

blem is one to which the interest of the Canadian farmer is expressed in the adage, "forewarned is forearmed."

ARE LAND VALUES DEPOPULATING ONTARIO?

We doubt if Mr. MacDougall has laid sufficient stress on the influence of land values on rural depopulation. He sees that if values continue to increase the upward trend must lead inevitably to capitalistic ownership of farm land and tenant farming. Are not high land values already having their effect in depopulating rural Ontario? Is it a future danger only? All who are thoroughly acquainted with agricultural conditions in Ontario will admit that land values have now reached such a point that even the best of farmers have difficulty in making five per cent. interest on the value of their land and a fair return for their own labor and management.

Just recently a young farmer from Oxford Co., Ont., called at Farm and Dairy office, and in the course of his conversation remarked that he was going to leave the farm. His home is in one of the very best sections of that fine county. He told us that he could sell his farm for \$135 an acre. "And I can't afford to keep it," said he. "I can do much better to sell the farm, invest the money, and go into some other business."

RENT OR INTEREST TOO BURDENSOME

With this relationship between land values and farm incomes, is it to be wondered that the young men of the country prefer to make a start in the city rather than to buy a farm at such high values that practically all of their income must go to pay the interest? The only other alternative is to rent, and Canadian-born young men do not care to take on themselves the hard task of the tenant farmer. It seems to us that Mr. MacDougall might have laid greater stress on this factor in the depopulation of rural Ontario.

"In the West," says Mr. MacDougall, "the speculative holding of lands becomes nothing short of a blight upon progress. Around railway towns lie concentric circles of vacant sections. The townships everywhere are chequered with unoccupied squares. The farmer is pressed far out into the prairie. The haulage to the elevator is increased and all the conveniences of life lie at a distance. The whole subject of the relation of the great railway systems of Canada to the farmer teems with questions touching public welfare. The policy followed in opening the West was controlled more largely by consideration of railway traffic than of common welfare."

WHAT IF CONDITIONS IMPROVE?

But what will be the effect when these vacant sections are brought into use, when the railways are given less consideration and the public welfare more? Mr. MacDougall might have added that there will be then a great increase in land values, and the actual returns to the tiller of the soil for his labor will be no greater than they are now and the tendency to leave the country for the city will be the same then as now.

"Our general system of taxation," says Mr. MacDougall, "is an economic injustice to the farmer." But the subject is not developed as extensively as the other factors in rural depopulation. Mr. MacDougall, however, in writing his "Rural Life in Canada," may have been hindered

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Increasing the Income by Eliminating

L. C. Smith, Feed Co., Ont.

To judge of a farmer's real financial standing by his gross income is one of the greatest mistakes of which I know. And yet how often it is done. The banker, the grocer, even the man's own neighbors, look up to the one who can count his gross income at several thousand dollars. Worst of all, the farmer himself comes to see himself through others' eyes and does not realize that a large income may not be a monument to his good management after all.

I should say that the income that counts is the net income. For instance, the man with the \$5,000 income and a \$4,000 outgo is no better off than the one with a \$3,000 income and a \$2,000 outgo. Both of them have \$1,000 on which to provide themselves and their families with comforts and luxuries; and if anything, the second man is apt to be the better manager.

It strikes me that there is a wonderful field for improving our financial standing by eliminating some of the outgo instead of every striving to add to the income. It is to this latter end that most articles in farm papers are devoted. Let me enumerate a few of the ways I think equally good results could be secured by elimination of expenses.

We can thus reduce the size of our herd, and by constant grading up through the use of a pure bred sire save the expense of feeding and caring for a half-dozen unprofitable cows and have the same income and a greater profit.

We might harvest the same crops from our farms and at less expense did we pull out more of the fences, lengthen the furrows, and reduce the labor necessary in preparing the soil and harvesting the crop.

There is a farm in this vicinity on which I am convinced the wages of one hired man, and they have three, might be saved did the owner take 10 minutes a day to properly lay out the work for the next day. As it is, he always thinks that he must lead in all work, and works so hard himself that he has not the energy left to properly direct his men and keep them profitably employed.

These are just a few of the ways that occur to me of increasing the net income by eliminating the outgo. There are dozens of other little kinks in the management of any farm that would have a similar result.

Where Dollars are Wasted

A. Donaldson, Huron Co., Ont.

A dollar saved is a dollar gained. The truth of this proverb was forced very strikingly on my

attention recently because of a visit to two farmers in the neighboring county of Halton. One farmer was losing many dollars and the second farmer gaining many by the different methods in which they cared for their agricultural implements.

A creek wound its way through the barnyard of the first farmer visited. Growing along either side of the creek were small alder bushes. Backing up against these alder bushes were a disc harrow, a spring tooth cultivator, a couple of plows, and the mower. Standing under a tree nearby was a new manure spreader, in which the farmer had just recently invested well over \$100.

I need hardly say that all of these implements, with the exception of the new manure spreader, were coated with rust. They were not exposed to the weather temporarily; they were in winter quarters and in the same quarters that they have occupied since they came to the farm. His man's implement bill is always a heavy one.

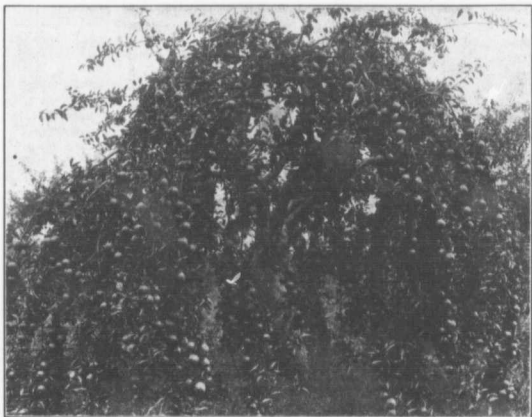
What a contrast was afforded on a second farm to which I turned in several miles away. An old barn that had been discarded when the new one was built had been transformed into a first-class implement shed. There I found the disc harrow. Every piece of steel on it that was not covered with paint was greased with tallow to ensure against rust. The same was true of all the other implements. In the

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Threshing—a Rushing but Satisfactory Operation

Threshing is hard, dirty work; particularly if one is in the straw now. But it is satisfying work too. On threshing day the farmer really gets his reward for seeding and harvest and the anxious months of weather-watching in between. A gasoline engine may be here soon running the grain separator on an Ontario farm.



Is Such a Prolific Crop as this Always Desirable?

This heavily loaded tree is in the orchard of Robert Newcombe, Kings Co., N.S. The return year will be splendid. But how about next? A crop such as this one will stand thinning, which practice induces annual bearing.

A FERTILE SOURCE OF LOSS

We hear much of cow testing nowadays, and here is one of the best methods I know of for eliminating expenses. I am convinced that there are very few herds in which several cows are not paying for their keep, or in which some of the cows have such a small margin to their credit, that it would pay us better to discard them and give their feed to the more profitable members.

Feeding M

We have many grain periods, but old ration is made up of bran, and protein by pounds by times using and sometimes

For the high condition showing a they advance in live weight broaden the usual condition of the cow will be found more by nutritive protein, or the carbonylized by 2.25 the heat at producing milk

PREFERRED For roughage for roots, per pounds per d reason that it an appetizer cooling effect system, and tion and as We feed silage daily in smokes and go hay or alfalfa and evening.

There is n that can be and followed amount of roughage to der all condi herein lies the feeder. exercise judg be alert to exi ditions as the interpret the feed liberally simulating po delicate matter little or too

We usually immediately af gradually from ing upon exist animal and t tion to the in one rule that ing a cow up safe to incre shows a grad the flow cease that we are least a time, back a little caution.

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It must be

"W. J. Gillet, 'Rich Brooder' and developer of which, Columbia for a long time from a recent vity to the dair