

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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STOP QUARRELING—ACT

In another column appears a letter from one of our subscribers in Durham County who, for reasons which he gives, is opposed to the sending of a commission of Canadian farmers to Denmark to investigate the conditions surrounding the hog industry in that country. The writer claims that one of the reasons why farmers are ceasing to raise hogs is because of the high price of coarse grains. And yet Prof. Day, of the Guelph Agricultural College, who has visited Denmark, informs us that we can feed hogs in Canada at less cost than the Danish farmers can. We are informed that the Danish farmers even buy our feeds. Does this mean that the Danish farmers are better feeders than we are? If so, were a commission of our farmers to visit Denmark they would be able to find the reasons. It is true that the cities and condensing factories are taking more of our

milk than formerly. These conditions, however, are even more pronounced in thickly populated Denmark.

Our correspondent repeats most of the charges against the Canadian pork packers that have been in use for several years, and which instead of helping the situation, have only made it worse. As long as our farmers and pork packers continue to fight with one another, the well organized Danes are going to continue to drive us out of the British market. Fighting among ourselves has not helped the situation in the past, nor will it in the future.

We have been told that if we would only cease raising hogs the pork packers would soon come to time. We have tried this method, with what results? Our exports of bacon to Great Britain have fallen off until they are no longer considered an important factor on that market. The Danes have gained the ground that we have lost. Some of our pork packing concerns have been forced out of business. We know of one that we are informed lost \$250,000 in the course of about a year. If our packers have a combine and could change their methods materially, we would expect that they would do so in the face of such conditions. They have not done so. This would seem to bear out the truth of their claim that they are themselves in the grip of conditions that they cannot control.

We have heard a great deal of the immense profits made by the William Davies Co. An explanation of these profits has been given. It at least sounds reasonable. This company, it is said, since its organization many years ago, has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in its earnings in the business. It now is earning profits on this money as well as on the capital originally invested. As the dividends are paid on the basis of only the capital originally invested, instead of on all the money actually expended in the business, they appear to be much larger than they otherwise would.

These issues, however, are beside the mark. The question is, what are we going to do to save our bacon industry, which our exports prove to be in a critical position.

Our correspondent is right when he says that our Canadian farmers disgraced themselves when they sold their hogs away from their own cooperative plants because the rival packers offered them a few cents a hundred pounds more. The Danish farmers are wiser than we were. They fine any of their members who sell their hogs away from their own factories. This indicates that the packers in Denmark must have endeavored at one time to crush the cooperative plants, managed by the farmers, just as was done here. This is another point that a commission of Canadian farmers could investigate were they to visit Denmark. They could find how it is the Danish farmers have managed to make a success of their pork packing plants while our farmers have failed.

The situation is one that requires calm thinking. If we allow our feel-

ings to get the best of us and thereby lead us into prolonging the quarrel in Canada between the packers and the farmers, we are apt to realize our mistake when it is too late to remedy it. Farm and Dairy knows of nothing that can be done that is likely to throw as much light on the present situation as the sending of a commission of Canadian farmers to Denmark. The Dominion Swine Breeders' Association intends to ask the Dominion Government to appoint such a commission. The importance of the points at issue makes it necessary that their request shall be granted.

BE CAREFUL ABOUT BUTTERCUPS

In the March 11th issue of Farm and Dairy, appeared a clipping from the "Industrious Hen," entitled "Buttercups, a New Breed." This clipping had been sent us by our poultry editor, Prof. F. C. Elford, of Macdonald College, Que. It made extravagant claims for this so-called new breed of fowl.

The item was published as an item of interest only. As this breed of fowl is unknown in Canada, it never having been tested at any of our experiment stations, nor by any of our leading poultry fanciers, neither Farm and Dairy nor Prof. Elford anticipated that the claims of this new breed would be treated seriously by our readers. We have been surprised, therefore, to receive quite a large number of letters from our readers asking for information about this new breed, and expressing a desire to purchase settings of eggs. It has been a lesson to us, as in future we will make it a point to put in a word of advice with any such articles.

It is the same with hens as with other stock. If we want the best we must raise and develop them ourselves. If any of the well-known utility, or the special breeds are taken, and developed from year to year by careful selection having in view the egg laying propensity of the stock, we will soon have stock as good or better than can be bought. The best satisfaction is usually to be had from stock that does well with our neighbors. Such being the case, it is better for us to leave such breeds as "Buttercups" alone, at least until we know more about them. If we will breed up the best of the stock we have, we will soon have no demand for a breed with the seemingly fabulous record of the "Buttercups."

FEED IS A NECESSITY

It has been well said that you cannot fool a cow. Many, however, seem satisfied with the comparatively small return that they receive in the way of milk production. They hesitate to feed a grain ration for fear that it will not return a profit. While calling upon one of the milk men that supply the Peterboro householders, recently, an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy was pleased to learn about his faith in the dairy cow and in her capabilities of turning good, expensive grain into a profit.

As may be seen from an article on another page of this issue, this dairy-

man was denied the cheaper foods such as corn and roots that make up so large a part of the ration of the average dairy cow. Nothing daunted, however, he was making the best of the conditions under which he found himself and while his expenses were high, his profits were still higher. This man looks to the farm end of his dairy. He feeds and cares for his cows along the best lines of dairy thought, while some others are constantly looking for high prices to make the dairy pay. They blame the market, the trusts and the consumer for their bad luck.

For the most part, it is the farmer who gives eight points of attention to his dairy, and two to the market, who is the money maker. The other economises in the cows' feed and care. As a rule, he buys the cheapest feed when he must buy. The other wants the best cows and the best feed, and is liberal, with the general result that to him that hath, shall more be given, but from the other is taken away even the little that he hath.

What one feeder can produce, others can surely approach. While it would not be profitable to feed a ration costing \$84 a cow per year, to the average dairy herd, where the milk is sold to a cheese factory, or a creamery, still there is a lesson in what this man is doing for all who feed dairy cows. When we come to recognize the fact that if we would have milk, we must feed, the cow fodder which contain the constituents necessary to produce that milk, we will have made a great advance in dairying and the average cow in Ontario as at present spoken of, will have ceased to be.

COMPULSORY EIGHT HOUR DAY BILL

A compulsory eight hour day bill has been introduced in the Dominion House of Commons by Mr. Alphonse Verreuil, M. P., president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Although this bill deals only with the hours of labor on Government works, the next move would be to extend it to all municipal undertakings, and ultimately to business concerns. As farmers, we must see to it that this bill does not become law, at any rate, nor until large employers of labor have been given an opportunity to show how it would be apt to affect industrial conditions.

The reduction in the hours of labor would mean that the present shortage of help would be tremendously accentuated. Shorter hours of labor in town and city workshops have proved a wonderfully strong attraction in influencing men to leave the farm. They have greatly increased the difficulty of obtaining and retaining the right kind of farm help. The farmer's work cannot stop on the blow of the whistle, nor can it be held down to an eight hour day basis. Should the city laborer's hours be reduced to eight a day, hired help for the farm will be more difficult than ever to secure and retain.

In the interests of our farmers, and in view of the conditions which the passage of such law would impose and tend to hamper the developments of Canadian industry, we strongly pro-