinions of any who are interested in the question of taxation, either through the columns of your journal or by personal letter. To any who will write us we will supply sample copies of the petition, and any information on the subject they may desire. Address,—L. B. Walling, Secretary Single Tax Association, 75 Yonge St., Toronto.

Tax Land Values Only

Ed., Farm and Dairy:—Replying to T. H. N., Wellington Co., Ont., in your issue of December 23rd, in which you place taxes on land we contend as single taxes on land values, a few square yards are often worth more in one place than many acres are in another, possibly only a few miles away. Why not collect all taxes from land values only? What is more simple? New Zealand has this system.

Remember as says Henry George: "All things come from land and everything returns there." How can you tax special privileges and how can we decide what ones are of the nature of monopolies and what are not? We want local option in Canada. Why should this not apply to taxation as well as drink?—David Howse, Lincoln Co., Ont.

Farmers Putting up Silos

While visiting at the home of Mr. J. Elliott, of Tatehast, Quebec, a staff representative of Farm and Dairy was surprised to find how many farmers in that section had recently erected silos. During the past two years, the hay crop in Chateauguay County, Que., has been unusually short and the farmers of the section have therefore, have started to grow more corn. Mr. Elliott erected a new silo last year. "I had often thought of putting up a silo," said Mr. Elliott to our representative, "but some farmers told me that it would not pay me to erect one I took time, therefore, to look into the question until I became satisfied that a silo would pay me. I found that our best farmers were using them and that all stated emphatically that they had found their silos a good investment."

Among the farmers of the section who have erected silos are Messrs. John Dixon, Wm. Tate, Alex. McDougal, Andrew Campbell, John Scott and Andrew Ross, all of whom live near Ormstown, Que. Mr. Elliott's farm won one of the prizes offered by the Government in the good farms competition held in the Province of Quebec.

President Falconer at Ottawa

"Education should mean that you and I have studied what we can do, and then doing it, and not stopping until we are dead," declared Dr. Falconer, president of Toronto University, at the official opening ceremonies of the Eastern Ontario Live Stock and Poultry Show held at Ottawa, recently. Dr. Falconer looked upon the show as an education. It directed the farmers' attention into the way into which he could best develop his work. "Education," continued the doctor, "does not mean cramming the brain with a lot of facts. The truly educated man is that one who has his powers so developed that he can use them in the best manner possible."

"Industry, intelligence and integrity," was the motto commended by Dr. Falconer. "Mere industry was not enough, there should also be intelligence, which quality was primarily necessary in the case of the farmer. The man who thinks, is bound to ultimately triumph over his competitor. Again," continued the speaker, "we need integrity. We want men in Canada so understood on the markets of the world, that wherever Canadian goods may go they shall be trusted. This would be an inestimable asset."

In giving his reasons for coming to Ottawa to address the gathering Dr. Falconer stated that as president of the people's university he must come into touch with the people. Fully two-thirds of the students of Toronto University came from outside the city of Toronto. Its attendants were practically all the sons and daughters of Ontario. "The work that is done in the university is work that comes directly to the homes of the province. Every time you call in a doctor, every time you travel over a railroad or are in a great building you are relying upon the education furnished at our universities. Every one must be interested in this." It was from the farm home stated the doctor that the best students came. The work of intellectual life of the farm showed in some of Canada's greatest men to-day. He was persuaded that the well being of the families depended on the life of the families as a whole and urged upon his auditors, the necessity of a strict moral intellectual home life.

Dr. Falconer concluded with a warning against the sweets of the present prosperity. The biggest danger to the farms he said were the men and women that lived there and the boys and girls that went to school. It was often forgotten that great benefactors of the country were the old men and women who lived quietly at home, sending their sons through college to occupy positions of trust.

Clydesdale Grants

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Dominion Clydesdale Breeders' Association, held in Toronto, Jan. 27, grants were made to the various leading exhibitors as follows: Winnipeg, \$40 for best Clydesdale stallion; \$30 for best Clydesdale mare and \$25 for best team of Clydesdale mare or geldings in harness.

Brandon, Calgary, Regina and Edmonton, to each, \$25 for best Clydesdale stallion, \$25 for best Clydesdale mare, \$25 for best team of Clydesdale mares or geldings in harness.

Victoria and New Westminster, B. C., to each, \$25.

The foregoing grants are smaller than those made in 1908 owing to the receipts of the association last year from registry fees having been less than in 1907.

DELEGATES TO FAIRS

Delegates to the various fairs were elected as follows:—
Calgary, R. Thorburn, Davidson, Alta.; Winnipeg, John Graham, Carberry, Man.; Ottawa, Peter Christie, Mancheson, Ont.; Toronto, John Bright, Myrtle Station, Ont.; London, James Henderson, Belton, Ont.