

FARMERS AND LABORING MEN--THEIR INTERESTS IDENTICAL

ARTICLE No. 9

WHEN we find the causes which have led 100,000 people to leave the farms of Ontario during the past 10 years, we will have found the cause of the city slums. When we understand why the average farmer on only moderately good land, in spite of the improved farm machinery now in use, still finds it hard each year to make ends meet, and some years goes behind, we will understand also why the laboring man in the city, in spite of the periodical increases in wages he has obtained through his labor unions and strikes, still often finds it difficult to make a living. These problems all trace back to the same cause. The cause is easily explained.

A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION

Suppose an early stage of society in which 100 men are making their living by fishing. At first each man digs his own worms, weaves his own lines, trims his own fishing rods and digs the metals he requires in order that he may make his hooks and trolis. He does everything for himself. For a while they get along nicely. Finally, they discover that because each man is doing everything for himself, they are all doing a lot of needless running around. They, therefore, arrange with five of their number to dig the worms required by the other 95. The 95 continue to fish. It is agreed that the five, as long as they work faithfully, shall receive their full share of all the fish that are caught. This arrangement proves satisfactory, as it is soon found that the 95—through being able to fish more steadily—are catching more fish, than the 100 men were catching before. All, therefore, are pleased. Presently further similar improvements are decided upon. Five more men are appointed to cut fishing rods; five others to dig the metals required for the hooks and trolis, and five others to make the hooks and trolis from the metal after it has been dug, as well as to weave the lines. This leaves only 75 men fishing. Still everyone is satisfied. It is realized that because each man is able to work steadily at the one line of work, he is able to do better work than he could if he had to do a little of everything, and that, therefore, the 75 are still catching more fish than the 100 would on the old basis. Finally, however, it is discovered that some men are shirking. It is arranged, therefore, that each man shall use what he produces to buy from the others what he needs. This it is soon found that a fishing rod worth a certain number of fish and that a hook and line are worth so many more. Still everyone is satisfied because they know that they are obtaining just what they earn, no more and no less, and that they are free to go back to fishing or to dig worms or to cut fishing rods if they so desire. As all are working there is a community of interest and a freedom from class antagonism.

THEIR INTERESTS ARE IDENTICAL

That is or should be the position of society. The farmer should see that the workingman in the city who is making him a plow or harrow, a suit of clothes, a pair of boots or anything else that he uses in his home or on the farm, is helping him to produce just that much more off his farm by giving him more time to cultivate his land and care for his stock. Were it not for the city working man we farmers would have to undertake so many other lines of work we would have little time left for farming and we would soon go back in condition to the primitive ages. Thus our interests and those of the city working man are identical. Anything that injures them injures us and everything that injures us injures them.

But, unfortunately, that is not the condition of society to-day. If it were, everyone would be obtaining the full reward for their labor and there would be no problem of the city slum or of rural depopulation. Instead, there is another influence at work whose importance we have not fully recognized. It is this:

HOW THE PUBLIC IS SQUEEZED

Suppose when the first five men stopped fishing in order that they might dig worms they had found that one man had got ahead of them and gained the ownership of all the land around available for the digging of worms. Suppose, also, that this man sat back and told them that they could not dig a spadeful of worms without giving him a certain number of fish. From that time on that one man would have the other 99 practically at his mercy. He could exact from them almost what toll he liked. He need never work any more and could grow wealthy while the 99 remained in want.

But that is not all! Suppose that when the second five went to cut the fishing rods they found that another man had gained control of the woodlands and was determined to charge them his own price for every rod they cut; that when the third five went to dig the metals they discovered that still another man had secured a monopoly of all the mines and that he would not let them dig a pound of metal without first paying him his price. We would then have three men who would have the other 97 at their mercy. They need not work although the 97 might starve. They could acquire riches while the 97 found it hard to earn a living.

HOW THE PUBLIC IS ENSLAVED

That is practically the position of society to-day. We have allowed almost all of our great natural resources, including our timber limits, our mines, and our water powers, to pass under the control of private individuals and companies. We have, also, allowed our great transportation companies, and the land in our trading centres, the cities, to become monopolized in the same manner. In addition, by means of our tariff laws we have given certain people the power to form combines and mergers and thus to control the prices of most of the goods we buy. Our ignorance has been the cause of our enslavement.

THE FARM LABOR DIFFICULTY EXPLAINED

This is the explanation of the fact that no matter how much we may produce from our farms or how much the laboring man may succeed in having his wages increased, we are neither of us able to keep most of it after we get it. The people who have control of those things we must buy practically dictate to us the prices we must pay them for them. Thus we no sooner begin to prosper than up goes the prices of things we buy, and a period of hard times soon sets in. This explains also why these other interests are able to pay better wages than the farmer can. They have the power to take the increased wages they pay both out of the farmer and later out of the working man after he gets them. Thus they squeeze both the laboring man and the farmer.

This is why the interests of the laboring man and of the farmer are identical. It explains why they should unite in an effort to bring about an improvement. It explains also how it is that we have millionaires and multi-millionaires on one hand and increasing poverty on the other? Is it not time for us farmers to shake off party politics and to stand together. Our farmers' organizations are doing a great work for us in an effort to right these conditions. At present in Ontario, at least, we are not supporting them as we should.

Feed Cows Well When Dry

Geo. Coleman, Glogargary Co., Ont.

I often wonder what many of our farmers are thinking about when they allow their dairy cattle to get so badly out of condition in the winter. The excuse usually offered is that they are in summer dairying only and can't afford to feed their cows when they are not giving milk. "Can't afford not to" would be my view of the matter. I plan to have my cows fresh in the spring, as it is only in the spring and summer that I have a market for milk, but the feeding I do is not discontinued in the winter.

How can one expect cows to do well when they go on grass if they have to spend all the first month getting a little flesh on their ribs and storing up a little vigor with which to make milk. And by the time the cows are getting in fair good condition, the pastures start to turn up and the result is the 3,000-pound cow of which we hear so much. It isn't the cow's fault. Under different management she would have produced twice as much milk. I try to have our cows in good condition when they freshen. They then start immediately to pile up a good flow of milk, and come nearer 6,000 than 3,000 lbs. in the factory season.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALF

There is another very important reason why we should feed the cow well in winter. It is then that she is developing her calf. This is a great strain on the cow, and she requires lots of nutritious food. Good food is necessary if we are to have strong, healthy calves.

I find that well matured corn ensilage and well aired clover hay, 30 to 40 lbs. of the former and 15 lbs. of the hay, makes a good winter ration for the dairy cow of average size. I feed the ensilage in the morning and follow with the hay when the mangers have been cleaned up. The cows are then left alone till five o'clock in the afternoon, when they are again fed ensilage and their mangers are filled with oat straw. What is not eaten in the morning is thrown back under the cattle for bedding. This feeding is cheap and it serves the purpose well.

WHEN GRAIN IS FED

As the time for freshening approaches a little ground grain is added to the ration. This helps in the development of a vigorous calf and gives the cow more strength to do her duty as a mother and at the pail.

We hear much of feeding dairy cows when in milk, and the profit is right in our hands. We need to hear more of preparing the cow for the lactation period, when the profits of feeding are none the less real, but not always so easy to see. My experience has convinced me that the great mistake the most of our dairymen are making is in turning their cows to the straw stack during the winter.

Winter Emmer and Winter Barley.—A comparative test of Winter Emmer and Winter Barley was made throughout Ontario during the past year. The Winter Emmer gave a yield of 3,400 pounds and the Winter Barley of 3,940 pounds per acre. Neither of these grains have as yet become extensively grown as a farm crop in Ontario.—Prof. C. A. Zavits, O.A.C., Guelph.

All droppings are removed every morning from the henhouse and the floor is swept. Perfect cleanliness and pure air mean good health, no vermin, and lots of eggs. In one corner of the main part of the house, I have a low box four feet square filled with wood ashes. I add a large spoonful of sulphur each time I bring in a fresh pan of ashes. I spray the nests with coal oil each time the straw is changed.—Mrs. John Newton, Labello Co., Que.

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