

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

ARE OUR FARMERS RADICAL?

The stand for a reduction in tariff as taken by our farmers recently at Ottawa has been characterized in many quarters as radical and revolutionary. Why should it be so characterized when all that we ask for is that the Government fulfill its pledges made when in opposition and that the promises, made when protection was first instituted, should be carried out? When we, through our representatives at Ottawa, consented to a protective tariff for the fostering of infant industries, we were told that such protection was to exist only for a short time until the said industries were in a position to stand on their own feet.

It was then clearly realized and admitted by both manufacturers and consumers that protection is simply a transfer of wealth from one producing class to another and cannot increase the wealth of the nation as

a whole. Canadian manufacturers are now strongly established. The majority of them are paying dividends on their investment, such as few farmers are able to realize on the investment in their farms. Is it not time that the protection given to our manufacturers as infant industries and which enables them to prey on the productive classes of the community, should be removed?

Many plausible arguments are put forward in support of our present tariff schedules. Enumerated, these are: The building up of a home market; the drawing of capital from other countries to Canada; and the danger of annexation, which might follow free trade relations with our southern neighbors. These arguments, however, cannot blind either the farmers in the country, or the consumer in the town, to the fact that the burden of protection must fall on them. And drawing on one producing class of the community for the benefit of the other cannot permanently increase the welfare of the country; furthermore it lays an undue load upon the farmer and the working man.

Our demands as farmers are neither revolutionary nor radical. They are founded on sound economic reasoning. And we ask for nothing that was not promised to us long ago. The agitation, which we have started for freer trade with the United States and with Great Britain, has the united support of the grain growers of the west and of the farmers of the east. Our cause must win, for in a democracy such as ours, the will of the majority, in the long run, rules.

A FARMER'S REGRET

"As I look back over my life," said a prominent farmer of Pontenac Co., Ont., recently to an editor of *Farm and Dairy*, "I see that I had invested \$100 or \$200 in pure bred stock at the beginning, my herd to-day would be worth at least \$2,000 more than it is while during the years that have gone, I would have made much more from the sale of my surplus stock and my cows also probably would have given more milk."

There are thousands of young farmers in Canada to-day who are making the mistake that was made by this man. They know it costs them just as much to keep a grade herd as it would were they to keep a herd of pure breeds. Yes, and there are thousands of older farmers who are making the same mistake! They do not seem to realize that if their sons are to be interested in and their services retained upon the farm they must be given, or allowed to do, work that is worth while, work that is of interest, and work that has prospects of an ever-widening future. In other words the boys of to-day are looking for something to do. They want a sphere worth while. Pure bred stock to a great extent will furnish the necessary loadstone to keep the boys at home and if wisely handled there should result gratifying returns from the pure bred stock.

Countless herds throughout this Do-

minion, and a large majority of these located in the older settled portions of Ontario and Quebec where agricultural periodicals and farmers' organizations are common and enlightenment supposedly prevails, are no better to-day than they were 20 years ago. Little if any improvement has been made. In some cases, it is true, spasmodic attempts have been made at improvement, but these have resulted only in efforts wrongly directed and the result of which has been the indiscriminate crossing of breeds and the present low standard of so much of the farm stock.

Surely with the able leadership of successful breeders scattered here and there, one or more in every locality, there is but a minor risk, if any, in laying down by each and every farmer a policy of stock improvement, which if but acted upon would mean an increase of millions in the individual and general wealth of our farmers.

PROFITABLE DISPOSAL OF FEED

More surplus feed than usual is this season available on the farms of Ontario. In order to dispose of it satisfactorily many have purchased steers, which they are now feeding. Probably not in years have there been so many steers feeding in Ontario as there are this winter. These cattle, mostly from the west, were bought last fall at unusually long prices. The markets next spring, or when these cattle are to be disposed of, will need to be abnormally high if the feeder is to realize a fair price on the feed consumed.

Almost without exception, the most profitable way to dispose of fodder and coarse grains as raised upon the farm is to convert it into the finished products of live stock. Feeding steers is one way, and often a good way of disposing of this feed, but the business at its best is one fraught with much uncertainty. Under ordinary good management, the feeder-buyer is sure of what profit is represented in the manure, which is essential for maintaining the fertility of his farm. This item of profit—if so we choose to term it—however, is equally certain, be the fodder given to dairy cows on a farm where all-year-round dairying is practised. And a dairy cow, particularly where special emphasis is laid upon winter production, will yield handsome returns over and above the fertilizing value of her manure.

He who is practicing winter dairying, as against feeding store cattle, is in an enviable position this year. He need not worry about a profitable market for his surplus feed. He is sure of it. His good dairy cows will consume the home-grown feeds and return good wages for labor in addition to the market price for feed consumed.

And then, we should not overlook the fact that good dairy cows, even in seasons of short crops, can be kept at a profit. Such cattle will give profitable returns even if of necessity we must give them high priced milk stuffs. Furthermore, as is the case

with any stock, these purchasing feed to be fed at home will add to the fertility of their farms.

The fact that dairy cows are capable of giving a good return for feed consumed is becoming more and more appreciated. The keen demand and the high prices now ruling for all kinds of milk cows prove this. Hundreds of farmers throughout the country are coming to see the full force of the arguments in favor of winter dairying and are taking steps to have more of their heifers and older cows freshen in the fall in order that they may reap the full advantage of the sure and profitable market before them for their feed marketed as dairy products.

Although smoking is a habit quite general amongst men, there are but few who will claim

A Question that it is a benefit or of Morals who will advocate the use of tobacco. During the regime of Dr. Mills at the Ontario Agricultural College the smoking habit was frowned down upon and was not permitted on the part of the faculty or by the students save in the special smoking room and then only at stated hours. Things at the College now are quite different. Anyone and everyone can smoke with but little restriction. This is not altogether as it should be. Many of the young men of this country have become users of tobacco through the influence of College mates and because those whom they respected and revered made use of the "weed." Another concession is now being sought by the student body. They have petitioned the Hon. J. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture for the province to the effect that mixed dancing be allowed with their allied co-educational school, Macdonald Institute. Mr. Duff should move very carefully in this particular. There is a strong and widespread opinion throughout the country against mixed dancing. The college cannot afford to have any people prejudiced against it. Any lowering of the bars against these moral questions should not be countenanced. Even now it is a question if the moral standards at the Guelph College are as high as they were in the days of Dr. James Mills.

The harvesting of ice should be regarded on the dairy farm as much a part of the season's work as is the harvesting of hay. To deliver milk or cream at the factory

The Farm in such a condition
Ice Harvest that it will make the very best quality of cheese or butter, the use of ice in cooling is an absolute necessity. To harvest and store a supply of ice sufficient to meet the needs of the average dairy farmer does not call for any large cash outlay. If the ice is properly packed, any kind of a cheap shed will keep it satisfactorily. The direct returns that will result from having all milk accepted and the still larger indirect returns due to the better quality of dairy produce marketed, will give large dividends for