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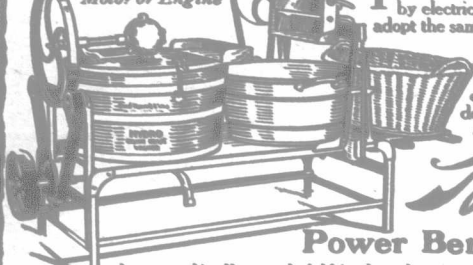
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soil as near to the surface as practicable is closely observed.—Experimental Farms Note.

Urban Increase and Rural Decrease.

The rapid growth of urban populations need not be an evil, if the urban development is properly directed and controlled, and if the urban conditions are made as healthy as the rural conditions. Neither growth of cities nor depletion of rural population is necessarily an unhealthy tendency. If the movement from the country to the town is the result of desires for greater opportunities and educational facilities and for obtaining better sanitary and social conditions, who can say that a movement so inspired is an evil? If every city and town were as healthy as the rural districts, as they could be under proper conditions of development, why deplore the natural tendency of population to migrate to the most profitable industries, so long as they remain the most profitable? We may deplore rural depopulation, but it will be futile to fight against it so long as manufacturing produces a better return to labor and capital than agriculture, and so long as there are urban opportunities for human betterment superior to those in rural districts. Indeed, we cannot have national prosperity unless human activity is applied to the most profitable fields of production—whether they be growing food, or making clothes, or building ships. One of the men who failed to make a farm pay in Northern Ontario is to-day managing a large and successful motor industry in Canada, and there are hundreds of others who have gone through the same experience. Indirectly, that man, in making cheap motors, is a great agricultural producer; if he had remained on the soil he would have practically been a non-producer, as he would be wasting his efforts on an unprofitable business.

But, what is wrong is not that that man and thousands of others have left the soil, but that the opportunities for making profitable use of their skill were not present in the country. What is wrong is that wasteful and inefficient methods have driven the most intelligent and energetic men into the towns, and, as a consequence, the absence of these men has perpetuated the wastefulness and inefficiency. What is wrong is not that people go to the cities and towns to find social opportunity, but that they are not able to get that opportunity on the farm. What is causing deterioration of mind and body in urban communities is not the growth of cities and towns, but the necessary over-crowding and bad sanitation which accompanies that growth as the result of laxity of government. What makes rural depopulation in Canada most serious to the rural districts themselves is the quality, rather than the quantity, of those who leave the land, and the fact that the capital and energy which have been spent to artificially promote settlement have been so largely wasted.

As a rural area becomes thinner in population the causes of migration become accentuated, social opportunities and facilities for co-operation and distribution are further lessened, and there is a consequent further lowering of the profits of production. It is usually the best of the rural population that is drawn to the city for these reasons and, where the land is of poor quality, the residue becomes more and more impaired in physique, intelligence and morals as the process of depopulation continues. The small wage of the agricultural laborer in England, which was first a cause of the best men leaving the rural districts, has become an effect of the lowered efficiency of those who have remained. May not the alleged lack of business capacity of the farmers in some of the older provinces of Canada be an effect of the low profits of the industry, before it becomes a cause? Parallel with low profits to the producer is the anomaly of high costs to the consumer. The high cost of living is a premium paid for lack of efficient development and organization of production.

It is difficult to determine to what extent Canada as a whole has suffered from movement of population. In so far as it has been encouraged by injurious speculation, by the sale of farms at high prices for purposes of sub-division, or by the opportunities of making easy money in land-gambling, it has been wholly injurious. In so far as it is the result of settlement

of land which was unsuited for agriculture and could not be put to economic use it has also been injurious. On the other hand, in so far as it may have increased production in the city at the expense of diminished production in the country, it may not have been entirely an evil; on the contrary, it may have been a benefit if it has meant the transfer of labor from an unprofitable to a profitable industry. Within proper limits the development of manufacturing is as important as the development of agriculture, and over-production in agriculture has to be guarded against as well as under-production. There must be a proper equilibrium maintained between the two kinds of industry. Unfortunately for the country at present the production of food has not been commensurate with the demand; because the equilibrium between the rural and the urban industries and populations has not been properly maintained.

While, however, it is wrong to jump to the conclusion that the movement of population from rural to urban districts is necessarily injurious to a country, there is no gainsaying that a large proportion of this movement in Canada has resulted from a play of forces which has left us weaker and poorer as a nation. If, by Government subsidy or other artificial means, we were to succeed in temporarily increasing rural settlement in the future, without revising our methods of planning and arranging agricultural holdings so as to improve farm revenues and obtain opportunities for better social conditions, and if we were not, at the same time, to place difficulties in the way of land-gambling, we would not succeed in arresting such injurious results as follow from the migratory tendencies of the population.

Sir Horace Plunkett has stated that the city on the American continent has been developing at the expense of the country. Would it not be more correct to say that neither the city nor the country has developed properly because of their neglect of each other? Both have suffered, because of lack of recognition of their interdependence.—Thomas Adams in Rural Planning and Development, published by Commission of Conservation.

Fortunes Made From Pedigree Stock.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The farming year of 1917 in Britain has been memorable for the huge turnover of pounds sterling in pedigree cattle. Taking Shorthorn cattle alone, in England and Scotland, in 1917, some 6,497 head were offered and realized £512,826 14s. 6d. The sale which produced the highest price and highest average was that held at Collynie, Aberdeenshire, where Mr. Wm. Duthie sold 24 bull calves for £655 16s. 3d. each, one of them fetching 2,700 guineas, this being the highest price ever paid for a bull calf of any breed under the age of twelve months. That day Mr. Duthie received £19,015 10s. for 35 youngsters he offered for sale. Two Yorkshire breeders, Captain C. H. Tolliffe and Mrs. Scurfield held a joint sale and realized £13,987 for 74 head; the Brothers Perkins, Monmouthshire breeders made £13,088 for 92 head; but at the sale of the late Lord Lucas' herd of dairy Shorthorns 92 cattle brought in £17,257. Some Lancashire breeders named Messrs. G. B. Nelson & Sons realized £7,667, when they sold 87 head, and Mr. R. Cock, Fleetwood, made £5,550 for his 52 cattle while Sir John Thursby also in Lancashire was paid £9,434 for 41 head. One Irish breeder realized £7,767 for 59 cattle and a Northamptonshire Company which breeds Shorthorns at Edgcote, realized £9,652 for 36 young cattle, one of which made 2,000 guineas and was bought for the Argentine.

In British-bred Holstein-Friesian cattle even more extraordinary figures have been made. Some 1,002 head were offered in 1917 and realized £103,579 17s. 6d. For 79 head she offered Wickham Market, Mary, Duchess of Hamilton, was paid £15,414, one cow selling to Mrs. Putman, Aylesbury, for 1,650 guineas. When Mr. John Bromet sold his 52 Holsteins he received £12,301 16s., and A. & G. Brown were paid £12,726 for 59 cattle. A Scots breeder got £8,259 for 48 head of big milkers.

In other breeds prices have ruled very high all round. Lord Rosebery sold two Aberdeen-Angus cows at an