



FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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The Enormous Profits of Farming---As Seen by Farmers

Are They Such as to Justify the Government in Fixing Maximum Prices?

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—The busy farmer, especially at this time of year, has not the time at his disposal to deal with one hundredth part of the advice and abuse directed to him from the selfish interests outside of farming. I desire, however, to give my views of farming operations during the past year in the dairy business. I may state here that I farm 100 acres of land in Oxford county. As a prologus to my case, I will give a description of my rotation of crops and handling of the cows.

I follow pretty closely a three-year rotation with 17 acres in corn and like areas in grain and hay. The balance of the farm is in pasture. I have two silos and a milking machine. I read the farm papers and endeavor to farm well. After reading the article by "A Consumer," I ran over my expense account for the past year to see if I could locate any of those huge profits of which he speaks and of which the farmer reads so much in the daily papers. Some way or other they have completely vanished from my accounts and that without the aid of a Food Controller. I conclude therefore, that an "Interests" Controller would have more effect in reducing the high cost of living, as it seems to me unreasonable to ask the farmer in the dairy business to work from 12 to 15 hours per day for less than the average working man receives as wages. Let me quote my expense account for this year. I have sold nothing off the farm for years but milk, hogs and worn out cows. I will start my expenses with fencing, which some may be inclined to call an improvement, but which I have found is an annual outlay for 15 years. Well, here it is:

Woven wire and posts	\$ 40
Seed oats	16
Clover and grass seed	35
Implement	150
Seed potatoes	25
Seed corn	29
Nine tons bran	300
Three tons cotton seed meal	140
Gasoline for milking machine	40
Lubricating oil	7
Binder twine	33
Threshing	20
Silo filling	25
Wages to hired help	350
Wages to myself as farmer	350
Wages to family	200
Incidental expenses	100
Interest on \$10,000 at 5 per cent.	500
Total	\$2,321

Receipts from 18 cows at cheese factory	2,400
Profit on hogs	200
Total receipts	2,600
Less expenses	2,321
Profits	279

To provide for a family of seven, including doc-

tors' bills, shoes and clothes, pay taxes and patriotic monies (which I have omitted in my summary) will reduce to the vanishing point any profits. While these figures are only approximate they are not excessive, in fact, very moderate, as I could have added fertilizers and other items to the expense account. Some may say I have left out the poultry account which figured in my receipts, but I notice at the end of the month our grocer's bill is about twice as large as it used to be, and he gets all the eggs on the account as he always has done. If I were to take into consideration the long hours and grinding necessities in connection with the dairy industry, it would strike me as good business to sell the cows and get into the beef line of farming. My name and address are with the editor, but I prefer to be known here as—"Farmer."

"A Consumer" Answered

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—The number of Commissions appointed in Canada to investigate the High Cost of Living, is now past finding out. A few years ago, I remember,



He Knows

FROM my herd of 18 cows I sold \$412 worth of cream in June. I think I am doing very well," writes a farmer when applying to the Dairy Division, Ottawa, for a further supply of daily milk record forms and a herd record book.

HE KNOWS just what each cow is doing. If she gives less than say 36 lbs. of milk a day, he hunts round to find out why she dropped off in her yield and he tries immediately to prevent any repetition of unusual shrinkage.

He also tests once a month, a composite sample of six milkings so that again HE KNOWS which cows make the best returns in cream. After a few tests he sees that Daisy gives 4.5 milk and Buttercup gives only 3.6. He does not believe in a rough and ready, haphazard, easy-going "guess" as to how much fat the whole herd produces in a year; HE KNOWS from his milk record sheets and herd record book which cows are making money for him. Recently he sold some of his poorest because they did not make enough. Rather a good plan, isn't it? When you decide to follow such a sensible example, write for forms, they are free, and your letter need not even be stamped.—G. F. W.

the late C. C. James was appointed, along with a couple of others, to make a thorough investigation of this problem of the H. C. of L. He spent three years on the work, a lot of money, and so far as I am aware, his report was never made available to the public. A few months ago the Department of Labor appointed Mr. O'Connor as a Commissioner to investigate the same problem and his report, recently published, contains some startling charges. Now the government has appointed another Commission to investigate the O'Connor Commission, and probably they, too, will soon be along with a voluminous report—and a liberal expense statement attached. The city of Toronto, the city of Hamilton, in fact, nearly all of our towns and cities, have commissions of their own investigating the cost of living. To me as a farmer it seems ominously significant that all of these omissions have devoted themselves exclusively to the high cost of foodstuffs, which are products of the farm. Products of every other industry are also advancing in price, but of these we hear nothing. The consumer apparently will pay an additional two dollars for a pair of shoes with much more grace than an additional five cents for a pound of butter.

More ominous still, however, is the government's action in appointing a Food Controller. Already a maximum price has been set on our wheat, our cheese, and still further interference with the course of the markets is contemplated. Prices on these products may go as low as they like, but they must not go above the arbitrary figures stated. Needless and haecious days have been instituted with the object of forcing down the price on these two foodstuffs. It seems to me time for farmers to wake up and keep a watchful eye on Mr. Food Controller Hanna. We need also to impress on our members at Ottawa, the fact that they are there to look after our legitimate interests and not yield to the clamor of the city press, the editors of which, like their readers, seem to believe that all farmers are making enormous profits and that almost any degree of regulation would be justified.

Farmers Not Profiters.

Now I have no use for the profiteer. Farmers have suffered more from his manipulations than any other class: I believe that all excessive profits in war time should be taxed out of existence to meet pressing public needs. The only justification for control of food prices would be ample proof that farmers are making these excessive profits; and such proof I have not yet seen. Such information as the government reports give on the cost of producing farm products is usually misleading in the extreme and exceedingly dangerous to the farmer's interest. In a recent issue of Farm and Dairy, for instance, a writer signing himself "A Consumer" quotes government figures