

October 27, 1910.

FARM AND DAIRY

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ada. In the face of this competition, it is very necessary that we take proper precautions to put cheese on the market in the very best condition possible. The extra expense necessary to provide strong boxes for all cheese, would be more than returned in the greater satisfaction which our cheese would give to importers. It would be folly to endanger our market in order to save a few dollars in the boxing of cheese.

Town Views on Reciprocity

(The "Globe," Toronto)

It is asserted that if the United States market becomes available duty free for our surplus of farm products the price of butter and eggs and poultry and meat will inevitably be raised to the level of prices in Buffalo, Detroit, and elsewhere. This, it will be noticed, is a confession that the farmer has been getting the worst of the deal. He has been forced to buy his goods in a protected market at prices materially higher than those of neutral markets, and he is required to dispose of the products of his farm that the home market cannot absorb in the free markets of the world, where he must compete on equal terms with the Dane and Norman, the Russian peasant and the English wheat grower of the Punjab, who lives on rice, sleeps in a mud hut, and wears a cotton loin cloth in lieu of clothes.

Why should the town dweller in Canada say to the farmer, "You must pay me high prices for what I sell to you because the tariff wall protects my goods, and you must sell me your products at a lower price than you could get in the United States, because I will do nothing to ward securing the removal of the duties that keep you out of that market?"

Scum at Fairs

(Farm and Ranch Review)

The exhibition season for the summer months in Western Canada is over, and as a general thing the fairs have been quite successful, judged by the number of exhibits of agricultural products and the attendance. There is, however, good ground for regret that the fairer element has been so prominent. At some fairs the flim-dam artist and patronising show have been more noticeable than at others, and as a rule the fewer real good exhibits there have been the more brazen have been the riff-raff element. People have demanded the total prohibition of side shows at agricultural fairs, others have insisted upon a certain standard, but exhibition board with an eye to the revenue have been apparently partial to the "attractions."

The cure for the disgraceful situation is in keeping away from the side shows. These places operate only because they are patronised and what is more uncomplimentary to the country people, the side-shows claim that the farmers are their best patrons. At best the side-show is an expensive entertainment; and as for the flim-damners who profess to give knick-knacks away for a dollar or less, no words are strong enough to condemn them as business propositions. We have seen farmers part with a dollar for a whetstone that could be bought in the highest priced retail store for 10 cents and others paying a dollar for two bits of glass which had no intrinsic value whatever. When people go to fairs feeling superior to the side-shows and too busy to listen to the barker or the flim-damner, then these parasites will disappear.

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Farm Help Problem

C. R. Barnes, Extension Service, Minn.

The endeavor to introduce upon our farms and upon our larger areas, those intensive methods of cultivation which afford the only sure means of bringing production up to the higher level attained on the farms of many European and some Asiatic countries, finds itself everywhere hindered, and often entirely blocked, by the absence of efficient farm labor. Says a writer in the Farmers' Institute Annual:

"Talk as you may of better tillage, of better fertilization, of rotation of crops, and of the larger net profits per acre under these improved methods of farming; if you cannot show the average farmer where he can get competent labor at somewhere near fair wages, he is going to turn a deaf ear to all your pleadings for improvement. For efficient farm labor cannot be bought, cannot be hired, cannot be contracted for."

It remains true, however, that in other countries there is a surfeit of competent farm labor. It is also a known truth that thousands upon thousands of them, the best in the world—annually leave those countries to seek new homes in the United States. The anomaly is then presented of a constant stream of labor of the kind desired, pouring across the Atlantic and losing itself in a great volume of similar labor already here, while the landowners who need it are able to get it at little or none!

SOMEHOW wages. Evidently there is something wrong in the manner in which our farmers have approached the problem. May it not be that it has been approached too exclusively from the standpoint of the farmer's selfish desires, with too little consideration for the interests of either the laborer or the community at large?

Let the writer of the paragraph above quoted—let the average farmer, anywhere, who utters a similar complaint, ask himself: "What have I done to make life on my farm so attractive to the laborer whom I hire now and then, that they should wish to remain with me all the year round?" The effort has usually been made to get as much work out of the laborer as possible during his stay, and to make his stay as brief as possible. Little, if any, consideration has been given to the fact that he is "a man," with probably the same aspirations, the same family affections and the same social needs, as the farmer himself. The transient laborer—get a regular "hired man"—is seldom made to "see at home" in the house of his employer. The only place on the farmstead where he seems really "at home" is the barn. A barn is no place for any but masculine associations, so the farm "hand" is practically isolated from womankind, from children and from nearly all helpful social influences. The only condition under which a farm-hand's wife can occasionally be received at a farmstead is that she comes as cook and general drudge—yet as that good household hands seldom like to work for their wives. And it was never intended that the "hand" any more than the farmer, should live alone.

A PRACTICAL SOLUTION

To the writer it has appeared that the only practical solution of this problem lies in a radical change in the method of dealing with farm hands, so far as it concerns their home and family life. The married laborer should be given the preference, and he should be provided with a cottage of his own; with a piece of land, one to five acres, which he may cultivate for his own benefit, and of which he should be offered an opportunity to become the owner. The



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idea could be extended so as to include the settlement, on similar terms, of enough laborers, with their families, to supply all the needs of the farm in busy seasons. The necessary investment in each cottage, so provided, would not be large, and the possession of a little "home of his own," by each laborer, would go far to substitute, at a lower cost, permanent employment for the nomadism which is to-day such an unwholesome feature of the industrial situation on the farm.

Bee Keeping for Women

Miss M. Trevenow, Peel Co., Ont.

Bee-keeping may be looked upon as a homely occupation for women in comparison with many of the avocations to which she is called wherein exercise, fresh air and sunshine are denied her. It is true, there will be times when the humidity of the air and the intense heat of the sun, aggravated by the exercise she is forced to take, through excessive activity of the bees consequent upon these weather conditions, may lead her to exclaim, "Why was I ever born to be melted like this?" But these conditions only last for a few hours in a day, and not very frequently through the season, and there are so many rare, beautiful days to enjoy during the honey harvest, that one forgets the discomforts of a few hot, damp, sultry hours, in the pleasure of those when air and sun and bees combine to make the bee-keeper's life worth living.

The possibility is that if woman with her natural house-cleaning proclivities should invade the realm of bee-keeping, this branch of the business would be well attended to, and the problem of foul brood solved without any other formula.

There are many things in connection

with bee-keeping that a woman can work at with genuine pleasure. Take that of opening up a few crates of bee supplies, and transforming the neatly made and precisely fitted pieces into hive bodies, bottom boards and cover frames with top, bottom and sides of white, clean wood that fit each other just like a charm and fit the hives just as perfectly. Then there are the making of sections, the wiring of frames and imbedding wire in foundation, etc., all neat, clean, fascinating features of the business.

As to stings, my first serious experience with them nearly put me out of business. It was when I had only five colonies. They seemed to be trying to make a record of 200 lbs. per colony for that season, and when I attempted to take the honey off, they resented my interference with their plans with such vigor, that I left the hive open and ran to the house saying to the folks when I got there, "There is no use talking about getting used to stings; I will never be able to stand such punishment as this; it is too much for me." But I did not like to be beaten by the little bees, so I fortified myself against having another attack by covering my hands and wrists with long heavy gloves and succeeded in taking the honey off. Ever since that time I have worn gloves in handling my bees. Even when clipping queens I use gloves with finger tips cut off. I know that the wearing of gloves is not looked upon with favor by the professional bee-keepers, but when it comes to a question of gloves or defeat, wear gloves.

"Last fall Farm and Dairy sent me a pure bred pig for a club of nine new subscribers. This pig was received in excellent condition and is giving fine satisfaction."—Chas. McNulty, Peterboro Co., Ont.