

# FARM AND DAIRY

## AND RURAL HOME

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1. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is a national organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Dairywomen's Association, and the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association.

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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## FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

### CONSERVATION OF OUR FORESTS

The Grand Duchy of Hesse in Germany affords us an example of the way in which European countries conserve their forests. In 1908 the productive forest area in Hesse amounted to 182,263 acres. The total yield of timber in 1908 was 4,575,000 cubic feet. Expenditures for salaries, forest cultivation, and road building amounted to \$754,000, and the total gross income was \$1,161,931, which represents 2.1 per cent interest on investment.

The policy of forest conservation followed in the older countries of Europe will soon have to be adopted, to some extent at least, in Canada, or the great source of wealth that we now have in our forests will be obliterated. The area under forest in many parts of Ontario is already less than in those European countries, where farming is carried on in the most intensive manner.

Although we in Canada cannot copy European forestry methods closely,

there are measures that we should take at the present time for the preservation of our wood-lands. Sufficient money spent on Canadian forest reserves would greatly reduce the fire danger, maintain an adequate supply of lumber for the future, and in time the reserves would become a source of revenue to the Government. Municipalities would benefit. Forest land in their townships and hold it for the further benefit of their districts.

Individual farmers also should not be uninterested in the policy of forest conservation. The farm wood lot managed as are the wood lots of Europe will, with the advancing price of fuel, soon become a revenue producing proposition well worth considering.

### THE COOPERATIVE BILL

In Canada we lack legislation for the easy incorporation of cooperative societies. This deficiency Mr. Monk endeavored to overcome in the last House by the introduction of his cooperative Societies Bill. The Bill, however, did not become law because of the strong opposition of the Retail Merchants' Association. The members of this association believe that the formation of cooperative societies, which would result from such legislation, would be detrimental to their business.

We can all understand why the members of the Retail Merchants' Association would oppose a bill that would make it easy for producer and consumer to come closer together. We cannot understand, however, why the interests of a few thousand merchants should be allowed to stand in the way of the greater prosperity of the millions of Canadian citizens. Millions are necessary; but the fewer of them we have between producers and consumers the more satisfactory will it be to both classes.

A good thing will not down. The Cooperative Bill in some form or other will in all probability be again introduced in the Dominion House this session. It is certain that the Retail Merchants' Association will again make themselves heard to destroy the bill. If we farmers are alive to our best interests we will see to it that the objections of the Merchants' Association are met by equally strong arguments by the friends of the bill, which include all of the farmers and farmers' associations of Canada.

Our systems of renting land are faulty and result in soil robbing; where the renter can not provide domestic animals, the owner should arrange to furnish them, so that rotation of crops may be had, and hay and grains fed on the farm.

Keep pure bred dairy cattle. The well bred, pedigreed cow requires no more food and no greater care than does the scrub. Even if the two give equal amounts of milk, the pure bred cow is preferable in that her offspring will many times outsell the ordinary animal that does not have the papers.

### ABOUT FERTILIZERS

Can we afford to purchase commercial fertilizers? In the January 4th issue of Farm and Dairy, Mr. T. W. Shipley, of York Co., Ont., tells of splendid results that have been achieved by the use of commercial fertilizers on Indian corn. On page three of this issue, Mr. G. E. Cottingham, of Chateaugay Co., Que., tells of experiments that he has made wherein commercial fertilizers gave no returns whatever. Such contrary results are apt to confuse those of us who have not yet tried commercial fertilizers, and make us doubt whether they are worth while or not. Commercial fertilizers have made for themselves an established place in the agriculture of all the old settled countries. We in Canada have not yet reached the stage where we fully appreciate the value of these fertilizers. Their use is not yet past the experimental stage with most of us. Even such favorable reports as have been given by Mr. Cottingham should not discourage us from giving commercial fertilizers a trial.

The fact that fertilizers in commercial forms are being used in ever increasing quantities in the older countries where they have stood the test of over one hundred years, should be convincing proof to us that there is something worth while in commercial fertilizers. The Scotch farmer, noted the world over for his caution, will think nothing of applying \$30 to \$40 worth of fertilizer to an acre. He certainly would not do so had he not proved to his own satisfaction that it is a paying proposition. In the corn growing sections of Ontario there are hundreds of farmers who are using commercial fertilizer regularly, and getting good results from it.

The use of commercial fertilizer is bound to increase and no more necessary or profitable work could be undertaken by our experimental farmers than a thorough investigation in so far as lies within their power into the various forms of their power, their and their use. Hitherto our government experimental stations have not given commercial fertilizers the attention that they deserve, and consequently data from that source are slim. So many factors, however, influence the results from fertilizer tests that they are very narrow in their application. The soil of practically every farm in the country has distinct and individual requirements in the line of fertilizer. We farmers on our own farms should conduct fertilizer experiments in a small way and thus determine the needs of our own soil.

It may be that in certain seasons and on very rich land the application of commercial fertilizers will not return paying results. But the experience of agriculturists in older countries and of hundreds of farmers in our own country leads us to believe that many of us, probably the majority, could make much larger use of commercial fertilizer than we do and that its application would be followed by such increased yields as to make the venture a financial success.

The influence of a prospectus of some company about to be launched, painting in glowing colors how easy it will be to double and

About treble one's capital in investments comparatively short of time by investing in that company, has been the ruin of many farmers. Those of us who are thinking of investing our money away from the farm would do well to bear in mind the opinion of such companies held by the late Russell Sage, a multi-millionaire. He remarked at one time that he would prefer a five per cent investment with a little uncertainty to a hundred per cent investment on a "sure thing." Several hundred per cent or even thousand per cent money making schemes have "gone through" recently, leaving the investors without even a return of the principal. The misfortunes of the shareholders in these concerns should be a warning to us. There is no better place to invest our money than right on our own farms in such improvements as tile drains and pure bred stock, but if we are determined to invest money in outside enterprises, let us beware of get-rich-quick schemes. Moderate expectations are much more certain to bring profitable returns.

The farmer's table may not have as much silver on it, or as large a variety of food as that of the wealthy city man, but the farmer has what the city man has not—a first class appetite.

Straight simple English is the most forcible language we can use. Profanity, or even slang, weakens our talk, betrays us in the eyes of those that love us, and ties us hand and foot against good clean speaking.

In those countries where they specialize in dairying, undivided attention has been given to the improvement of the milk yielding capabilities of cows. In Canada we are at a disadvantage in that we are inclined to keep our eye on the beef end, and in working for two objects we sometimes fall down between the two. We get little milk and very poor beef.

### The Man Himself

(Hoard's Dairyman)

Success in dairy farming depends almost entirely on the quality of the owner. Farmers do not think so, as a rule, but we are convinced it is true. They are very apt to overlook this important fact of human quality and ascribe success or failure to outside conditions. But you will never hear them measure a hired man in that way. It is personal quality every time that makes him a success or a failure. And if this be true of the hired man, why not of the owner?

Viewed from this standpoint then, the thing for every dairy farmer to do is to pay more attention to his own mental equipment, the knowledge he possesses. There stands his business. Does he understand it in the light of the best knowledge? Is he taking proper pains with his own mind? So shall understand it with his own mind? Those are the vital points to be considered. We admit that most farmers think they understand their business. But do they?

### Criticisms

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