

Putting Farming in the Wrong Light

EDITOR, FARM AND DAIRY.—In their mistaken zeal, Institute speakers, editors of farm papers, and other agricultural workers, by playing up a few especially high yields often put farming in the wrong light before the people. Is it any wonder that farmers look with suspicion and lack of interest on scientific farming when they see such statements as the following, which I found in a so-called agricultural paper: \$357.92 net average return an acre from an apple orchard; \$123.50, average net profit an acre on potatoes; \$1,800 made from 26 acres of onions; \$200 net profit from a cow, and other exceptional yields played up as averages? Such statements work directly against their interests, for when the farmers organize to get living prices for their produce, the city man figures thus: \$200 from one cow; 20 cows, \$2,000 net; \$357.50 from one acre of orchard; 10 acres, \$3,575. Why, these farmers are a set of highway robbers.

The same is true of the other side of the line, except that I think that the farmer is waking up more readily than he is on this side, and is beginning to demand facts rather than dreams.

Take for instance the recent New York milk strike, which I do not think will be forgotten by the agricultural leaders in a hurry, where the farm papers, government lecturers, and county representatives were all advising the farmer to produce more milk, and in many cases giving misleading reports of profits. When the plain farmer decided that there was nothing in it and quit, and made a demand for a showdown from the better farming advocates, it was found that with better cows, better care and with scientific supervision there was not an experimental station from Maine to Virginia that could produce milk with in one to one and a half cents of what the farmer was getting. The farmers are now asking: Why did not our stations come out and tell us that we were not getting enough for our milk years ago, and not wait until we forced a strike on the country?

The farmer is becoming tired of all this talk about his supposed profits, and wants some actual figures.

It seems to me that when a man owns some land gets up on the platform to teach farmers that he should be forced to give a balance sheet for the past five years. It is no longer a private matter what he does with his land, but a public concern. While I recognize the fact that a man who cannot manage a farm profitably can often give valuable information and be a successful lecturer, he should at least not be allowed with an unprofitable farm, as too many are at present.

Investigations among some thousands of farms in other parts of the country have shown that on the average, after deducting interest on investment, that the farmer was making only about laborer's wages. Other investigations have shown that the average farmer received only 35 cents for every dollar that the consumer paid for his produce. Before farming will be a profitable business it will be necessary to find some way to decrease this great waste, and if the middleman either cannot or will not reduce it, some other agency must come in. Co-operators among farmers can but little until there is cooperation of consumers, so that produce can be taken from the farmers in carload lots. To my mind, New York city, in its department of markets, is pointing the way, for a farmer can send one barrel of apples or a carload, one chicken or a hundred, or any quantity of any variety of farm produce direct to the city, knowing that he will receive a fair, honest return.

We can be sure of one thing at



Politicians and Their Fiscal System as Seen by the United Farmers of Canada.

least, that the farmer will produce any variety of crop and any grade and quantity of the same just as soon as it is made worth his while and he has some assurance that the price will be somewhat stable and will not be manipulated so that as soon as he gets ready for a new line the price will not be put down below the cost of production.—G. F. Marsh, Grey Co., Ont.

U.F.O. Directors Meet

THE Directors of the United Farmers of Ontario decided at a meeting held since the convention to cable to the Honorable Sir Robert Borden, now in England, the resolution passed by the annual convention March 2nd, dealing with our Imperial relations.

It was also decided to continue the local conventions commenced last summer and to increase the number from five to nine. Conventions will be held in each of the nine districts in accordance with the divisions now outlined. Other educational measures decided upon were as follows:

A series of articles of an educative nature dealing with the platform as adopted by the convention and other matter deemed expedient will be prepared, the articles to be published in our weekly farm journals.

Pamphlets dealing with various phases of the movement and an extended campaign of education and organization by means of meetings where wanted and the introduction of certain books dealing with our rural problems.

To finance this extension of the work plans are now being prepared which will provide the funds required to communicate information to the members in a way that will strengthen confidence.

Guelph Winter Fair Officers

AT the annual meeting of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, held in Toronto on March 1, the following officers were elected: Honorary President, William Smith, M.P.; Columbian President, W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford; Vice-President, J. I. Flatt, Hamilton; Secretary-Treasurer, R. W. Wade, Toronto. Executive Committee—John Boag, Queensville; Peter Christie, Manchester; John Gardhouse, Weston; R. S. Stevenson, Ancaster; John Kelly, Shakespeare; J. I. Flatt, Hamilton; William McNell, London; A. McKen-

ney, Amherstburg; superintendent, J. H. Saunders, London; assistant superintendent, A. Leitch, Guelph.

A Condensery for Peterboro

THE Peterborough Creamery, owned by Mr. G. A. Gillespie, M.P., through which was conducted a butter making and city milk business, has been acquired by the Peterboro Milk Products, Ltd., with object of establishing a milk condensing business. The new company, which has an authorized capitalization of \$250,000, will be under the management of Mr. Gillespie. It may be assumed from the careful manner in which he has developed his business that his confidence in the success of the new company is well founded. He built up the Peterboro Creamery. A butter making and ice cream plant was installed with all the latest sanitary devices. The factory is being altered for the new machinery, which it is expected will arrive in time for the spring milk.

Another Production Campaign

WITHIN the next few days says a despatch from Ottawa under date of March 9, there will appear in all the daily and weekly newspapers in Canada, and also in the agricultural press, the first of the advertisements being sent out by the Dominion Department of Agriculture to stimulate food production. These advertisements will particularly emphasize national service on the farm and the urgent need that exists for keeping up the food supply.

All persons and organizations that can assist in this connection are being urged to do so. Special emphasis is placed on the cultivation of vacant lots or gardens in cities for the growing of vegetables, thereby increasing the general store of food and releasing supplies for export.

Wool to be Graded

THE Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association has decided to establish a depot at Guelph, Ont., where wool can be properly graded and prepared for market. Part of the Winter Fair buildings will be utilized. Provision is being made for receiving shipments of wool from all parts of the province between May 15 and June 10. It will be properly cared for and stored and Dominion Live Stock Branch experts will grade it.

Ensilage Corn—Fall Feeding

ONE of the most welcome visitors to the editorial office of *Farm and Dairy* is Mr. Sam Armstrong, of Indian River, in Peterboro county. During a recent visit, the conversation turned upon corn. Mr. Armstrong, who is a keen dairyman and consistent advocate of silage, grew somewhat reminiscent. "As far back as I can remember," he said, "we used to grow what we called horse tooth corn, or Dent as it was called. It was sown broadcast and fed out to supplement huling pastures. Some 25 or 30 years ago, when the question of keeping up the milk flow throughout the winter months began to agitate the minds of farmers, Prof. Robertson, whom I believe to be one of the biggest men that we have ever had in Canadian dairying, began advocating corn with a big stalk and to be grown in drills. Seedsmen, keen to take advantage of the situation, at once introduced some large stalk varieties, among them being Mammoth Southern Sweet. These were fed, but it was found that they alone could not keep up the milk flow.

"Public sentiment, led by institute lecturers and the professors, then swung around to corn with plenty of leaf. 'Get the leaf,' they said. 'If you get abundance of green matter you will be able to make silage in better conditions and come more nearly to getting a summer flow of milk.' Again it was found that the milk flow did not increase as had been anticipated. People were working on wrong theories. The next move was a swing toward corn with plenty of ear and an endeavor was made to get regardless of anything else. Some varieties such as Compton's Early and Longfellow were introduced and planted extensively. Unfortunately, however, we found that these varieties failed to fill the silos and the cow would swing back to corn with large stalks. In our district more of the old Mammoth Southern Sweet and large stalk varieties, such as were advocated by Prof. Robertson years ago, were sown than any others. We have found that the main consideration is to get the silos filled. This winter the big milk and the silage to the men with full silos. In searching after suitable varieties of corn, the balancing of the ration with clover or alfalfa was overlooked. We appear now to have got down to a solid basis."

Extending the Grass Season.

Speaking of the feeding of rape, kale, cabbage, white turnips and swedes, a question which became a serious one with farmers last fall, when the grass failed, Mr. Armstrong said: "The Crotator has provided no more silage to the men with cattle than grass. When it fails, it usually does after the first of October, the milk flow falls off rapidly. He has also provided, however, that kale, white turnips, etc., come to perfection with the appearance of frost just as the grass begins to fail, and they are, therefore, nature's supplement to grass. What they really do is to extend the grass season, and if fed judiciously, will increase the October milk flow from 25 to 50 per cent. They extend the summer flow from three weeks to over a month by carrying summer conditions into the fall.

"The question with us dairy farmers therefore, was decided on account of the slight undesirable flavor in the silage fed by the feeding of these crops, to fail to take advantage of the increased flow in which feeding them resulted? Would we take a chance on losing a little on flavor in order to gain in amount? We settled the question last fall in our cheese factory by deciding to feed turnips after the first of October."—R.D.C.