

Farm and Dairy

AND

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
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Subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns, but we shall not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honorable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts.

The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

The Manufacturers' View Point

ELSEWHERE in this issue of Farm and Dairy will be found a complete report of the address of President S. R. Parsons, of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, delivered before the members of the Association at their recent annual meeting in Montreal. This report is published in this issue of Farm and Dairy by the Association as an advertisement in order that the views of the members of the Association may be laid fully before the farmers of Canada. The members of the Manufacturers' Association believe that vital issues must be dealt with in a broad and practical way if the welfare of the Dominion is to be properly safeguarded in the period of readjustment which must necessarily follow the cessation of hostilities.

Farmers have often complained that officers of the Manufacturers' Association have been in the habit of going quietly to Ottawa, having legislation put through in their interest without giving the community. The action, therefore, of the Manufacturers' Association on this occasion in laying their views before the farmers of Ontario through the columns of Farm and Dairy is to be commended. Although the views expressed in President Parsons' statement are not likely to be acceptable to the majority of organized farmers of Ontario, or for that matter, to those in any other province, nevertheless we hope that the readers of Farm and Dairy will read them carefully in order that they may understand them fully and be better prepared to give them the consideration that it is likely they will have to receive before this matter is finally disposed of.

The views of the organized farmers on the main points raised in President Parsons' address are well known. They are expressed in the Farmers' National Platform. The farmers' stand is that the Canadian tariff, instead of being increased, should be reduced first, by immediately removing the duty on agricultural implements, and such other things as farmers require to enable them to more easily increase the production of food products, and, second, "by reducing the customs duty on goods imported

from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, and that further gradual reductions be made in the remaining tariff on British imports until we have completely free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years." The farmers are in favor of food stuffs being placed on the free list, and of the customs tariff on all necessities of life being materially reduced, and all tariff concessions granted to other countries being immediately extended to Great Britain.

Farmers as a class have nothing but the most friendly feelings toward the Manufacturers' Association. They do not desire to have legislation passed to benefit them that will impose an unfair handicap upon the manufacturers. On the other hand, they do not desire to have unfair burdens placed on the farmers in order that the manufacturing industries may be promoted at the expense of agriculture. The organized farmers have time and again expressed the belief that the tariff as now drafted tends to build up city industries at the expense of agriculture, that it is depopulating the rural districts, and making it impossible for farmers to obtain the help they require, and that if it is not remedied it will ultimately prove disastrous to the welfare of the nation. The view points of the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and of the organized farmers are so entirely different, it is not likely that they can be harmonized. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the members of the Manufacturers' Association realize the importance of consulting the farmers in a matter of this kind, and that instead of working secretly, as they have been accused of doing, they are laying their cards on the table and asking the farmers to consider the whole situation from their view point.

A "Bully" Good Investment

"B"UY better bulls," is the admonition of the Indiana Department of Agriculture. The Department strengthens its counsel with the following story:

"A few years ago a good dairy bull was purchased for use in one of Indiana's dairy herds. This bull cost \$100 as a calf and was used on a herd of cows whose average production was 4,800 lbs. of milk and 260 lbs. of butterfat. The daughters of this bull have since this time produced the old cows in the herd. These daughters exceed the production of their dams by 162 lbs. of butterfat and 128 lbs. of milk per cow per year. This improvement nets \$300 profit each year in a herd of ten cows. It was a 'bully' good investment."

Such is the evidence from Indiana. Just a few days ago an editor of Farm and Dairy spent the evening with a progressive young dairy farmer in Peterboro's Co., Ont. This young man has a herd which is now practically all registered. When he and his father started in dairying their herd was composed entirely of Shorthorns and not heavy milked Shorthorns, either. In fact, several of the cows were decidedly beefy in tendency. A few years later, by the consistent use of pure-bred sires of the Holstein breed, a herd had been established that averaged well over 10,000 pounds of milk a year and the income from the cheese factory had been doubled and trebled. It would take a great deal more than the present high prices of beef to prevent this young dairyman to go back to Shorthorns or any other breed of cattle, not specially developed for dairy production.

We might multiply cases such as this. The evidence is obtainable in every community where dairying is practiced. And yet we find scrub bulls and cull pure-bred sires in even the best dairy countries. This should not be. Increased production and growing prosperity always follow the use of well bred, pure-bred sires. An investment in a good sire is the best investment that any dairy farmer can make.

The Farm Labor Problem

TWO city lads in the same form in high school finished their courses of study early last spring and went out to work. Both boys were well developed physically. They were probably about equal in intelligence and adaptability. One of them went out on a farm for twenty-five dollars a month and his board. He proved a willing and intelligent worker and the farmer who employed him soon raised his wages to thirty dollars a month and board;

a very good wage for a 19-year-old boy with only one season of farm experience. The second lad wanted to make more money, although without experience he secured a position in a munitions factory and was soon operating a lathe. In one day this summer he had made as high as fourteen dollars and six dollars or seven dollars a day is usual.

This illustration, insignificant in itself, explains the whole problem of agricultural production. It also explains the strenuous opposition of thousands of farmers to the operations of recent amendments to the Military Service Act. Farmers know that they cannot hope to compete on the labor market for the men necessary to maintain production. They know that they cannot afford to pay the wages that employers in other lines are able to offer. A wage of fourteen dollars a day may be somewhat unusual, but even the general wage in the city factory now is beyond the reach of the farmer. In most cases the only help that the farmer can hope to hold in agricultural work is the boy at home who expects some day a proprietary interest in the old homestead. If agricultural production is to be kept up to normal, one of two alternatives must be adopted—either the help that will stay on the farm, the farm boy, must be left there, or the price of farm products must be allowed to rise high enough to allow the farmer to pay wages in competition with city industry. There is no other course open. The farmer is like any other business man—he cannot long maintain production at a loss, even if he would.

The Swing to Beef

"THE tendency in this section is away from dairy cattle and toward beef," remarked a milk producer in one of the well-established dairy districts of Eastern Ontario. "There has always been a large number of Shorthorns scattered through the district and they are now increasing. I and a couple of neighbors across the road are the only men in this immediate locality that are now breeding for straight dairy production. Many have dairy bred cows and Shorthorn bulls. The scarcity of labor has something to do with this but the high price of beef is the drawing card."

These remarks were made in the hearing of a gentleman, himself a dairy farmer, who has carefully watched the development of the live stock industry in Eastern Canada for well on to forty years. His comment was: "I remember when exactly the same thing happened before. Beef was working up to seven cents a pound, which was considered a big price at that time. Many dairy farmers rushed to get into beef. About the time that they had their herds changed over, the price of beef dropped and dairy cattle were in greater demand than ever. Every other line of farming has had its ups and downs. Horses, beef cattle, sheep and swine have alternately been in great demand or a drag on the market. I notice that the dairy cow, however, has always stood by her owner, and dairymen has suffered less from periodic depression than any other line of agricultural industry."

We are afraid that there are many dairymen who have not yet learned the lesson that the past should teach them. Farm and Dairy feels perfectly safe in predicting that the present boom in beef will last little, if any longer, than similar booms in the past. We are even more certain that the dairy cow, in the next ten years, will be again more popular than in any period of the past. Fortunately the percentage of dairy herds in which this retrograde type of breeding is being followed is comparatively small but, in some districts, as for instance, the one mentioned, the movement is assuming almost alarming proportions. Both the past history of the live stock industry and a commonsense analysis of the future proclaim such breeding a mistake.

If the breeder has the permanent good of his breed in mind, he will put vigor ahead of all else in his breeding operations. We believe that the majority of our breeders have consistently worked for strong vigorous stock. There is, however, a great temptation to give records very much the premier place. The "records at all costs" system would be productive of much harm and no permanent good. Let us give it a wide berth. Let us be rational in our breeding operations.

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