

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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**FARM AND DAIRY** is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia Farmers' Institute and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Arabian, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 7,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 10,000 to 12,000 copies. All copies are accepted at less than the full subscription price. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

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## FARM AND DAIRY

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## THE SWINE COMMISSION

The Dominion Government's action in having decided to appoint a Commission to enquire into the Bacon Industry of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark is commendable. The success of the commission will depend on the character of the men of which it is composed. It is essential, therefore that the men who are appointed shall be practical men having a full knowledge of all the details of breeding and feeding hogs in this country. They should be men of well known ability and of the highest character so that their findings will carry weight with Canadian farmers.

The commission should consist of at least five men. Five are none too many to conduct so important an enquiry.

Every opportunity should be given the Commission to secure the fullest information possible in Canada before starting for Europe. The members of the commission should arrange to

hold several sittings in Canada for the gathering of information from our farmers and packers. They should visit our leading Canadian packing plants and, also, endeavor to ascertain why the co-operative plants failed.

When the commission have made their report, every effort should be exerted to place the information it contains before the farmers of Canada. This can be done by means of bulletins, addresses at the Farmers' Institutes, and through the agricultural press. If deemed advisable a campaign similar to that carried on through the Institutes, ten or twelve years ago, in regard to the bacon industry, and which met with such gratifying success, might be conducted. The value of the findings of the commission will depend upon the publicity they are given.

## FARM MECHANICAL EDUCATION

Since the introduction of the more modern farm machinery, it has become necessary for a farmer to have a mechanical, as well as an agricultural education. The machinery on even an average farm represents a large amount of capital. Much of the machinery is complicated, intricate, and capable of rapid depreciation. Hence, the great need of the operator having perfect understanding of its mechanism.

The mechanical department of the Ontario Agricultural College is calculated to supply this need. An editorial representative of Farm and Dairy who visited the Guelph College recently, was strongly impressed with the importance and the great possibilities of this comparatively new departure in agricultural education. One cannot fail to get much of interest and of value from an inspection of the mechanical department at the O. A. C., with its varied array of modern labor saving machines.

When it is considered that the life of the average farm machine is far short of what it might be, owing to the indifferent care it receives, which is due largely to a lack of proper understanding of the parts of such machines, the value of mechanical education becomes apparent. A student having been instructed in farm mechanics and acquainted with how farm machines are constructed, will possess a general knowledge of such things that will prove of great value to him in later life.

How necessary it is that one understands the various parts of his machinery is well demonstrated by the fact, that with much of the more complicated machinery even the slightest neglect will set the whole thing wrong. The perfect working of a good machine often depends upon a single nut. A bolt misplaced or lost, or allowed to go slack, may work damage irreparable. It is well that the College recognizes, in such a tangible way, the great need for mechanical instruction. Students alone, are not the only ones to profit by this department. It is one's own fault if from a visit to this department, under

Prof. John Evans, he does not carry away much valuable information.

## MOTORS ON FARMS

For years, a horseless farm has been the fond dream of some manufacturers. It would seem as if we are approaching conditions when such will be a reality on some farms. Professor John Evans, of the Ontario Agricultural College, in a recent interview with Farm and Dairy, expressed it as his opinion that the time was coming when farmers will require only one or two horses. Motors will have taken the place of much of the horse power now so largely used.

In many sections of the United States the motor is being used freely. The farmer or his wife speed to the city in the motor with farm produce. On their return the motor is jacked up and it is used as a power for running the separator, pumping water, sawing wood, and for such other work as is required on the farm.

Such a motor, costing say \$500 or \$600, would seem to be an extravagant investment. Provided, however, that the owner understands it, it can be run very cheaply. It does not need grooming and feeding as does the horse, whether it works or not. It requires attention and fuel only while it is in use. The success that motors have met with in different farm sections of the States indicates that possibly sooner than some of us expect the conservative Canadian farmer will come to regard an investment of \$500 or \$600 for a motor as not extravagant, but economy in the long run.

## FIGHT WEEDS NOW

The next few weeks much of the time on the farm will be occupied in fighting weeds. To fight them successfully we should attack them at the weakest point. All annual and biennial weeds start from seed. The time is no time in the life of a plant that it can be so easily killed as when it is springing into life. Just as it is coming through the ground or even before, when there is only a long white hair like stem under the surface, is the easiest time to destroy them by stirring the soil. A few minutes sunshine will kill the hardest of them at that time.

Hoe crops consisting of corn and roots are the principal cleaning crops. As much work as possible should be done with horses. The weeder (Breed), scuffer harrows and cultivator should be used whenever possible.

## INVESTMENTS IN MACHINERY

Agricultural development has reached a stage where it has become necessary for us to keep constantly on the watch for new things in farm machinery. Labor that at one time was plentiful, has now, owing to a multiplicity of causes, become scarce, high priced and of a very indifferent quality. Thanks to improved farm machinery much of the labor once absolutely essential to the proper running of a farm can now largely be dispensed with. Wonderful have been

the strides made in the manufacturing of farm machinery of recent years, and so perfect have many of them become, that they are almost human in their workings.

For years, it has been a far cry to keep the boy on the farm. Nothing will keep him there like farm machinery. Get farm machinery to the drudgery, the boys will delight in operating and caring for it. One of the best ways of keeping in touch with the latest developments in machinery is by careful perusal of the catalogues of manufacturers.

When the possibilities of machinery are considered, as well as the cost of hiring men, who at times are apt to be at logger heads with their employers; and when we remember that often we can do the work ourselves by means of machinery, we are convinced of the wisdom of careful investments in the latest and most up-to-date farm machinery.

Hon. Sydney Fisher has announced that he is likely to select a man from the western provinces to act on the swine commission that is to visit Europe. He could not secure a better man than Mr. C. Marker, the superintendent of dairying for Alberta. Mr. Marker is not a practical farmer. His strength consists in the fact that he is a Dane and, therefore, thoroughly acquainted with the Danish language and with Danish conditions. Mr. Marker has been in Canada for over twenty years and has behind him years of experience in agricultural matters in Eastern Canada as well as in the west. Since first leaving Denmark he has revisited that country several times. His thorough knowledge of dairy conditions in Canada would be of great value. He is a man who is cautious in his judgments and who would be invaluable as an interpreter. Mr. Marker should be one of the members of the commission.

The weeder is an implement that is not known on our farms as well as it should be. It is a light low priced implement that can be used to great advantage on the corn crop before and after the corn is through the ground. It can be used to advantage also upon mangels and turnips where the plants along the drill are running lengthways along the drill after the scuffer. It breaks up the crust on top of the drill and makes thinning much easier.

## Sending Them to Jail

(The New England Homestead.)

Rhode Island is getting at the bottom of the automobile nuisance. The courts have reached the point where they now impose jail sentences upon reckless drivers of automobiles. A reckless driver with a stolen car who does damage to an innocent wayfarer is punished with a fine and 30 days in jail. It is a moderate sentence, but as a star in the right direction. Last week a Massachusetts judge sentenced a drunken chauffeur to six months in jail. Another offender, who ran into a milk wagon and then lied as to his name, has been ferreted out and

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