Farm and Dairy
AND
Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
Published every Thursday by
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Peterboro and Toronto.

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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy approximate 20,000. The actual circulation of each issue including copies of the paper sent to subscribers, who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 18,000 to 20,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates.

Sworn detailed statements of circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by counties and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

OUR GUARANTEE.

We guarantee that every advertiser in this issue is reliable. We are able to do this because the advertising columns of Farm and Dairy are as carefully edited as the reading columns, and because to protect our readers, we turn away all unscrupulous advertisers. Should any advertiser herein deal dishonestly with you as one of our paid-in-advance subscribers, we will make good the amount of your loss, provided such transaction occurs within one month from date of this issue, that it is reported to us within a week of its occurrence, and that we find the facts to be as stated. It is a condition of this contract that in writing to advertisers you state: "I saw your advertisement in Farm and Dairy."

Rogues shall not ply their trade at the expense of our subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns; but we shall not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honorable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts.

The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confute nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

Tax Free Bonds

MR. I. W. KILLAM, President of the Royal Securities Corporation, Ltd., of Montreal, has addressed open letters to the Prime Minister of Canada and his colleague, the Minister of Finance, protesting against the tax-free clause of the 1918 Victory Loan, about to be issued. Mr. Killam's objections to tax exemption are based on two grounds—that it is not necessary to ensure the success of the loan, and that it is unwise from the standpoint of national economy.

Mr. Killam, we believe, is right on both counts, although it is doubtful whether at this late date a change would be either advisable or possible. Canadians appreciate the importance of the "silver bullets" in war winning, and are going to see that the necessary finances are supplied. In this we are no less patriotic than the people of Great Britain and the United States. In Great Britain the current loan has been issued at a lower rate of interest than here and subject to income taxation. In the United States the first Liberty Loan was issued at three and one-half per cent, and exempt from taxation. The current loan is being issued at four and one-quarter per cent with limited income tax exemption. Surely, from a business standpoint entirely, Canadians would welcome the opportunity of buying bonds bearing five and one-half per cent interest and secured by all the real and personal property of the Dominion, even if they were subject to income taxation.

That our present policy of finance will impose an undue burden on those whose capital is invested in industry, or on those whose income depends on their labor, seems clear. The end of the war will find a large per cent of the capital of the country invested in a form that is not taxable. Public revenue will have to be derived from other sources, and the load increased on the farmer, the laboring man and the investor in private industry. No one could object to this if the interest rate on Victory Bonds were lowered in proportion to the value of the tax exemption clause; but this is not being done. Even at the present time Mr. Killam claims there is a tendency for investors to withdraw their capital from private industry for the more attractive government bond issues. It should not be forgotten either that the rate of interest on Victory Bonds influences the rate of interest on all other loans and securities, and a high rate inevitably increases the cost of doing business.

A change now, however, even if it were possible, might tend to divert investment from the new bond issues to the old issues, which would soon be selling at a premium and that without any benefit to the people. We are laying up trouble for future years by our present policy, but probably, when the first loans were floated, the finance department at Ottawa did not appreciate the important place that income taxation was due to take in the raising of money for federal purposes.

Thirty Cents an Hour

UNDER the heading, "Editorial of the Day," one of the Chicago papers recently reproduced the following editorial from The Prairie Farmer. It is worthy of careful consideration:

The United States Food Administration, in settling prices to be paid for milk in the Chicago district, has decided that 30c. an hour is adequate pay for a dairyman's time.

This is strangely out of line with the government's policy in dealing with union labor. In settling wage disputes where union men are concerned, the price has rarely gone below 50c. an hour, and often as high as $1. Shipyard workers often make as much as $2 an hour, yet their work is no more important than that of the farmer. The Washington clerks, who were saved by the president's veto from the hardship of working more than seven hours a day, get from 50c. an hour up—mostly up. Yet we could do without government clerks much more easily than we could do without food producers.

Bricklayers and carpenters in the cities get from 67 to 75c. an hour. Chauffeurs and butlers, and even the "white wings" who sweep the city streets get more than 30c. an hour.

We can sympathize with the young dairyman who said: "I am willing to fight Germans for $30 a month, but I'll be darned if I'll milk cows for 30c. an hour."

The American farmer is entitled to an explanation of the government's attitude in fixing a rate for farm labor at less than half the price paid in other industries. If any one in Washington wants to make such an explanation, we will gladly give him space in the Prairie Farmer to do so.

The tendency to undervalue the farmers' time is not confined to the south of the border. The present agitation in Canada for the fixing of prices on all food products is based on the same assumption—that the farmer is not entitled to the same returns for his labor as is received in all other skilled occupations Fortunately, however, we are now coming to recognize the value of our labor and farmers can be depended upon to insist on an adequate return for their labor and superintendence.

Oleomargarine Publicity

OLEOMARGARINE has received more publicity in the last few months than butter received in a corresponding number of years. City newspapers have written columns of reading matter extolling its virtues. Manufacturers have used advertising space liberally in all mediums which reach the consuming public. There is one form of oleo publicity, however, which has been, we fear, sorely neglected. It is a form, too, which is prescribed by law. In the Order-in-Council governing the sale and use of oleomargarine we read the following:

"In all hotels, restaurants and public eating places where oleomargarine is served there shall be prominently displayed in some conspicuous place a placard containing the words: "oleomargarine served here," in capital block letters, not less than one and one-half inches long."

Since this regulation was promulgated the staff of Farm and Dairy have, of necessity, eaten much oleomargarine in hotels and restaurants. Of course, we could not take our oath that it was oleo we were eating; the manufacturers have turned out too good an imitation for that. We are morally certain, however, that it is not butter with which we are served in many of even the best hotels and restaurants. And never have we seen that card "Oleomargarine served here," although we have made a practice of looking for it. Possibly the card was always accidentally (?) tipped over on its face. Perhaps interpretations differ as to what constitutes a "conspicuous place." There are a host of eating place proprietors in Canada who are in need of more information in this line—and possibly a few examples of what the law can do with those who infringe its regulations.

Extended Leave Necessary

THE action of the military authorities in reconsidering their first order and granting leave of absence to thousands of farm boys, called out under the recent draft law, has been of untold assistance to Canadian farmers in handling their crops this year. These boys, who were allowed home to help with the harvest, are expected to return to camp about the middle of September or the first of October. Farm and Dairy desires to direct attention to the fact that there is no period during the year when these boys are more urgently needed, in the dairy districts especially, than in the month following the middle of September. It is in this season that the silos are filled, the root crops gathered in and the fall plowing gotten under way. This is heavy work that cannot be handled by farmerettes and old men and, if at all possible, skilled help should be left on the farm until the first of November.

Fortunately, the military situation is easing, and the need for reinforcements is not so pressing as was the case last spring. The labor situation, on the other hand, is not easing; at least, not on the farms. A few more weeks of leave would enable many farmers to prepare a normal area for crop next year who would otherwise be severely handicapped. After November first several months are still left for military training and transportation overseas before the campaigning season of 1919 opens. This is a situation worthy of consideration by those in whose hands is the authority to act.

Loss of Rural Population

ONTARIO is still losing her rural population. So are all of the other provinces of the East with the possible exception of Quebec. Just how serious this loss is, we can best appreciate by considering the drift of population in typical countries. Hence the significance of the following from the Forest Free Press:

"The Municipal Bulletin of the Ontario Bureau of Municipal Affairs for 1917 was issued last week. It gives the Municipal statistics of all the cities, towns, villages and townships in the Province, the figures being from the returns of 1916. According to this report the ten townships in Lambton have a population of 25,560, and the total amount paid in taxes 1916 was $444,180, or $17.40 per head. In 1902, fourteen years previously, the population was 33,180, and the total amount of taxes paid was $212,700, or $6.40 per head. During the fourteen years there has been a decrease in population, in these ten townships, of 7,620, while taxation has increased $11 per head.

"To make a further comparison. In 1881 the population of these ten townships was 37,140, thus showing a decrease of 11,580 in thirty-five years. Bringing the comparison nearer home we find that the townships of Bosanquet, Plympton and Warwick had a population of 11,907 in 1881 which decreased to 6,548 in 1916, a loss of 5,459 in the thirty-five years, nearly one half."

Lambton county is one of the really good agricultural districts of Eastern Canada. It has not lost population because of any dearth of natural opportunities. Nor is its loss of population peculiar to itself. Similar conditions prevail in almost every other purely rural constituency in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. Even in the West, the growth of rural population is not keeping pace with the growth of western cities. With a situation so general as this there can be but one explanation—lack of equal opportunity to make a living on the farms as compared with the inducements of city industry. Surely there was never such need as now for organized effort on the part of Canada's farmers to remove the legislative disabilities that are rendering farming comparatively unprofitable.