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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

### Ontario's Dairy Industry.

Silage will be none too plentiful during the coming winter, and it is all the more important to see that it is harvested in good condition and put away so that it will keep well.

The acreage of fall wheat is promising. Good yields are more likely if nothing but good plump seed of standard varieties is used. Sow six pecks to the acre if the seed is good.

In two months' time the newly organized record of performance work with poultry will have been begun. It is to be hoped that it will have a speedy effect upon the average productiveness of the farm hen.

Soon the potato harvest will be on. Districts from which large quantities of spuds are marketed should have a potato marketing association unless there is already in existence an organization that can take care of the crop.

It is to be hoped that better prices will be realized for export apples on the British markets than some we have recently seen quoted. Nova Scotia growers have a good crop, but with high freight rates the price needs to be good too.

Good live stock is fundamental to success in farming. This is true to-day as never before. The high cost of feed and labor makes imperative the use of animals that will give the most economical returns. The scrub never wins out here.

The Prince of Wales has certainly endeared himself to all with whom he has come in contact so far during his visit to Canada. It is only natural that a democratic country should soon learn to appreciate a democratic young prince.

Let us all hope that the coming autumn weather will be favorable for farm work. Farmers of Eastern Ontario in particular will retain lasting memories of the unfavorable seasons that have followed one another during the past twelve months.

Not long ago a good farmer accustomed to rearing good horses said he was going to stop it, as he hardly thought it paid him well enough. We should have more farmers raising good heavy horses instead of fewer. There is good money in raising the heavy type that the market demands.

There are plenty of people who are willing to live on the products of the farm, but too few who want to live on the farm itself. Is it too much to hope that the high cost of living will drive them to the land peaceably? Eventually they must come, and why not do it without undue disturbance?

The Dominion Live Stock Commissioner is now back from England, and should have with him a comprehensive knowledge of European live stock conditions and requirements. The more knowledge of this kind we have the better will Canadian live-stock men be able to meet the requirements of the export market.

The House of Commons is again in session at Ottawa, and an editor of "The Farmer's Advocate" will follow the proceedings as during the last session. The present session promises to be a short one if members will get down to business and endeavor to earn their second sessional indemnity. Some members would earn it were it twice as large; others could not earn it were it cut in two.

The old idea that a farm with its family of hard workers and its crops and live stock is a unit by itself, without dependence upon the outside world for success, is fast losing ground. Originally, independence was the watchword of the farmer, but this was forced aside and interdependence among neighbors took its place. Now, dependence upon the outside world is an established fact, as regards a great many features of farm life, and in none more so than in the marketing of farm products.

The dairy industry is a splendid example of the way in which farmers must depend upon the outside world. Every great industry must respond to the same forces that move other industries, and the individual who engages in it must learn to feel that his work is but a small fraction of the effort necessary to assure the success of the industry as a whole; and, also, that unless the industry is on a successful footing he himself cannot succeed so well. This is the lesson that dairy farmers must learn. No longer can they feel independent of the actions of other dairymen, and the sooner each feels that he and his family, working industriously, are nevertheless only small parts of a great branch of national endeavor, so soon will dairying assume its proper importance and reward its workers with adequate returns.

Ontario's dairy industry viewed as a whole is of tremendous size. It is a big business enterprise, involving the production of products valued at about \$75,000,000 yearly and, what is more to the point, every dairy farmer should consider himself a shareholder in this business. There are, according to figures supplied by the Dairy Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, 970 cheese factories in Ontario, using 1,369,897,671 pounds of milk annually to make 121,173,086 pounds of cheese valued at \$30,293,271. There are 160 factories making 28,714,352 pounds of creamery butter annually from 736,336,800 pounds of milk, and valued at \$14,357,189; besides 9 condenseries using 157,803,513 pounds of milk and 5 powder factories using 56,233,145 pounds. In addition, there is the market milk, ice cream, and dairy butter supply to be accounted for, which, together with farm consumption is valued at \$25,000,000. Truly this is a sizable industry in which no individual should dare to exercise thoughtlessly his own sweet will in the pursuit of it.

No ordinary commercial enterprise of this magnitude could, under any circumstances, be conducted along lines of individual action and success. Neither can the great dairy industry make much further progress without some governing body acting with the full support and co-operation of the mass of milk producers. Organization is necessary, and it must not be forgotten that this costs money. If good men with a knowledge of the producer's problems are to work in his behalf, they must be paid and paid well. Not much should be necessary from each, but that little must be forthcoming or the organization is doomed to failure. We have now in Canada a National Dairy Council, organized, but without funds unless either the producers, whom it will benefit, or the Government whom it will have to fight upon occasion, come to its support. For very obvious reasons the financing should certainly be done by producers and the manufacturers of dairy products. The industry it is fighting for should provide the National Dairy Council with the munitions and the sinews of war.

Provincial organizations are necessary too, for two principal reasons. They are necessary to co-ordinate the work of the national body and to attend to matters of a purely provincial nature. The present situation in Ontario with regard to the price of market milk is one that only a strong provincial organization can cope with. The recent disappointment regarding the price fixed for cheese by the British Ministry of Food should

serve to awaken every dairyman in Canada to the folly of poor organization. Never again should it be possible for any two or three men to practically buy up the whole Canadian export surplus of cheese without once consulting the producers. Prices for our milk are fixed by world demand, and every dairyman should rally freely to the organization that will aid him in securing a larger and better market.

### A Farmer Writes a Book.

It is seldom that one has the opportunity of reading a book written by a farmer. It is proverbial, in fact, that farmers seldom find time to read books, much less write them, a circumstance which makes the writing of books by farmers as noteworthy as the examples are rare. Farmers have written books before, quite a few of them no doubt, but we always had the impression that most of the authors were not honest-to-goodness tillers of the soil; merely lovers of fresh air, whose enthusiasm had erupted, or scientifically trained men who sought authorship as a means of raising themselves into the lap of luxury. For these reasons, therefore, we are glad to note the production of a thoughtful and carefully-prepared book entitled "Production and Taxation in Canada," and written by an Ontario farmer. The author, W. C. Good, of Brant County, is a man fairly well known to readers of the farm press, and to those acquainted with the progress of agricultural organization in Ontario. Many may feel inclined to view his ideas of economic reform as being too advanced, and even radical, but we feel safe in saying that few practical farmers, such as Mr. Good is, have given as much serious thought to the present condition of agriculture as himself. Few men, too, who realize the present inadequacy of reward from agricultural endeavor, could or would write so clearly and at the same time in such a moderate tone.

There are no tirades against anyone. Plain facts are made still plainer, the fundamental idea inspiring the writer being, perhaps, best suggested by the following sentence from an early chapter: "The revival of agriculture will consist of, and result in *Better Farming, Better Business and Better Living* but will depend primarily upon *Better Returns* for the effort expended." Four chapters contain such facts as it was possible to gather regarding the actual economic condition of agriculture, and, naturally, we are not surprised to note two chapters dealing largely with the tariff and its manner of increasing the profit of urban industries at the expense of agriculture. One cannot, however, escape some surprise at the result produced by the cold logic of the author in his handling of available statistics. These two chapters alone are worth the most careful study. Mr. Good credits Canadian agriculture with an annual deficit of \$110,000,000 during 1910-14, while Canadian manufacturing during the same period gained a surplus profit each year of \$260,000,000. He also figures the total tax due to the tariff on Canadian manufacturers to be \$497,000,000, of which agriculture bears one-half, or what amounts to about \$350 per rural family, yearly. About one-quarter only of the total tax reaches the federal treasury, he believes, so that \$180,000,000 yearly is diverted from agriculture to the pockets of the protected interests. Assuming all these figures to be approximately correct, one can have all the joy of anticipation by merely subtracting this amount from the \$260,000,000 profit to urban industries and adding it on to the \$110,000,000 deficit of the farmer. The result is a substantial and fairly equal profit for both and, considering that the rural and urban populations are about the same, equal profits must be just if farming is a business and not merely a mode of existence.

Careful reading of this little book does much to explain the rapid spread of co-operation among farmers