



FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

The Recognized Expert of Dairying in Canada.

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An Assured Income for the Retired Farmer

The Value of the Canadian Government Annuities to the Man on the Land

BY THE EDITOR

"WE can't make any progress in this village. We've got too many retired farmers on the voting list."

Who has not heard this statement, or one similar? Usually it is followed by a tirade of abuse against the offending (?) farmer. Unwillingness to vote for civic improvements is attributed variously to stinginess, lack of progressive ideals, and to plain meanness. More often the direction of the vote of the retired farmer is attributed to his fear of increased taxes; and this is the correct explanation. This fear of an increasing tax rate, however, is not due to stinginess, but may usually be accounted for by the slowness of the income of the retired farmer. To many, increased tax rate would mean a curtailment of the very necessities of life.

The lot of the retired farmer is not an enviable one. A few retire with a competence, more retire with barely enough to live on in comfort and decency, and were it not for the assistance of the boy on the old farm, or the boy who has done well in the city, it would be hard indeed to make ends meet. Many do not make ends meet, and one of the pitiable sights of country towns and villages is the old man who has given the best years of his life to running his own farm, working for someone else at such a wage as is paid only to the most unskilled labor. He isn't doing it for exercise; he is driven to it by necessity.

A Typical Ontario Village

In the county of Durham, Ont., is a village that is typical of many throughout the length and breadth of our land. It has a population of 300 or 400 people. There is one main street, lined with neat little cottages and well kept gardens. "All inhabited by retired farmers," remarked the general merchant of the village, waving his arm at the cottages up and down the street. "Have an awful time to get along with most of them."

"Now there's Mr. B. just across the road," he continued, pointing to a neat frame cottage. "He built that cottage immediately on his retirement about 10 years ago. The cottage cost the old couple more than they expected. You know the contractors' final bill is always more than his first estimate. Then they found that living expenses of the farm were much higher than they ever dreamed. Say, but I hope I'll never have as hard a time to get along as they have had this last eight years. I know their condition, for I am the merchant. If it wasn't for the assistance that they get from their son on the

farm, they would just pretty nearly have to come on the county."

"Is Mr. B.'s case an exceptional one?" I inquired.

"His is a typical one," was the emphatic response. "There are lots of retired farmers in this community that have not over \$200 a year to live on, and they worked like slaves for a

The Retired Farmer

The Situation.

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The Solution.

"The man who has tilled the soil for almost a lifetime, deserves better than this in his old age. To give him something better is the object of the Canadian government annuities. * * * By means of a government annuity, a person can secure at 55 or any later age, an income that will make him independent of others during the remaining years of his life and enable him to approach old age without any misgiving as to where his support will come from."

lifetime to get that much. Their homes look neat and most people would not believe what I am telling you, but it's true, just the same."

The conditions that rule in this Durham county village are too true everywhere. Occasionally retired farmers drive away. More frequently they don't. The man who has tilled the soil for almost a lifetime deserves better than this in his old age. To give him something better is the object of the Canadian Government Annuities. When the annuities system was first adopted by the Canadian Government, it was generally received as a special regulation for the benefit of the working people of the cities who have few opportunities to provide for their old age. It was in this way that I myself regarded it. The more I have studied the annuity system, however, the more I have come to believe that it may be a boon to the farmer. By means of a

Government annuity a person can secure at 55, or any later age an income that will make him independent of others during the remaining years of his life and enable him to approach old age without any misgiving as to where his support will come from.

There are several systems whereby one may assure their old age through the Canadian Government annuities. For a young man the most desirable system is to start making annual payments now and continue these up to 55 or 60 years old, when the annuity will commence. This system is conducted under two plans, known as Plan A and Plan B.

What \$1.68 a Month Will Do

If a young man were to start in his 25th year and pay \$1.68 a month on an annuity and continue these payments until his 55th year, he would then be entitled to an income of \$400 a year as long as he lived. One hundred dollars a year, however, would not be enough to live on. An income of \$500 a year could be ensured by monthly payments of \$8.40, or \$100.80 a year. Under this plan, if the man were to die before he reached the age of 55, all that he paid in would be returned with compound interest at three per cent. to his heirs. Plan B is similar, except that in case of death no money is refunded to the heirs, and it consequently costs less. An annual income of \$100 from 55 years until death can be purchased under Plan B for \$16.44 a year, payments to start when the applicant is 25 years old. An income of \$500 under Plan B would cost \$82.20 annually.

If payments are not started until the applicant has reached the age of 35, the annual payment on a \$100 annuity, Plan A, would be \$3.21 a month, at age 40 \$4.80, and proportional rates for other ages.

Annuity Payments Easily Made

What young man on the farm could not save \$1.68 a month for an annuity? Such an annuity would be well within the reach of the hired man. Either of them could easily save twice \$1.68, and this would secure to them an assured income during their old age of \$200 a year, which would be paid to them as long as they lived. This plan is the ideal one for the young man. The money paid for an annuity cannot be lost, because it is secured by all the wealth and resources of Canada. It is not affected by the fluctuations of business or trade depression, and, as the expenses of management are borne by the Government, the annuitant gets the full benefit of all his money savings.

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