

less an authority than the Experimental Farm in authority for its statement. But this paper did not state all the facts. If the editors will look up the report again they will see that it is an estimated cost, not actual cost. How long could any business keep running if the manager charged up what he thought was the cost of running, instead of what it actually was.

If I could get my work done for the amount charged, I would never hire a man by the year, or own a horse, plow, drill, binder or any other piece of farm machinery. It is such "hot air" as this that disgusts the farmer with the Agricultural Department, for whenever the farmers band together to get a living price for their products, they are met by the consumer with some such sets of figures which show how cheaply the Agricultural Department has produced some farm product. The farmer is beginning to believe what one very prominent agricultural official said in a speech before a city audience, that the Agricultural Department is conducted for the purpose of reducing the cost to the consumer, rather than for the benefit of the farmer.

The only sensible way to keep cost accounts is to charge the proportional part of all expenses against each department. The only true way in farming, and the one which has been neglected in all demonstrations conducted by the Department of Agriculture, so far as my knowledge goes, is to take a whole farm as a unit, just as manufacturers take a factory and charge all overhead expenses, when the proportional part would be charged against the old crop. If this were done we would not have so many "successful demonstrations on farms," but they would be nearer the truth.

In Canada the Department of Agriculture has never had the courage to find out what the farmer is actually making, but across the line where, if anything, I think they are more prosperous, an investigation of about 20,000 farmers in probably a dozen States, showed that they make five per cent. on money and laborers pay. As proof that the Canadian does not, I would point to the uncultivated land in this year of high prices. It is not, as many say, because labor is scarce, but because the farmer does not feel that he can pay the price. I could get a dozen men to-morrow, but I do not see where I could come out even. I would not ask for a profit while our soldiers are shedding their blood on the battlefields.

If the Department of Agriculture has reliable information regarding world shortage of food stuffs, let the Government guarantee a minimum price. A motion to this effect was passed at a largely attended meeting of our local National Resources Committee, composed of not only farmers, but also business men. In the meantime, I would beg to inform the officers of the committee that there is plenty of uncultivated land in this vicinity that they can rent for less than the expenses incurred in ownership, on which they can not only produce food-stuffs, but according to the above report can also make a clear \$50 cents a bushel to do with as the Rod Cross Fund.—G. F. Marsh, Gray Co., Ont.

Some men at the club were telling dog stories after a day's shooting. When the tales had got very "tall," one little man, who had been quite silent, said:

"I have a dog that makes all yours seem fools. I generally feed him myself after dinner, but the other day a friend dropped in and the poor animal slipped my mind. After the meal we went into the garden. The dog scratched up a flower and laid it at my feet, with the most yearning look in his eyes—it was a forget-me-not." Nobody told any more dog stories that evening.

## Wayside Cleanings

By "Burnbrae"

### A Farmer's Grouch

YES, I have a grouch. It's against the man who first contrived the so-called sanitary and improved steel stalls for cow stables. I know the majority of men think them alright and may possibly laugh at my out-of-dateness, but, nevertheless, I stand firm against them.

Some three or four years ago we had our stables remodeled and, in order that we might be as good as our neighbors, we put in steel fixtures of the most expensive and approved type. Everyone admired them and praised their sanitation and other good qualities. I am willing to admit that they look nice and, possibly, are more sanitary than many of the old-fashioned sort, but I have a serious kick to register when you come to handle the animals which stand in them.

Fortunately, or otherwise, we had six two-year-old heifers freshen this last two months, and, in trying to teach them to stand quietly while being milked, I have been so annoyed at those lovely sanitary steel stalls that from now until the distant future is reached I will have little use for them. To illustrate, yet me describe what happens when I good-naturedly sit down to milk. The two-year-olds stand quiet a few seconds, then steps away from me. I follow. She recedes still farther. I pursue. Soon a lovely piece of steel tubing makes its appearance about 15 inches in front of the heifer's hind legs and exactly where my right foot ought to be to support the milk pail. The cow goes still further from me and the beautiful stall comes up to a position where I rasp my knuckles on it every stroke of the milking operation. About this time the animal in the next stall decides that her domain is being encroached upon and she makes a move to regain the lost territory. Result—the cow being milked suddenly lurches to the right and the writer beats a hasty retreat to avoid being mixed with the milk in the gutter. About this time it would be unhealthy for a Deafy London Superior man to enter the cow byre, because no buyer would be present. All this can be laid at the door of the man who invented these lovely, beautiful and sanitary steel cow stalls. And they expect us to keep cool and not abuse the cows.

"BURNBRAE."

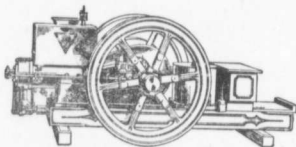
### Steel Braces—Metal Clad.

W. Arthur Clazie, Hastings Co., Ont.

MY barn is 60 feet long and 36 feet wide and is constructed of 26 gauge metal siding. It has steel braces and steel shingles. I am well pleased with it so far. I believe the steel braces are much better and more convenient than other styles, as the steel braces only come out about three feet from each post, and are not in the way in the least.

There were several reasons why we decided to build this style of barn, one of these being that we had no timber or lumber of our own. The material used was supplied, and all we had to do was draw it from the station, which was only about a mile from the farm. Another reason was that such a barn is entirely fireproof from the outside, as not an inch of lumber is exposed. The insurance is much lower, and it does not require any painting to keep in good shape. Such a barn is very convenient, having no tie beams or purlin posts. The cost was little more than lumber clad barns, and considering these advantages, I think it is cheaper in the long run to erect a metal clad barn.

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