

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

ABOUT TAXATION

On several occasions a bill has been brought before the Ontario Legislature having for its object the giving to municipalities the right to tax land values at a higher rate than improvements. This bill has hitherto been championed in the Legislature by Mr. Frigg, a Conservative member, but has always had to be withdrawn due to the unalterable hostility of Premier Whitney.

The Premier's attitude on land taxation is hard to understand. It is admitted by all who have given the question thought that between land values and the value of improvements there is an essential difference. The first represents a blessing of nature. Man neither put the land there nor can he take it away. The improvements on land, however, represent the results of man's thrift and industry.

To tax land values is to tax a man for something that he did not create,

but which he is using, and which others in the community would make use of if he did not. To tax improvements is to tax the results of man's industry and to discourage improvement.

Is it fair that the progressive farmer who tilts-drains his land, who paints his buildings or erects new ones, who builds good fences along the public highway, or who plants trees that beautify the whole country side, should be taxed for his progressiveness? This is the system under which Ontario farmers are now assessed and taxed.

Every thinking man will welcome the day when in Ontario we will cease to tax individual industry and place the taxes on land where in justice they belong.

THE FEEDING GAME

"I don't know about this grain feeding game. It looks to me like throwing good money after bad."

How often we hear this expression from dairy farmers when they are urged to supplement their pastures or short crops with concentrated feeds or fodders that are purchased. Buying feed, many of our farmers regard as a game of chance.

But it is not a game of chance. It can be made most certain. Most convincing evidence has been given us by our experimental stations and by individual dairymen to prove that buying feed is a profitable proposition.

A few years ago the Nova Scotia Agricultural College purchased a pure bred Holstein heifer for their dairy herd from an Ontario breeder who did not believe in buying concentrated feed. The addition of a few pounds of concentrated feeding stuff to the ration that this heifer had been receiving increased her production from twenty-five pounds a day to fifty-five pounds. Here was evidence of a profitable proposition.

In Farm and Dairy last fall, Mr. Edmund Jaidlaw told of how he made a great record with a grade Holstein cow when she was past her eleventh year. This cow in previous years had been regarded as just an ordinary cow, because she had not then been in the hands of a man who believed in feeding.

Mr. G. A. Brethen, of Norwood, whose Holstein cows have made many splendid records in the last year, figures on a profit of over 100 per cent on purchased feeding stuffs.

Of course to feed expensive concentrates at a profit requires intelligent management. All feed is lost that is fed to poor non-rent-paying cows. The loss is particularly heavy when expensive feeding stuffs, such as bran or oil cake meal are fed to those poor cows.

With good cows, however—and verily we know that many have them unawares—the purchasing of feeding stuffs to supplement the short crops of 1911 will be a profitable proposition for us dairy farmers.

Borrowing tools, and sending them home dull or rusty, doesn't make the other fellow grin. Better save up and buy your own.

SOMETHING STRANGE

"I cannot see why a person should milk twelve cows when six better ones will give just as much milk and several times as much profit," said a leading Canadian dairy authority to a Farm and Dairy editor recently. This same problem has long been puzzling the minds of all those who are interested in seeing the dairy industry progress.

For many years some of our dairy farmers have been telling their brother farmers how that, by the simple operation of testing the individual production of their cows, they have been enabled to weed out the poor ones and in many cases to make more money with half the number of cows and half the work.

Cow testing has meant hundreds of dollars to these dairymen, and they have not been backward in telling about it. It will mean hundreds of dollars to every other farmer who takes up cow testing and acts on the information that he gains thereby.

A special department was organized at Ottawa some years ago in connection with the Dairy and Cold Storage branch to promote cow testing work. The head of that department, Mr. C. F. Whitby, has labored unceasingly for the extension of the work. But even with his enthusiasm and the mountain high proof that he has given us that cow testing pays, and pays well, only a few hundred farmers have taken hold of the work.

Isn't it strange that we farmers are so tardy, even with government assistance, in going into cow testing, a movement that is entirely for our benefit! The workings of the human mind are past finding out.

JUST WORKED TO DEATH

"He just killed himself with hard work," said a neighbor in explanation of the sudden death of a young farmer in an Eastern Ontario section recently. A few years ago this young fellow with his bride had moved on to a worn-out hill farm. So anxious were they to get along that the two of them worked almost night and day to build up their run-out farm. The young farmer was up before daylight in the morning and seldom did he enjoy an evening's rest. At thirty he was an old man. He went to his grave without seeing the realization of his dreams.

The mistake that this young man made is being duplicated in too many places elsewhere. Many of us work so hard with our hands that we have left no energy to think. Everything is done in the hardest way possible, because it is done without previous planning. No time is taken to become acquainted with the better methods of agriculture.

This young man did not know how to improve his farm by crop rotation or his very inferior dairy herd by cow testing. He had been too busy to read of such things.

Those of us who are starting farming with little capital must work hard if we would make of it a success. But when working with our hands we should not forget that time given to brain work will save much manual work. Good management is abso-

lutely necessary if we are to win success and still retain the ability to enjoy life.

"If you want to kill alfalfa, pasture it," once said Mr. Henry Channing, the Canadian apostle of alfalfa culture, to an editor of Farm and Dairy.

A Warning editor of Farm and Dairy. Mr. Channing's remark applies with force just at this season of the year, and this year in particular.

The short hay crop has tempted many of us to save the winter feed by pasturing the alfalfa late into the fall. Any gain by pasturing now will be more than lost in reduced crop next year. All the growth that the alfalfa has made in the last month is needed to protect the crowns this winter. The tramping of the stock over the fields is also injurious to alfalfa plants.

The strongest of all the reasons that compel country girls to go to the city for employment has been stated to be the lack of sentiment that prevails in the country. Knows this to be one of the causes, it is not worth while to take steps as far as we individually are concerned to overcome it? Each of us has a real obligation in this regard.

False Economy

(Hoar's Dairymen.)

It seems so exciting and unreasonably to many farmers to pay from \$10 to \$300 for a good bull and yet they do not seem to have the same sense of unreasonableness when they make other purchases. They will not hesitate to pay good horse paying from \$200 to \$300, and yet such a horse can never be made to yield the profit on the investment that a good bull will. Moreover the work a horse does lasts, as a rule, but one season, while that of the bull is carried on for years to come.

There is a lack of a sense of economic values in this article of mind that we have heard of as the backbone of the fortunes of many farmers. Not long since we were talking with a well-to-do farmer in a neighboring township. He was telling us of some of the short sighted moves he had made, and said:

"Fifteen years ago I was offered ten registered Holstein heifers and a first-class pure bred bull for \$2000; I thought it was too much money, so I took it. I look back at the money, and not at what it would bring me, I ought to have borrowed the money, even at high interest, and bought the cattle, for if I had I would have made several hundred dollars by it."

A wise old farmer once said to us that he had never seen a farmer grow poorer by trying to improve his soil, or his cattle, or his buildings. And still in face of this big truth, how many farmers do we see who for years have hesitated about doing either of these good things because they thought it would "cost too much."

It pays to search for a few principles like the foregoing, and stay by them just as a sea captain will stay by the compass when he is out of sight of land. Every farmer loses more in ten years, by having poor soil, or having unsanitary stables, than what it would cost to have them made efficient.

It is this hesitating, false sense of economy, that has kept thousands of farmers under the harrow all their lives.

W. H. It is easy to come to a county fair, to see the live stock, to have the horses in the ring, to see the boys ready as to the individuals. Such is the

A STRIP advertising of THE F of Quebec, These people goods a po they have a CESSFUL—DIRECT

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