

## Farm and Dairy

AND

### Rural Home

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**The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.**  
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

## The U.S. Farmers Speak

**E**IGHT of the greatest farmers' organizations of the United States, with hundreds of thousands of members, have memorialized their president to use the great powers conferred upon him to exempt experienced men engaged in farm work from military service, at least in the first call for one million men. In their petition our brethren across the line mention the vital need of food and attribute the unsatisfactory agricultural situation to the death of agricultural labor. They ask that the United States be not allowed to fall into the same error that was committed in Great Britain earlier in the war, when young, active men were generally taken from the farms and put into training camps, their places being taken by unskilled labor. As the season advanced it was found that untrained labor, as he could not take care of the crops, and it became necessary to go over into the trenches in France and bring back thousands of skilled agricultural laborers. To this error in judgment is due in part the food crisis with which Great Britain is now threatened.

The subject matter of this United States memorial applies with equal force in Canada. Thousands of acres are lying idle because of the lack of hands to till them. Working men will always answer the lure of higher wages, and farmers cannot hope to hold their help in competition with the wages offered in munition factories. To further denude our farms by conscription, at least until the need for men becomes much greater than at present, would be suicidal. Even this exemption, however, will not end the complications of the case. If men are conscripted from the cities, higher wages will prevail there and the farmer will be more surely outbid for labor than he is at present. It may be that national service will have to be invoked to maintain pro-

duction. One thing is certain: the farmers of the land are doing their share. They are working long hours and paying in proportion to their returns higher wages than are city employees. They are producing every pound of food possible, and that without the guarantee of prices that the munitions maker demands.

## The City Milk Producer

**W**HEN city councils in Canada show any direct interest in the milk producer's problems, it is usually to express regret that the price of milk is so high; unnecessarily high, many councils seem to think. In Cleveland, Ohio, the Chamber of Commerce, instead of following the usual procedure and condemning milk producers as extortioners, set an example that might well be followed by similar bodies elsewhere. The members of the Chamber conducted a survey of farming conditions in dairy communities tributary to the city of Cleveland. They checked up the business of the milk producers on the same basis that they would conduct their own business, and found that, at the prevailing prices of milk, the farmers were suffering a loss of more than \$2,000,000 a year. Then they began to understand why many farmers were going out of the milk business and selling their cows for beef or export to other states.

These conditions are not confined to Cleveland alone. They are true of all districts where farmers are asked to specialize in the production of city milk. The farmer who ships milk to the city deprives himself of the income that is possible from converting the skimmed milk or whey by-product into pork. Also, when working under Board of Health regulations, the care of both the cows and the milk calls for greater expenditures of labor than is ordinarily demanded for factory dairying, and leaves less labor for the production of cash crops or the conducting of live stock sidelines. The business of the city milk producer is a specialized one, and he must secure considerably more for his stock than is possible in other lines of dairy farming, or his business will not be profitable. These are factors that city people should be made to appreciate. And they are most convincing to city readers when proved to be true by the investigations of such a purely city body as the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

## Cooperative Wool Sales

**T**HE wool marketing business of Canada will be on a new basis from now on. Two weeks ago Farm and Dairy reported the successful sale of over 100,000 pounds of wool by the Cooperative Wool Growers' Associations of the Province of Quebec. In last week's issue we told of how 200,000 lbs of Ontario wool was sold cooperatively at an even higher figure. In the Canadian west, cooperative wool marketing appears to be on an equally satisfactory basis. With this taste of successful cooperative marketing, Canadian farmers will never be content again to market their wool through the old channels.

It is to this stage, cooperative wool grading and sales have been under the superintendence of the various departments of agriculture except in Quebec, where Macdonald College has taken the lead. If department officials are wise they will, from now on, divorce themselves more and more from the work of wool marketing, and leave it in the hands of the wool growers themselves. Paternalism is always dangerous. Too much government aid in one line leads to a demand for similar aid in other lines, and, if carried to its logical conclusion, government supervision would tend to produce a people incapable of thinking for themselves. Wool growers appreciate the assistance given them by such men as Mr. Wade and Mr. McMillan, but we are confident the greatest result in the long run will be obtained by inculcating the spirit of independence and self-service.

## A Woman's Wisdom

**T**HE following from one of Our Women Folk, in a letter written to Farm and Dairy, contains some homely wisdom that many advisers of the farmer, self-appointed and otherwise, may well take to heart. She says in part: "The business of the country should be conducted in business fashion, and when those higher up begin to show their willingness to 'carry on' even at a loss, we of the 'plow and hoe' will gladly do our share. I don't mean to infer that farmers, as a class, are faultless, or that there are no slackers amongst us, but these twin virtues, thrift and economy, which seem to have appeared so suddenly on the horizon of the speaking and writing public, have been studied and practised as a necessity of life by thousands of those who are now being urged to try them. They will come as a novelty to the 'adviser, rather than the advised.'"

This New Brunswick woman gives the situation in a nutshell. The appeal that is made to the manufacturer for greater production is a business appeal. The appeal to the farmer alone has been based on patriotism. The manufacturer has received contracts allowing such a wide margin of profit that munition plants have been able to pay wages which have drained every country district of its best available labor. Prices of farm products, while high, have not been high enough to overbalance the obstacles of bad seasons, high-priced labor and costly seed and feed. And yet in spite of these disabilities the farmer has responded to the call. He is working longer hours than any other class of the community. He is maintaining production wonderfully. And farm folk do now, and always have, set an example to all others in thrift and economy. We would suggest that the never-falling stream of advice and exhortation, which in recent months has assumed the proportions of a great river of oratorical and editorial effort, be diverted to channels where it is more needed. The farmers are doing their share. If other classes can be induced to do as much, the present crisis will be safely tied over.

## The Dairy Cattle Supply

**D**AIRYING is unlike the primary lines of farming. If labor were to become plentiful and cheap in the next few months it would be possible next season to wonderfully increase the area in fall and spring grains and potato and root crops. But no matter how great the demand nor how plentiful the supply of labor, the output of dairy products could not be suddenly increased to an appreciable extent. The number of milk cows could not be increased by the addition of a single animal. Heifers would first have to be reared, and at least two or three years would elapse before any great expansion would be noticed.

It is because of this stability in the supply of dairy products that the dairy farmer will be assured of a good market for his finished product when the unfinished food products of the farm, such as wheat and potatoes, will not command anything like the prices that they do to-day. For this reason the dairy farmer will be wise to conserve, and, if possible, increase his dairy herd. At the present time the grain farmer may seem to have an advantage, but as soon as the war is over the pendulum will swing back again in favor of the live stock farmer, who will then be converting comparatively cheap grain into a high priced product. The far-sighted dairy farmer, even if the labor situation is such that he cannot retain his whole milking herd, will endeavor to have heifers coming along which will enable him to take advantage of the demand for dairy products when the labor and feed situation eases.

## APIC

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**W**HILE a honey is in the brood, it is very creating the must not be spec Roughly speak in the hive at the honey-dow the brood build next year, unless other importa brood is very nuclei, because with a laying cell, will build before winter, with brood from the honey nuckle upon which quickly built up time an almost cured.

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