

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 8,300. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 9,000 to 10,500 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

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OUR PROTECTIVE POLICY

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

HONOR WHERE IT IS DUE

If honor is to be given where honor is due, it must be accorded to those farmers, particularly Mr. R. A. Penhale, of St. Thomas, who have succeeded in winning the awards in the dairy farms competition, open to the province, that has just been concluded. To have one's farm selected by thoroughly competent judges out of some fifty of the best dairy farms in the province, as being entitled to receive the premier awards, is an honor of more than ordinary importance.

One of the chief benefits that follow from competitions of this nature, is the discovery of who are our leading and most successful farmers. In the case of our agricultural exhibitions it happens, not infrequently, that the prizes are won by farmers whose farms, only too often, are far from being what one would expect. Not so in contests of this kind. In them a man is visited at his home where necessarily his ability, or lack of ability, as a farmer is peculiarly apparent.

It is impossible for a man to develop a farm, worthy of winning a prize in strong competition, in one or two or three years. Weeds cannot be

exterminated, underdraining perfected, fields laid out with an idea to economizing labor, the fertility of the soil be built up, good stock procured and commodious, convenient buildings erected in a short space of time. These generally are the result only of a life-time of work. Evidence of this is furnished by the fact that most of the successful competitors are men who have spent all their lives on the farm where they live.

When, therefore, five or six farmers succeed in having their farms selected as the best entered in a competition open to a whole province, they are worthy of receiving the heartiest congratulations of their brother farmers, and from these their estimable wives must not be overlooked. The readiness with which the competitors have attributed much of their success to the assistance rendered them through many years by their life's-partners, has been a pleasing feature of these competitions. Let us, therefore, all take off our hats—except the ladies—and give three hearty cheers in honor of these successful farmers and their wives—hip-hip-hurrah! hip-hip-hurrah! hip-hip-hurrah! tiger, hurrah!

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE
WM. RENNIE

In the last ading columns of Farm and Dairy last week it was suggested that a memorial should be erected, at the Guelph Agricultural College, in honor of the late Wm. Rennie. We would like to see this suggestion carried into effect. It is only fitting that due honor should be paid to the memory of a man who has accomplished so much for the cause of agriculture. Furthermore, the necessary funds should be subscribed mainly by the farmers of Ontario. Let it be shown that as farmers we know how to appreciate what such a man has accomplished on our behalf.

There was nothing spectacular about the life of the late Mr. Rennie. His career did not, for instance, contain one recorded instance of spectacular bravery, such as have won monuments for many heroes of the past. Nevertheless, his long life furnishes even greater inspiration.

Mr. Reenie was a man among men, and yet always a leader. He led just such a life as many of us might, but few of us do. He seems to have had as his motto from early youth the precept that whatever was worth doing was worth doing well. When, as a lad, he had to plow, he missed the drudgery so many find in this work by taking a pride in plowing well. Thus it was that later he became known as one of the best plowmen in the province.

Although it fell to his lot to perform his full share of the routine work that is a necessity on every farm, he was not content to perform it in a routine way. His active brain, which possessed the faculty of keen observation to a marked degree led him constantly to strive to devise new and better ways of performing the common duties of each and every day. And thus gradually, he perfected a system that not only resulted in his farm becoming the silver medal farm of his dis-

dict, but, later, to the Minister of Agriculture selecting him to superintend the farm at the Guelph Agricultural College. In this position Mr. Rennie was able to demonstrate for the benefit of the farmers of the province at large, the advantages of his methods of farm practice. So general was the approval of his methods that was given by the public, it led Mr. Rennie finally to describe many of them in book form. Thousands of farmers have been helped by reading this book and it is destined to aid many thousands more.

We honor our great soldiers, statesmen and poets. Why should we not honor our great farmers? How can we expect our farm boys to take a pride in their calling if we do not pay fitting tribute to our distinguished leaders from the farm? In Sweden, a monument has been erected in honor of one of the great farmers of the nation. We may well follow the example that has thus been set.

Farm and Dairy would like to see a public testimonial take the form of the erection of a drinking fountain at the Guelph College. A "Rennie"

scholarship might also be established. If it is to be in harmony with the life of the deceased such a memorial as we propose must needs be useful.

The Glolph College is peculiarly the place where such an evidence of the public gratitude and appreciation should be established. It was on the College farm that much of Mr. Renzie's best work was accomplished. It is there that, in the years to come, the ranks of students of agriculture who are destined to pass through the College, will be able to draw the greatest inspiration from a memorial to this quiet, useful life of an Ontario farmer. It is there, also, where the farmers, from all parts of the province who annually visit the College, would be able to see it to the best advantage. Farm and Dairy hopes that this suggestion will be acted upon.

It is requested to express these views and to offer such suggestions as they may consider will prove helpful.

RAISING THE QUALIFICATIONS

On and after the first of next year the cheese and butter makers of Ontario will be required to hold Government certificates before they will be permitted to take charge of factories. Some four years ago, Farm and Dairy pointed out the need for restriction of this nature. It was the only farm paper to do so. Owing to the competition of incompetent makers, the best cheese and butter makers were being driven out of the business.

Through these columns, attention was drawn to the fact that there were makers in charge of factories who had only three or four months' experience as helpers and who were ignorant they could not write their own names. Through our efforts petitions were circulated and signed by hundreds of cheese and butter makers, and later endorsed by the dairymen's associations of Ontario, calling upon the Government to take steps to see that none but competent

men should be allowed to take charge of factories. At last the Government has acted, and soon we will feel the benefits of the change.

The fact that only a small percentage of our factories are paying for the milk by the test is due largely to the inability of a large proportion of our cheese makers to test milk. After this year, no man will be allowed to take charge of a factory until he is able to test milk. This alone will mean much to our dairy industry. The quality of our dairy products will improve just in proportion to the improvement that takes place in the qualifications of our cheese and butter makers. Now that our best makers will have more inducement to enter in the business, and that all makers will have to measure up to a higher standard, a decided improvement in the average intelligence of our cheese and butter makers will soon be apparent.

NO DANGER OF KNOWING TOO MUCH

Notwithstanding the surprise of Mr. Mack, Robertson, who expresses himself elsewhere in this issue on the matter of the recent Farm and Dairy editorial under the caption "Farmers Learning Too Much (?)" creamery managers have written to Farm and Dairy in the strain indicated. We emphatically agree with Mr. Robertson that the solution of the difficulties confronting creamery managers must come from them learning more, not from farmers knowing less.

It is most incomprehensible that any one in these modern times would view with alarm the fact that farmers are becoming better posted in regard to their business. One conclusion only can be arrived at, and that is that where such alarm is expressed there has been a "nigger in the fence" somewhere. Everything pertaining to the creamery business has in years past not been above suspicion. It was partly for that reason that Farm and Dairy saw fit to prove this matter and let the light shine in.

Stories often grow in the telling. Perhaps some creamery managers may have suffered inconvenience as the result of information gained by their patrons reading *Farm and Dairy*. As to the truth of the information disseminated in these columns, we are prepared to vouch. If it has been misconstrued, that is not the fault of *Farm and Dairy*. The truth must out. Right must prevail. If it should be that some creamery men have not been conducting their business altogether above board, it is high time that they reorganize that business and place it on a basis on which the light may shine from any quarter, and it stand unharmed.

As in the past, so in the future Farm and Dairy will strive to stand for the right and not to withhold information which it considers it is the right of farmers to know. But, aside from that, enlightened patronage should be welcomed by all fair business men, for with such patronage, business rightly conducted will run most smoothly and prove most truly profitable.