

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME  
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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.  
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confuse, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

## Jeopardizing the Dairy Show

ONE of the most important things in favor of Canadian dairy produce on the markets of Great Britain is the confidence of importers and dealers, as well as of consumers, that it contains no imitation butter or filled cheese. This consideration, the value of which cannot be estimated, and which will become still more important after the war is over, exists because our exports have been kept free from bogus butter and cheese by the restrictions which certain interests are now moving heaven and earth to have abrogated. One of the first results of the raising of the restrictions on the oleomargarine trade would be that we would sacrifice that confidence in Canadian dairy products which has been established in the markets of the world by the prohibition of the use of any but butter fat in the manufacture of dairy products.

The Government of Canada will be well advised to take into full consideration and give proper weight to the views of the dairymen of both Eastern and Western Ontario, as they have found expression in resolutions passed unanimously at every meeting or convention in which dairymen have gathered together since the movement for the admission of margarine began. Of late a great deal has been said about the development of Canada's foreign trade after the war is over, and of the necessity of building up in foreign markets good will for the products of Canada's farms and factories. Here is a case in which that goodwill already exists. It is to be sacrificed because a temporary shortage in butter has given the manufacturing and packing interests an opportunity for renewing their campaign for the admission and manufacture of margarine? Dairymen are fully conscious that the high cost of living is pressing heavily on the consumer, but they have reason to doubt the sincerity of some of those who are at present posing as the consumers' champions. They believe that the benefit

accruing to the consumer by the use of cheaper fats would be a poor recompense for which to sacrifice the integrity of the dairy industry.

## Land Values and Social Conditions

THE tendency of the high price of land is to gradually reduce the number of small farm owners and to place increasing areas in the hands of city capitalists on the investment, according to a low rate of interest on the investment, according to Professor Mead, who addressed the National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, held recently in Chicago. This means a shifting rural population, less interest in community welfare, poorer country schools, poorer churches, fewer home conveniences, and more unpainted houses, gates and barns. We cannot ignore these tendencies towards rural decadence, and with easy-going indifference allow our farmers to become a rack-rented peasantry, said Professor Mead. We must begin to regard land settlement and the maintenance of the right conditions of tenure of farm lands as a public matter.

The acquiring of farm lands for speculative purposes by investors has not advanced as far in Canada as it has in the United States, in some of the choicest districts of which as high as 60 per cent. of the land is farmed by tenants. There is, however, a tendency in the same direction. Investigations have shown that in these countries of Ontario where land values are highest, the percentage of farms owned by non-residents is largest. The popular misconception that increasing land value are always accompanied by better social conditions for those who farm the land is dangerous in the extreme. They indicate that a heavier charge has to be made on the annual income to cover interest on capital investment if the farm business is to be placed on a business footing. They also indicate that the land is becoming further removed from the reach of those who wish to purchase it, and that the man who would become an owner if the land values were reasonable has no alternative, if he wishes to farm, but to become a tenant.

## The Injustice of Pooling

INVESTIGATIONS conducted under ordinary factory conditions, with ordinary factory equipment and from milk as commonly supplied to the factories, have shown that the pooling system may put as much as 22 cents a hundred pounds of milk in the pocket of the wrong patron. The discrimination is always against the man supplying the better milk. To the patron who supplies milk that tests exactly the same as the average test of all the milk received at the factory, the pooling system works no injustice, but if his milk diverges from this standard, he does not receive the right amount of money, and the farther the divergences the more what he should receive. The patron who is sending highest milk gets more, and the one coming to them, least milk less, than is justly coming to them. As pointed out by Mr. Publow in his address at the last E.O.D.A. conventions, this discrepancy may not have been an important matter with the prices obtained for cheese years ago, but with the high prices now prevailing, factory patrons can no longer afford to neglect this important matter of receiving payment for their milk according to the amount of cheese that can be made from it.

Although payment for milk according to its butter fat content distributes the money with approximate fairness, still the production of a high butter fat content is not the only consideration. Even on the straight fat basis it would still be bad business to sacrifice everything to get a high test. The question of cost of production must be taken into consideration. The object to be striven for should be to produce butter fat at the lowest

possible cost. High-testing milk may not be the most profitably produced, even when supplied to factories which pay on the straight fat basis. Put upon a cost-of-production basis, the Dairy Standards Act is not a discrimination against cows producing milk of only average test. That, however, has no bearing on the question of the justice or injustice of the various patrons' milk at the amounts of the various patrons' milk in the pooling system is a manifestly unfair one, and its abandonment can only result in good to the cheese-making industry.

## Make War Profits Reasonable

(Canadian Courier.)

AS a rule we have no aspiration too severe for the man or the corporation that falsifies itself on war contracts paid for by the people of the country to which it belongs. We have sometimes even become supercilious over the superwealth accumulated by neutral nations at the expense of those peoples engaged in a struggle for the liberty of democracies. In practice it should be possible for the Government so to adjust taxation that men who are suddenly making huge fortunes out of war contracts in any shape or form should be compelled to pay back a large percentage of their profits to the State before they have time to come forward with large cheques in the form of refunds to the State coffers. Let us honor the man who voluntarily refunds a big share of his war profits to the government. That man is concerned in lessening the burden of taxation on those who make no profit directly out of the war. But it is, after all, an act of heroism except in the fact that it is so unprofitable! Should not any corporation be content with reasonable profits out of a line of business created by the demands of the war after paying all charges on the investment necessary to create the plant? The corporation that falsifies itself on war contracts in 1916 is no better than the contractors who heaped up enormous fortunes and juggled stocks in gambling on the duration of the American Civil War. Every manufacturer who invested in a munitions plant is entitled to the repayment of his capital in cases where the plant may be on the scrap heap after the war and to reasonable commercial profits on the operations of that plant until the war is over or until such time as his contracts cease. Less should not be admitted. Mere should never be expected. The boy of Canadian siskin blown into Canadian soldiers is a small matter compared to the phantom of great fortunes made out of the needs of a nation fighting for its life.

Holland has adopted proportional representation as the method of electing representatives to its second chamber. The measure was passed unanimously. P. R. has similarly been approved of unanimously by the British Parliament for Ireland, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and other European countries where P. R. has been adopted. It is promised by the President and the Prime Minister for France for the Chamber of Deputies after the war. There is also every possibility of this important electoral reform coming in Great Britain. The Proportional Representation Society of Canada has a big educational work ahead of it; but signs are not wanting that P. R. is coming in this Dominion, too.—Ottawa Citizen.

Thanks to the system of municipal taxation which prevails in Ontario, many an ambitious farmer has built himself into a haunting fear of bankruptcy. The commodious residence that he has put up, with all modern improvements added, the up-to-date barn, do not escape the eagle eye of the assessor, until the taxes of the man who would improve his living conditions soar out of all proportion to his income.—Peterboro Review (Conservative).