FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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OUR GUARANTEE

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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 consider,"—Bacon.

Some Questions for "The Sun"

"IS it not the aim of the Farm and Dairy," asks the Weekly Sun, "to make all farmers tenants of the State? Is it persuaded that the State would make a good landlord, or that the lot of the tenant would be improved by the change?"

Farm and Dairy is not in favor of making all farmers tenants of the State. Our ideal for rural Canada, as we have stated many times in the past, is that it be settled by a home-owning, home-loving people, free to develop the best that is in themselves and their farms, unhindered by taxes on industry and thrift, such as taxes on improvements. The greatest obstacle to the realization of this ambition for Canada is the tendency of land to increase in value to a point where farmers' sons are unable to acquire its possession with its accompanying evil of an increasing proportion of tenant farmers. Just in this connection we would like to ask the Sun a few questions.

Is not the fact that the proportion of tenants in the states of the United States, in almost direct proportion to the value of the land an important indication that tenantry is due in part at least to high land values? When we know that in Ontario itself the percentage of tenant farmers varies in the different counties almost in direct proportion to the value of the land, have we not an additional reason for believing that there is a close relationship between increasing land values and tenantry? If the Sun doubts the correctness of our premises we will supply the figures.

Is it not true that the farmer's trade is largely responsible for the creation of city land values? What would become of land values in Toronto, for instance, if farmers were to cease shipping cattle to Toronto stock yards, or buying from Toronto stores and manufacturing establishments? Is it not just that these city land values, resulting from the enterprise of the people of a whole province, should be taxed for the benefit of the province that creates them, as would be the case under a system of provincial land taxes? Is not the farmer entitled to a share of these values which he helps to create, and which in the case of Toronto alone last year amounted to \$55,000,000.

Bringing the taxation of land values down to its local application, does the Sun consider it an encouragement to progress to increase a man's taxes every time he makes an improvement on his farm?

It is the discussion of questions such as these that has led the organized farmers of Canada to endorse direct taxation of unimproved land values. The same considerations have led the people of Denmark and New Zealand to endorse land taxation proposals. Under our present system the real wealth producers of the land, the farmers and the working classes of our cities, have to bear a part of the public burden out of all proportion to the benefits derived from public expenditure. Under a system of land taxation money that is now going into the hands of the land speculator would be returned through taxes to the public who create it.

Keep on Testing

ONLY a few weeks ago an Eastern Ontario dairyman remarked to an editor of Farm and Dairy, "I am not testing now. I know how my cows stand from the year's testing that I did and I will not resume weighing the milk until some new heifers come in. I will want to test them."

We have noticed this tendency for interest in testing to decline after the first season when the novelty has worn off. Many otherwise good dairymen do not seem to realize that we must keep eternally at it if we would reap maximum dividends from cow testing. The good dairyman is he who is studying his herd every day of the year and by judicious feeding striving for maximum returns. Such intelligent feeding is impossible without the assistance of the daily milk record.

The day that testing is discontinued, interest in the herd begins to flag. One season's work may indicate in a general way which cows are boarders and which cows are profitable, but in the grading up of a profitable dairy herd, one season's work is only one step in advance of no testing at all. The best cows to breed from are those that continue to produce not only week after week, but year after year, and these we can only detect through continuous testing.

!The Test of the Farmer

HE amount of money saved from the farm does not always indicate that the farm is paying, or that the owner is a good farmer. I have known farmers to die rich, so far as money equivalent is concerned. But it was acor its equivalent is concerned. But it was ac-complished at the expense of their farms, farms which afterwards would scarcely maintain the occupant. They simply turned their real estate into personal property. Usually in such cases they not only starved the soil, but their own men-More serious tal and spiritual natures as well. the community was thereby made poorer, because years, perhaps a generation, must pass before the productivity of the soil was restored, if it ever was. Such men are 'undesirable citizens' of the most pronounced type. Unless a man's farm is worth when he leaves it, as much as when he took it, he cannot reckon all that has come from it as profit, nor be accounted a really good farmer."

These words of wisdom are a selection from the pen of Mr. E. Van Alstyne, of New York, in Hoard's Dairyman. Mr. Van Alstyne is a practical dairy farmer, and his homely philosophy at once lays bare the soil robbing methods of some of our so-called "rich" farmers and proves the test of the true farmer. It enunciates the great truth that the fertility of the soil is for the feeding of all generations. He who is short-sighted enough to rob the soil for his own benefit may be robbing his children and his children's child-No "crop" farmer can keep himself out of the robber class. The real farmer returns to the soil as much as he takes from the soil, and those who are doing this with greatest advantage to themselves and to their farms are those who work in cooperation with the dairy cow. The dairyman is a true conservationist.

Our Offer Still Good

YEAR'S renewal subscription to Farm and Dairy for your ideas. That is the offer we made in Farm and Dairy October 1st. It still holds good. For an acceptable experience letter dealing with any phase of farming, we will give a coupon entitling the writer to a six months' renewal of his subscription. If the article is accompanied by acceptable photographs the renewal subscription will be extended for twelve months; or for two experience letters, entitling the writer to two coupons, we will extend his subscription twelve months.

We would like to have the ideas of Our Folks, gleaned from their every day practical experience on the farm. We are endeavoring to make it profitable for you to give us your experience. The only limitation that we place on you is that the letter be at least three hundred words long. The winter season with its greater abundance of leisure time is now approaching. Why not plan to renew your subscription and at the same time give the rest of us the be efit of your experience and observations?

Banqueting Bossy

E LABORATE scial runctions in prominent men are too common to elicit LABORATE scial functions in honor of comment, but a rural picnic, in which the entire community participates, in honce of two dairy cows is rather an uncommon occurrence. Such a picnic was held recently in Indiana under the auspices of the LeRoy Cow Testing Association. The guests of honor were the two cows that had made the highest records in the association.

Comparison of the record made by the best of these two cows, Dorothy, a pure-brad Holstein. otherwise known as Dorothy Ormsby De Kol, and the poorest cow in the association, Bridget, a Durham cow of mixed breeding and with no pride of ancestry, shows just how worthy of honor were the two cows who graced the banquet with their presence. Dorothy produced in the cow testing year 17,203 pounds of milk and 489 pounds of butter fat. Bridget had no reason to be proud of a record of 2,672 pounds of milk and 118 pounds of fat. Their milk was sold on the Chicago market at wholesale rates, and charging the feed at market prices we find that Dorothy produced milk to the value of \$308.39 at a feed cost of \$97.59, while Bridget's milk brought an income of \$45.70 at a feed cost of \$32.39. Bridget's owner would have had to maintain 16 cows of like calibre to make as much money as was made by the one cow, Dorothy Ormsby De Kol. If he charged a reasonable amount for the labor of looking after Bridget he would find himself in the hole, and the more cows he had of her kind the deeper and deeper would he flounder.

This was indeed a picnic with a purpose Everyone who came had a good time, and in addition they had a great lesson taught them in a way that they would not soon forget. Is there not here a suggestion for Canadian cow testing associations whose officers may wish to impress a similar lesson?

There were more commercial fertilizers used on Ontario farms this last year than on any previous year. Commercial fertilizers may be com ing into popularity slowly, but they are coming surely none the less.

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