

often still found on our older buildings. I took off a roof this fall shingled with this material. Many of the shingles were perfectly sound, except where they had been exposed to the weather. They had, perhaps, been on that roof for 60 years.

Such shingles, of course, can scarcely be obtained to-day, and if they could, they would not give the same satisfaction under present conditions, and the reason why they would not give satisfaction is the main reason why it is so difficult to decide upon what roofing to use. It is on account of the blower, which is now so commonly used on our threshing machines.

#### DUST FROM THE BLOWER

The blower drives the dust into the crevices inside the barn, especially between the shingles and sheathing. In addition, it almost invariably leaves a liberal deposit of dust and chaff upon the roof. The careful farmer does his best to sweep this off his roof. Much of it refuses to be "swept," having become fixed in crevices between the shingles. When this foreign matter becomes wet, it makes a first-class start on the destruction of a wooden roof.

How would this dust and dirt affect a metal roof? I do not know from experience, but the dust, etc., certainly lodges upon such roofs and sticks pretty well to it. The vital question seems to be, what effect will this deposit have upon them and upon the other different manufactured roofs? The blower has doubtless come to stay, so what material shall we use with which to shingle our barns? Shall we use British Columbia or Ontario cedar shingles? Some builders claim that the former, being kiln dried, are in that process injured so that the life of such shingles are much shortened. Many favor the Ontario white cedar, dried by sun and wind, as having a much longer life. Who can decide? Surely those who have had experience with both varieties. Or shall we use metallic roofing in the form of shingles or corrugated iron sheets, or some of the other manufactured roofing?

Will the metallic roofing stand the test of time and weather under present conditions, and give us a tight, lasting roof, or will it prove to be a costly experiment? Are any of the other roofings entirely satisfactory? What say you, brother farmers? What has been your experience with the different forms of roofing, and for what length of time does your experience cover? Has it been long enough to give a real test of roofing?

Many who are about to build new barns, or who are re-shingling their old ones, will be most grateful to any of their fellow farmers who will kindly throw the light of their experience on this question through the columns of "Farm and Dairy." No one will appreciate such light more than the writer himself.

### Cow Testing Associations in Denmark

N. P. Hall, Michigan, U.S.A.

The farmers in Denmark were so poor a comparatively few years ago that they could scarcely pay their taxes. Their cows had averaged about 114 lbs. butter fat each. Their government took a hand. Cow testing associations were started. Soon the Danes found their poor cows and disposed of them. They persisted in this policy. To-day they average about double the quantity of butter fat per cow that they did when they started.

What we are all after is the largest net profit per cow. What we want is to find how this can be secured. The best means of doing this is to join a cow testing association; weigh and test the milk from your cows and keep track of the feed that they consume, and its cost. You can do it in no other way. I never saw the man yet who could guess anyway near the quantity of milk his cows were giving.

## SOME 62,000 LESS FARMERS IN ONTARIO THAN 10 YEARS AGO

This is the Reason for the High Prices of Farm Products—The Trend from the Country to the City

In the great movement from the farms of Ontario to the towns and cities, lies the explanation of the high prices of farm products that are causing so much discussion in the daily papers of the cities, and which is now engaging the attention of the Government. This view was expressed by Mr. C. C. James, the capable Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, in two splendid addresses delivered last week in Toronto, one at the banquet given by the members of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, and the other before the members of the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions.

In the course of these addresses, as well as in an interview with an editor of "Farm and Dairy," Mr. James expressed the following views: "Whereas 10 years ago the rural population of Ontario was about 60% of the total population of the province, the urban population representing the other 40%, we find to-day that these figures have been almost reversed. The movement that has been taking place from the farms of the country to the centres of population is shown by the following figures:

Rural population of Ontario, 1899.....	1,108,874
Rural population of Ontario, 1909.....	1,047,016
Decrease in ten years.....	61,858
Population of towns and cities, 1899.....	901,874
Population of towns and cities, 1909.....	1,107,274
Increase in ten years.....	295,400

"The foregoing figures," said Mr. James, "mean that there has been a change of over 350,000 to 450,000 in the relative population of the rural and urban districts within 10 years. Think these figures over, I consider them startling. They mean that the producers—the men who produce the food—are decreasing in numbers. We cannot keep on decreasing the number of our producers and increasing the number of our consumers without affecting the prices of farm commodities.

"You can understand from this why the price of commodities is going up. You can't have these conditions all over the continent and not have serious results. You can't explain it simply by saying that supplies are held in cold-storage warehouses.

"The middlemen is not getting it all. He is getting a fair share. He is in the business to make all he can, and will get all he can out of it, but this other cause that I have referred to is the key to the situation.

#### PRICES UP TO STAY

"This movement is not going on in Ontario alone. It is general all over the continent. The change has been taking place gradually, and prices have been advancing in sympathy with it. The movement is so widespread and far-reaching in its effects, that it cannot be stayed or the conditions altered in any short period of time. This means that the prices are going to stay up. I hope that they will. If any class deserves an innings it is the farmers of the country.

#### TREMENDOUS WASTE BY EXTRAVAGANCE

"I am not sure that it is a good thing that prices have been going so high even for those getting the benefit of them. The price of meat goes too high. People stop eating meat, and the market tumbles. Then farmers quit this, and go to something else. It is disorganizing to the whole agricultural industry. It would be better to have more even prices.

"In regard to bacon you know where you have landed. The packers and feeders of hogs don't know what is going to happen next.

"For years wealth has been increasing in our towns and cities by leaps and bounds. Values there have been increasing by tens of millions a year. The farmers have created much of this wealth, but they have obtained but little of it back. The time was bound to come when the city people would have to pay high prices for the articles produced on the farm.

"Farmers who are members of such associations as these have for the most part profited by this change of conditions. You are thinking men, and have

changed your methods of farming as the changed conditions have required. You are benefiting in consequence. But what are you in number compared to the 175,000 farmers of Ontario? Go to that great body of farmers who do not belong to our associations; who do not read the agricultural press; who neglect to attend our farmers' institute meetings; who are afraid of changes and, therefore, tread along in the same old ruts. They are worse off than they were 20 years ago. While many of our farmers are better off to-day than they were before, a large proportion of them are not. The reason is found in these high prices.

#### THE EFFECT OF HIGH PRICES

"Of late years the business of farming has narrowed down. Years ago a large proportion of the articles, and even clothes, used on the farm were of home manufacture. To-day this is not the case. Our farmers are forced to buy much of what they need, and as the prices of these articles have advanced from year to year, the burden on the farm has grown. Those of our farmers who by good management have increased the production of their cows, the fertility of their fields, and thus the yield of their crops, have profited by the changed conditions. But the other class of farmer who has neglected to improve his conditions as rapidly as the change in conditions has required, has been going down hill. You can go to any county and pick out representatives of the first class of farmer, and just as readily you can pick out other farmers who represent the second class. The question is, are we going to allow this movement to continue, or are we going to try to help the men who need assistance? If we are to attempt the latter, all I can say is that it is a very difficult matter to help those who do not want to be helped. How can we reach these helpless, don't-care farmers?

#### ACTION NECESSARY

"It will never do for us to sit down and content ourselves with saying that the problem will work out its own solution. That is not what the people of Denmark did. They said: 'We have got to devise a system that will help the common people of the country,' and they did it. In Canada, however, we do not appear to be alive to the seriousness of the situation. If the people of our towns and cities realized the importance of this problem, forces would speedily be set at work that would soon do much to solve the problem.

"Do you ask what our agricultural college is doing? It is doing much, but it alone cannot begin to cope with the situation. The students at Guelph represent only one farm out of every 175. We must find some means to reach the people out on the country side lines. We must take the gospel of improved farming methods to them. We are attempting to do this through our branches of the Department of Agriculture. One feature depends on how much milk you can produce from your cows, on how many bushels of grain you can produce per acre, on how many barrels of No. 1 apples your trees can be made to yield.

"Two things are going to happen. We are going to have the people in the towns and cities waken up in earnest to the importance of agriculture, and they will also waken to the evil of extravagant living.

"There is probably enough food wasted in this city to feed any good-sized city in many different countries in Europe. We don't know how to buy, keep, prepare, or use food. This means millions of dollars of waste, and all these things should be given attention. If this is to be the result, then great good will come out of the present serious situation.

#### THE GREAT PROBLEM OF TO-DAY

"The agricultural problem before this country to-day is so big and so important that it needs the co-operation of all the associations of stockmen and agricultural societies of every description. But we will never get it moving on the right lines until we also get behind it the people of our towns and cities."