

THE FARM.

"The Testing Time Will Soon be Here."

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have read with great interest in two of your recent numbers Peter McArthur's comments on the two books, "The Farmer and the Interests," and "The History of Canadian Wealth." I have been purposing for some time to read both these books, but so far have not succeeded in getting the time: the pleasure (or pain) of reading them is therefore still in store for me. Mr. McArthur's comments are, however, so suggestive that I cannot resist the temptation of making some additional remarks along the same lines.

Nothing truer has been said by Mr. McArthur than that "Politics is part of the science of psychology, and those who succeed in it are not those who understand the facts and statistics of government, but those who understand the workings of the human mind." Anyone who studies critically the average stumpspeech, who watches how shrewdly the clever politician appeals to the emotions, prejudices, ignorance and cupidity of his audience,—to all those traditions, instincts and feelings which are permanently embedded in the human race, and which are as old as the race itself—such a one knows only too well that Mr. McArthur speaks the truth. And if so what hope is there for the future? What chance for the supremacy of reason and right-

reason, threatened continually with destruction by the waves of passion, and often overpowered, always operates in the same direction, and may in time become of respectable magnitude in the direction of human affairs. The waves of passion and prejudice frequently neutralize one another. But with reason it is otherwise: the dictates of reason are cumulative.

Therefore the situation is not as hopeless as a cursory reading of Mr. McArthur's comments might lead one to believe. Progress is slow: there are many, many backward eddies: but, on the whole good seed is never lost, but is harvested in God's good time.

Mr. McArthur's revulsion of feeling on reading Mr. Myers' book is more or less of an antidote to a superficial reading of his first article. The "tales of homely fortitude and simple heroism" which, in spite of the "befouled" and sordid fortunes of special privilege, indicate the essential soundness of society at the core, are evidence of the first point which I raised, namely, that there is a vast fund of latent morality in society, which it is the duty and privilege of the true reformer to awaken.

Mr. McArthur concludes thus: "In spite of the revelations of this disquieting book, no one need fear for the future of Canada—if we do not lose the ideal and inspiration of our fathers. There is the only danger."

There is a real danger—that of the gradual degradation of our ideals, the permeation of society by false ideals of life and success. And there is a further danger, that is hinted at when Mr. McArthur says: "In doing our part to defend Canada and the Empire we are running the danger of introducing militarism—the one thing that might possibly make the oppressors enduringly powerful." Under the plea of "military necessity" even now freedom of speech is practically no more. A class is now in existence which panders to, and profits by the war-spirit. When the war is over will come the testing time, and we shall see whether or not we have enough courage and independence to preserve the liberties that our forefathers died for. Those liberties which are Britain's glory and her just claim to greatness. It is going to be an easy thing to lose these liberties—a very difficult matter to retain them, to say nothing of increasing them. And those who will, perhaps unconsciously, make tremendous efforts to fasten the additional curse of militarism upon the backs of Canada's toilers are those who have been instrumental in exploiting the masses in the manner outlined by Clarus Ager and Gustavus Myers. Edward Bernstein, member of the German Reichstag, writing recently in the New Republic (New York) says:

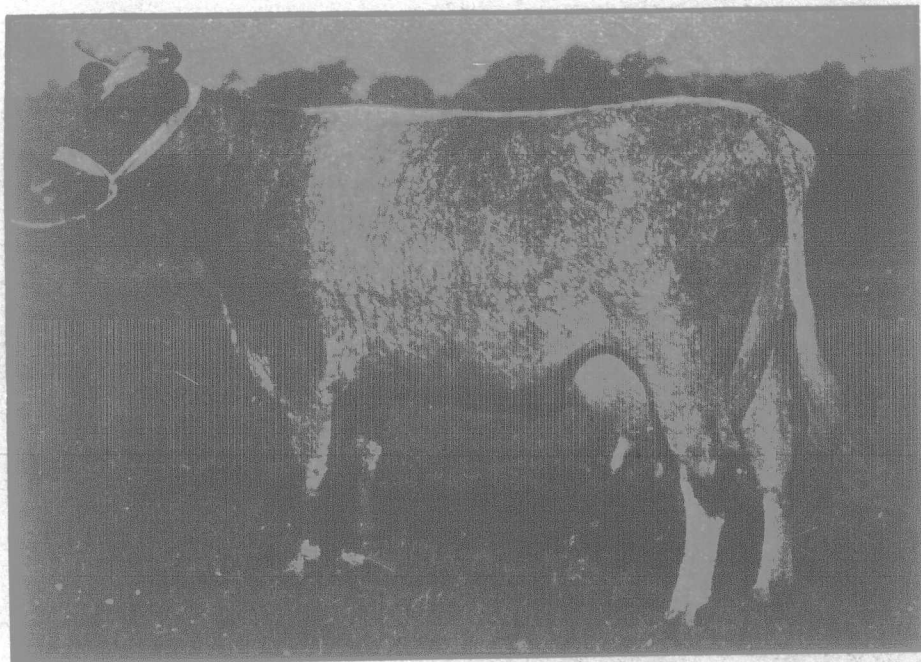
"Militarism is, in Germany, most intimately connected with the fiscal question. The class which is interested in high import duties is the same which is also interested in the present form of militarism. You cannot uphold the policy of high import duties without perpetuating the worst form of rivalry and strained relations between respective nations which would again make for militarism."

Read that in the light of the present movement to take advantage of the existing antipathy towards Germany in order to intensify that form of commercial warfare (through tariffs, etc.) which is largely responsible for the present horrible and bloody carnage. Read it, and watch who it is that will attempt to fasten the European curse of militarism upon a continent as yet comparatively free from it. Watch, with your eyes wide open.

The devotion of the common people to God's work of tilling the fields and raising their families in honest industry may save their souls, but it will not save them in this world from the horrible consequences of greed, selfish privilege and tyranny. The millions of innocent peasants of Belgium and Poland have not saved themselves, their families or their property from fire and sword, even though quite innocent and free from all responsibility for the war. The Canadian farmer has doubtless developed in himself the most admirable characteristics by his battle with the adverse forces of nature in the Canadian wilderness. But he has not saved himself from exploitation by money kings, railway magnates and land barons. Nor will he, except by a wider outlook and a wider exercise of his influence. Two thousand years of so-called Christian civilization have not raised the European peasant much in comfort or intelligence. Life is as crude and sordid in Italy to-day as it was in the time of the Romans. (The Chinese river-dweller ekes out an animal existence by scouring the waters for edible plants.) Bloodshed is more terrible and life is cheaper to-day than it ever was in the memory of mankind. And so it is everywhere: poverty, injustice and misery have increased with the increase of knowledge and civilization. Why? Because the innocent necessarily suffer for the guilty, and the welfare of the majority has been subordinated to the aggrandizement of the few. These are some of the things which we must take seriously to heart if Canada is to be saved from destruction. The people must wrest the power from those who have been robbers and oppressors. In Europe, as Mr. McArthur has admitted, the "aristocracy," or the money power has had a "stranglehold" on the people: hence persistent and wide spread poverty with intermittent periods of slaughter such as would be a disgrace to the lower animals. If the history of Canada is to be different from that of Europe the next few years will probably decide. The fortitude and heroism of our pioneers is, as Mr. McArthur says, a tremendous asset; but it will be of no account, so far as future national existence goes, if it does not assert itself in public affairs. The testing time will soon be here.

Brant Co., Ont.

W.C. Good.



Darlington Cranford 24th.

This cow has given 1000 gallons of milk in a single lactation period, and when 9 years old weighed 17 cwt. The real type of dual-purpose Shorthorn.

eousness? The outlook is dark indeed if our "intelligent electors" have to keep on saying to themselves,

"I'm going to vote
Am I a goat?"

in order to preserve the correct attitude of mind when going to the polling booth.

But there is another side to this matter. If "political success depends less on logic than on human sympathy," let us remember that one may make the appeal to human sympathy in order to help our fellows just as well as to exploit them. Abraham Lincoln achieved political success, and, no doubt, largely because he appealed to human sympathy. But the results were, in the main, wholly good. He was a true leader, not a wolf in sheep's clothing. There are just the same opportunities now for the abolition of modern forms of slavery as there were in Lincoln's time, and just the same need for consecrated leaders.

Further let us remember that if logic counts for very little in politics it always works in the same direction. I recall, but cannot quote accurately, a very significant saying of the late Professor William James (of Harvard University.) He said that reason was the feeblest of nature's forces, that human affairs were mainly directed by instincts, prejudices, passions, etc., Reason, he said, was like a small sandbank in a wild and hungry ocean, which, though it was threatened with destruction every moment by the stormy waves, yet often grew small accretions until it could withstand the buffets of the most furious hurricane. As the waves ebb and flow, and as the winds blow now in this direction and now in that, the little sandbank gradually raises its head above the waters, and may finally become so large and strong that it offers a permanent habitation for living plants and animals. Even so human

a month before and feeding a common-sense ration is the more profitable method.

Dairymen usually want to know what an animal will produce in a certain length of time. True, they want the desired type and conformation of the breed and want the animal looking well, but they base the price which they will pay to a large extent on the records which the animal or its ancestors have made. This is particularly noticeable in the pure-bred stock. At sales last winter there were two herds in particular that, as far as breeding, conformation and type were concerned, appeared about equal, but the one had a number of mature animals which had made considerably larger records than the other herd, consequently they averaged a good many dollars a head more at the sale. A breeder will pay considerably more for a cow that has been tested and made a record of a certain number of pounds of milk and butter-fat, than he will for one that appears to be a good milker but has never been tested. If a dairyman is planning to have a sale in the future it will pay him well to keep a record of what his cows are doing. This applies to grade stock as well as pure-bred. Plan the sale date so that as many of the cows as possible will be well on in calf, or with calves at foot. A cow that has not been bred, or has only been bred a few weeks previous to the sale date, seldom brings a high price. Purchasers will not take the risk, consequently those having a sale would really be money ahead to withhold cows they are not sure are in-calf. This applies to both beef and dairy breeds.

Only recently we called at a place where the man was planning to hold a sale in a few weeks. It was impossible to get anyway near the cattle. They had run on pasture most of the season and had not been accustomed to seeing anyone around. On suggesting that it would pay to have the cattle halter broken before the sale, he stated that he had not intended training them to lead, but when his attention was directed to it he recalled several sales which he had attended, and remembered the slow bids when the stock appeared nervous and unmanageable. No doubt every breeder can recall similar instances, and yet at possibly half the sales the cattle are not used to the halter.

It is advisable to have a good sales-ring. If possible have it under cover so that the sale may be held regardless of the weather. If a good building cannot be procured, a tent can be rented for a small sum and will prove very satisfactory. Have the ring large enough so that the stock can be moved around. Also have it roped off and keep all but those who have business transactions outside the ring. For very little expense elevated seats can be arranged around the ring, whether in a tent or building. When attending a sale men like to be made comfortable, and by having the seats raised all can see. It pays to cater to the comfort of breeders who come with the intention of buying stock.

The number of consignment sales is increasing. This method of selling gives the smaller breeder an opportunity of disposing of his stock. As a rule one has not sufficient stock to make a sale, but by a number of breeders going together, each putting in a certain number of head and selling at a central point, a large sale can be made up that will draw the crowd. A few consignment sales have been a failure for the reason that poor quality stock was offered, but there are associations that have been holding annual sales for several years. The members always consign their best stock and have it in good condition, consequently the public look forward to securing choice stuff at this annual event. There is no reason why consignment sales should not be a success. It must ever be remembered that the buying public to-day have an intelligent idea of pedigrees and a fair idea of the value of an animal. For stock to bring the highest price at an auction sale, it must be in a condition to attract the eye as well as possessing good blood, breed-type and conformation.

During the breeding season it might be well to keep the ram in through the day and let him out with the ewes only at night. This is especially important where one ram is mated with a particularly large flock. Feed him a few oats and some roots, and keep him up in condition if possible. If he is allowed to run with the flock all the time he may injure himself and the lamb crop may be smaller. Try it.