

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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The Rural Publishing Company, Limited
PETERBORO, ONT.

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

Free Wheat

HON. Robert Rogers has declared his sympathy for the cause of free wheat. He has gone further. He has stated, that the Government is sympathetically considering the question. If the prospect of opening the United States market to our wheat is as good as the Minister of Public Works would lead us to believe, we would almost expect free wheat before this issue of Farm and Dairy reaches our readers. But we have our doubts. The influence of the milling and transportation interests is still strong in the land and their entrenchments at Ottawa seem almost impregnable.

We can readily understand just why these two powerful groups of interests should oppose free wheat. The true reason of their opposition, and the last one that they would admit, is that just in proportion as a tariff on wheat means less money to the farmer, it means more money to them. Just why anyone else should oppose the lowering of our wheat tariff and thus automatically open the United States market, we do not profess to understand. We have no extravagant ideas of the greatly enhanced prices that would be realized for Canadian wheat on the United States market. The chances are that were wheat made free, the United States markets would come down somewhat and the Canadian markets would go up to meet their quotations. Also we are perfectly confident of this—that it would create a steadier and more stable market and one less easily manipulated by wheat speculators. It would also afford Western farmers a more profitable market for their inferior grain.

The biggest reason for free wheat, however, is that the people of the West, in city and country alike and almost to a man, want it. And what right has any group of interests or any class of the community to dictate to the prairie farmers

just where they shall market their crop and where they shall not? Such a course is not democratic, to say the least.

Profitable Cooperation

THE farmer is an independent man. Certainly! But we shouldn't be so proud of our independence that our individualism keeps us from working in cooperation with our neighbors. Such individualism is short-sighted. It robs both our neighbors and ourselves of profits that might easily be ours through business cooperation.

Cooperation as a business system for farmers is fundamentally correct. It is a rule of all business that goods are more easily sold where large quantities are available and the choice wide, than where the supply is small and uncertain. Apply this to agriculture. One farmer in the neighborhood might have good pure-bred animals for sale, but his output would necessarily be limited and the buyers range of choice small. Few buyers would go out of their way to inspect his stock. Suppose, however, that there were ten farmers in the immediate neighborhood with the same breed of cattle, horses or sheep. There would then be ten times as many herds to choose from, ten times as many animals to sell, and buyers would find it profitable to travel long distances to reach that community, as they would come with the certainty of finding something to meet their needs.

One habit of thought would dictate that each farmer select the breed he likes. Even if such a plan would result in ten different breeds in one neighborhood. This is individualism. Another habit of thought would lead farmers to adopt the breed most common or best suited to their community. This is cooperation. Likewise it is good business. It has made the Chateaufort district of Quebec famous for its Ayreshires, Ontario county for its Clydesdales, and Oxford county for its Holsteins. It will work for the upbuilding of a permanent prosperity wherever it is applied.

New Zealand's Cheap Money

NEW Zealand, the country where poverty is unknown, is successfully stimulating agriculture by extending credits to farmers. The government in 18 years has loaned \$65,000,000, and has cleared \$1,500,000. It borrows the money at 3% per cent and lends it through an independent commission to the farmers at 4% per cent. By simply repaying a sum equal to six per cent of the principal the farmer, after 31 years, finds his land cleared and the entire debt paid off.

The foregoing, from a city daily, is the prelude to a lengthy argument in favor of cheap Government loans to farmers in Canada. While Farm and Dairy agrees that our banking system might well be changed so as to afford greater credit facilities to Canadian farmers, we doubt if cheap money for the purchase of farm land, such as farmers have in New Zealand, would be of any permanent benefit. Cheap loans for the purchase of land repayable on exactly the same basis as is followed in New Zealand, have already been experimented with in Denmark, Germany, Belgium, and several other European countries, and always with the same result—an increase in the selling price of land.

We have mentioned before in these columns the effect of cheap loans on the price of Danish land. Where it was found that when the rate of interest on mortgages was reduced by Government loans from six per cent. to three per cent., the price of land doubled. The result has already been the same in New Zealand. And of what greater advantage is six per cent. money and \$100 land, than three per cent. money and \$200 land? What is needed to assist men to the

ownership of farms of their own, is not cheap money, but a system of taxation that will make it impossible to hold good agricultural land out of use, or in part use only, in anticipation of a rise in price. Such an end can be attained only by the taxation of land values as recommended by the organized farmers of Canada.

Drag the Roads

THE most tiresome, nerve-racking, bone-shaking road over which one can drive is the road that has been allowed to freeze in the rough. The ruts and the huddles, as solid as rock, make poor footing for the horse, and are hard on the rigs. The worst point about the frozen earth road is that its roughness could have been so easily avoided had proper precautions been taken before the road froze up.

Last fall in a Western Ontario county, an editor of Farm and Dairy, after jolting over several miles of frozen huddles, had the pleasure of completing the drive on one-half mile of comparatively smooth hard road. Both sections of the road were built of the same materials at the same time. The first portion, however, had been neglected. The second had been dragged regularly until frozen hard. Hence its comparative smoothness. There is no more important time to drag the roads than in the fall.

An Educational Danger

IN these days when leading Canadian educationists are so strongly advocating instruction in agriculture in all rural schools, the following paragraph from The Nebraska Farmer, comes as a timely warning of a very real danger. Our contemporary says:

"That farmers may be fitted to take their proper place in the government is one reason why the rural schools should continue to give instruction in the rudiments of a broad education, rather than to be turned into corn and hog schools. Farmers must not permit fad-chasing educators and schoolmen, by introducing too much vocational training, to destroy the usefulness of the rural schools in training for citizenship."

This warning applies not only to agricultural instruction, but to all phases of industrial education in public schools. Industrial education may easily be carried so far that it will endanger the value of our schools as developers of broad minded, intelligent citizens and in their place produce efficient, industrial slaves but little more. Germany is an example of a country that has made industrial efficiency the root and branch of her educational system and many there are who would gladly Prussianize our Canadian schools.

Let us not forget that the first object of education is to train our children to think. Up to a certain point, elementary instruction in agriculture or industrial science, will help to attain this object. Carried too far, it will tend to dull the intellect. It is to the interests of the farmers and working men of Canada to see that industrial education is never allowed to become anything more than a very secondary subject on the curriculum of our schools.

As a result of the war, we are told, the financial centre of the world will be moved from Europe to America. It would seem also that the world's stock breeding centre may also be found after the war on this side of the Atlantic. Thus does militarism punish its devotees.

Canadian farmers would have no objection to accepting low prices for their products if they believed their loss would be gain to the struggling people of Europe. What worries us is that a large part of the difference in prices of crops between this fall and last, goes to swell the fortunes of the shipping combine and not to make cheaper food for the masses of Europe.

Would Not Pl

M Y experience corn or rye grain next a better crop of better catch of spring plowing. In a and in a root next spring I would land with the roughly pulverized inches deep, then in m harrows. If little lumber I would a roller before so this method much than plowing the crop will stand as when there the plowed.

On account of very wet, there corn and root is possible to get All of these fields with thistles or clover plowed shallow. I would not plow to cultivate after enough to bring the stuff to the top of frost and wind would not plow the because the top is been cultivating better shape of next summer's below it is that so much.

Much Fall

Jno. R. Phil

HOW much with profit This is a depends considerable for instance, when is so and root is First take condition of fertile free from weeds, get the land stirred, and after the root to stop capillary much moisture can only, to start work There are differences may be accomplished tooth cultivator, plow. In land of does excel in first operation herds overdone. Later would be well plowed, and in better not left to the weather is well decomposition immediately, which is left later derived from the of which the earl same. In stiff of work with grass cut and cover of with effectively course, this, like quires a certain judgment mixed. In speaking of what is to work land on which a of cultivation has years; for I generally found it. The writer farms worked of to-day are growing cent more than locally just reced sometimes after mowing. And I h stating that not ship gets to the profitably spent that what is cal