

The Binder Twine Situation

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy:—Is it not time the searchlight was turned on the binder twine situation before it is late to protect the Canadian farmer from another hold-up? The present price of twine to the farmer of 30c a pound is nothing short of a disgrace. It is an insult to the intelligent farmer, who has been asked by the government to produce more and who has nobly responded in the face of many difficulties by a larger acreage and many long weary hours, to be rewarded for his efforts now by a binder twine robbery. If nothing is done and this state of affairs allowed to go on without being looked into and adjusted, wheat will call come again for larger acreage it will probably be answered by more hay and grass.

We don't want the situation merely exposed to the light after the farmers have been robbed by such combines, and when the money is in the pockets of the big white wheat speculator.

When the government brings on conscription it is to be hoped that the speculator who stands between the farmer and consumer filling his pockets with gold at the expense of the farmer and the poor and laboring classes will be the first draft called, or better still, about the cowardly curs at home. This class make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

And what about the Canadian implement manufacturer who, as soon as the farm help is no longer to be had, starts skimming the farmer on hold up prices? We will never get a square deal in farm machinery until the high wall tariff is let down and the U.S.A. is allowed to supply us farm machinery. Then the Canadian farmer will no longer be at the mercy of the Canadian farm machinery monopoly despite a severity of farm help. Farm machinery at reasonable prices is just as important as farm help. The manual labor cannot be had, farm machinery can, but at a robbery price. The farmer must pay the price asked because both governments for the past 20 years dare not investigate the cost of machinery to the farmer. Let us hear more about farm machinery at a living price and less about artificial butter and higher freight rates.—A Farm and Dairy Reader.

Oleo. is Bound to Come.

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy: I have read your articles on oleomargarine from time to time, also the strong resolutions passed by the different dairy associations against its manufacture.

Personally, I think that the dairy interests are wrong, as the manufacture of oleomargarine will be legalized sooner or later. It would be much wiser to spend the energies of the dairy associations in devising some means which will prevent it being sold as butter, for as you say, "The dairy farmers of Canada are not fearful of the competitors of oleo as such." There is no question that well made oleo is a wholesome and cheap form of food and at the present time, with the threatened shortage of food, it is criminal for the farmers to prevent its manufacture.

In the great milk producing districts of the U.S.A. a large percentage of the farmers sell all their milk and buy oleo. There is no question that the larger quantity of oleo is sold for butter whereby the consumer pays a high price for an inferior article and the manufacturers and dealers reap a rich profit at the expense of the dairy interests. Probably most of your readers saw the notice in the winding up of one of the large aristocratic restaurants in New York, which always serv-

ed nothing but choice creamery butter, that a certain manufacturer of oleomargarine was one of the largest creditors.

The dairymen are confronted by two facts; that oleo will be legalized sooner or later, and that it is impossible to prevent its being sold as butter. To my mind, the only remedy is for the government to go into the manufacture, and make it some color which it would be impossible to change, so that it could not be sold as butter.

For instance, I would suggest a dark chocolate as being a color that could not be washed out. There are plenty of harmless materials that could be used as coloring materials. The color would not be repugnant as green, pink, blue or red might be. People are accustomed to using chocolate and other dark food materials, such as molasses, maple butter, peanut butter and different kinds of dark colored jams and preserves. If it were done, the people would get a wholesome, cheap article of food, and those who wished to pay the price for butter would be sure of getting the genuine article.

Oleo can be made on a very small scale, so a small factory could be used as a commencement, and increased as the demand warranted.

I would be glad to hear from others, but I challenge the truthfulness of my two statements—oleo will be legalized some time and when it is done, no matter what laws and regulations are invented, probably one half of the output will eventually be sold as butter. G. T. MARSH.

Interest in Farming Competitions.

THE summer-fallow competitions being conducted in Manitoba this year in connection with the Agricultural Societies have attracted a large number of competitors. It is the first year in which such competitions have been put on an organized basis under the Agricultural Societies Act of the province, and it is gratifying to know that more than 300 farmers have entered fields ranging from 10 to 25 acres each. The societies holding the competitions are Donald, Sanford, Gladstone, Minota, Elkhorn, St-Arley, Virden, Souris, Carberry, Reston, Groulx, Woodlands, Warren, and Roseburn. One feature of this work will be automobile tours at the time of the last three inspections, about the farmers of each district will examine the summer-fallows, and also other matters of interest in the farming experience of the community.

Another competition that has won much attention this year is the standing crops competition, which is being carried on by the following societies: Hamiota, Binacarth, Russell, Shellmouth, Reston, Groulx, Miami, Woodlands, Warren, Stonewall, St. Jean, Selkirk, Kildonan and Gladstone. In this competition the entrants have each from five to 10 acres of crop of pure variety entered, and altogether about 210 farmers are competing in this competition. It is practically certain that there will be a big increase in the standing crops competition next year because every farmer who is in the summer-fallow contest this year will have some land in first class shape for growing a clean strong crop one year from now.

In addition to the judging on these two contests, judging also has to be done on 500 Manitoba farms where members of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs have each entered one-half acre plots sown with pure registered seed supplied by the Manitoba Agricultural Department. The greatest group of boys competitors is at Minnedosa, where there are 32 young chaps in the contest. Most of the growers are working with Marquis wheat. This competition will assume much larger proportions next year.



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