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### THE OLYMPIC ARRIVES.

The following message from Mr. George Gennings, the Special Correspondent of the Central News, who sailed for Canada with 5,000 Canadian troops on the "Olympic," will be read with interest.

I have just landed from the "Olympic," which has had the privilege of bringing back some five thousand of the men of the 3rd Canadian Division.

The big load which the "Olympic" carried across was the largest body of returning Canadians to leave Southampton, and the townsfolk gave us quite a hearty farewell. They brought up a band on the embarkation quay, and an hour or two before we sailed on Monday evening the whole available space fronting the leviathan was packed with spectators.

Our complement of troops was 5,373. We also had 226 civilians on board. The troops had all come from Bramshott Camp, and they comprised the balance of the 9th Brigade, the 52nd and 116th Battalions, the 3rd Battalion C.M.G.C., also a large portion of the 2nd C.M.R.'s, a considerable part of the 7th Battalion, Canadian Engineers, and some ninety drafts made up of different units of infantry, engineers and artillery. The rest of the 3rd Division are following on the next boat. Their number is not large, and a small vessel will accommodate them.

### QUEBEC'S FALLEN.

Plans for the erection of a drinking fountain in the Notre Dame de Grace public park at Montreal, as a memorial to local soldiers who fell in the war, are well under way. The memorial, which will be of bronze and granite, will cost about \$3,000, which will be raised by a series of concerts, a tag day, and public subscriptions.

## FARMS AND FARMING

### Practical Advice on Reconstructing the Dairy Herd.—No. 4.

[Have you followed this discussion? It's good stuff.—Ed.]

#### Sell the Poor Ones.

With reference to the letter from Oxford County Farmer, it seems to me almost incredible that in a county like Oxford the average production per cow should be only 3,500 lbs. per annum. Your correspondent says that he kept a record of his herd last summer and found the average to be only a little over 4,000 lbs. It is not quite clear whether this means for the cheese factory season or for the whole year.

A great deal depends upon the feeding of the herd in question. One sees many herds that apparently would increase 50 per cent. in production if given proper feed and care. If well fed your correspondent's herd looks a pretty poor proposition for profit making in the dairy. In fact the outfit must be run at a loss.

If there are any good cows, these should naturally be retained, and, in my opinion, the balance sent to the butcher as rapidly as they can be gotten ready for sale. Really good grade cows, say, two-thirds the number, should be purchased with the proceeds and your enquirer would then be in a position to run his herd at a profit. With the present price for beef there never was a better time to dispose of cows that are not profitable as milkers.

It is, of course, quite possible to improve the herd by grading up with good pure bred sires, but life is too short to start this process with 3,500 or 4,000 lb. cows. Some years ago Hoard's Dairyman illustrated this possibility of improvement very clearly as follows:—

"Years ago Prof. I. P. Roberts, at the head of the Cornell College of Agriculture, with the aid of Professor Wing, took the college herd of nothing more than very ordinary cows averaging 3,000 pounds of milk per cow, and in a few years of good breeding and weeding out brought them up to an average of 7,463 pounds with a butter fat yield of 302 lbs. In this Professor Roberts did nothing more than the humblest farmer can do, and if he improves his herd he will have to do it.

"All there was to it was holding steadily to the best registered blood in the sire that could be procured; good feeding, retaining the best, and disposing of the poorest. There is no great secret about it. Any farmer if he has the disposition can do it. But think of the difference in financial reward between doing business with cows that yield only 120 lbs. of butter fat annually and a herd that averages 302 lbs. That difference ought to stir the ambition of every farmer into the resolve that he will travel the same road."

W. B. CLEMONS, Secretary,  
Canadian Holstein-Friesian Assoc.  
—"The Canadian Farm."

\* \* \*

### Tractor Service in Ontario.

The Department of Agriculture for Ontario has included in its campaign for

greater production an extensive practical demonstration of the uses of a farm tractor. At the Ontario Agricultural College a special short course was held for tractor operation. Eleven different types were used for demonstration. The Department then bought 127 tractors and hired them out to the farmers. These were fitted with three furrow plows and half were fitted with double disc harrows. These machines were arranged into ten groups each group under a skilled mechanic.

Applications were received through the District Representative. The farmer supplied fuel and water, boarded the operator and paid 225 per acre or 50 cents per hour and 50 cents per acre, the charge under the second method not to exceed \$2.50 per acre. After a farmer had learned how to operate the tractor he was given the opportunity to buy one if he desired.—Extract "The Agricultural Gazette."

\* \* \*

The entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture predict that 1919 is the year for an infestation of the locust, or cicada, as it is properly termed. This pest requires from thirteen to seventeen years to complete its life history. Its history has been carefully studied by entomologists until the year of its appearance can be readily foretold. No word has come as yet whether Canada will be included in its visitation. The chief injury from the cicada will be to fruit trees. Young trees may be seriously injured while old ones can withstand their attack. Egg laying begins in June on branches of forest and orchard trees. The favourite orchard trees are apples, with peach and pear trees second. All fur trees are avoided. In infested areas, young orchards and nurseries should be gone over early in the morning or late at night and the cicada brushed from the trees into a basket or bag. This will greatly reduce the damage done to the trees. Kerosene emulsion or a 2 per cent. carbolic spray have been found effective shortly after the pest has left the ground and the pupal skin is still soft.—"The Canadian Farm."

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### Underdrainage Facts.

Professor Day, of Guelph, conducted an investigation some years ago in Ontario as to the results of underdrainage in that province. The following facts were established:—

1. The average cost of drainage was \$25 per acre.
2. That underdrainage paid for itself in from 2 to 4 years.
3. That the average increase in yield per acre was worth \$20.
4. That underdrainage proved beneficial in dry as well as in wet seasons.

—Abstract from the "Maritime Farmer."

### 60,000 ACRES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

Approximately 60,000 acres of Saskatchewan lands have been offered to the Soldier Settlement Board for the purposes of locating returned men who wish to become farmers. Matters are moving satisfactorily and many selections have already been made.