

Farm and Dairy

AND
Rural Home

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.

PETER ORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

A Challenge to the City

FOOD CONTROLLER HANNA estimates that ten thousand men will be needed to save Ontario's crops. His estimate is conservative and the need of the hour constitutes a challenge to the city population of the province. Farmers are beginning to ask about the help that was so freely promised for harvest when the crops were going in the ground. Already the Organization of Resources Committee have applications for thousands of more men than they can supply. The situation is a serious one.

Last spring from General Government, Provincial Committee of Resources and public meetings of city dwellers, went out a cry of distress. Famine loomed like a cloud on the horizon, and like frightened children, they turned to their only source of refuge—the farmer. It was pointed out to him, through press, pulpit and platform, that it was his patriotic duty to grow every possible bushel of grain this year, that Canadians at home and abroad might not feel the pinch of hunger. It was not his to question whether he might make more out of his land by growing hay or by pasturing animals. It was his duty to produce food at any cost. When the farmer rejoined that the planting of crops was not all that was necessary, that the harvesting of these crops was also essential, and that his natural supply of help had been taken away from him by the recruiting officer, his objections were waived aside. "You put in the crops," said the city dweller, "and we will see that you are not short of help for their harvesting. We will go out ourselves and take the places of the men who have gone overseas."

Oh! everyone was enthusiastic then! The fresh spring air sent the blood pounding through the

veins of our urbanite, and the thought of working on the farm was to him a pleasant thought. Nor did it lose any of its glamour from the fact that his services would not be required until late summer. Distance lent enchantment to the scheme. But is his enthusiasm as fresh still? Now is the testing time.

The need for farm labor is greater now than any one could have foreseen this spring. Nature has smiled and has blessed Eastern Canada, at least, with a bountiful harvest. But this bountiful harvest will be of little avail in feeding the world if it is allowed to rot in the fields. The city dweller must not think that the need for his services in the harvest field is not as great as was expected. Because there is a bountiful harvest, the need for help has been aggravated. From farming districts all over the province, comes the cry for reapers. Haying and harvesting are overlapping. And though the farmers' wives and children are helping out in the field they are not enough. Men are needed. Here is the challenge to the city dweller. The farmer has done his part. He has cultivated and planted the ultimate acre. And to the city dwellers, who have promised him help in harvesting these crops, he is looking for the fulfillment of their promises.

Why Appeal to the City

THE harvesting of the crops this year is as much the problem of the city as of the country. Talk about "aiding" the farmer is as superfluous as it is foolish. If his crops are not all harvested there may be suffering in our cities, but there will be no starvation on the farms; the farmer sits at the first table. Even from a strictly commercial standpoint the farmer might realize as much from a part of his crop, safely garnered by the labor of himself and his family, as from the whole garnered with high priced or inexperienced help, as a partial harvest would inevitably result in higher prices for all foodstuffs. The benefit of a record harvest will be shared equally by country and city. Cooperation is needed.

It is regrettable, in view of this situation, that criticism of the farmer should be so general in certain urban quarters. The criticism most generally heard is, that the farmer is too niggardly to pay attractive wages. In many cases farmers are paying their men more than they are themselves realizing on their labor. Surely more than this could not be asked. Nor should it be forgotten that much of the help offering is inexperienced, and therefore, not more than fifty per cent. efficient. The efficient farm hand to-day is an experienced worker and, brute strength, city opinion to the contrary notwithstanding, is not sufficient of itself to justify a man in demanding full wages on the farm. These are factors that every city employer considers when hiring his own help, and the farmer must be guided by the same business principles. The most regrettable feature of the situation is, that the financial rewards of agriculture are such that the farmer cannot afford to pay such wages as will hold in the country the steady supply of labor that is needed in the industry.

Bread or Booze?

THE recent action of the censor in forbidding the circulation in Canada of Mr. Arthur Moe's book, "The Fiddlers," which tells some plain home truths, regarding the ravages of the drink traffic in England, has brought forth a storm of protest in the public press, as well it might. It may seem at first sight that the proscribing of a book by an English journalist has little connection with the farmers of Canada. But the connection is there nevertheless, in the truths that the book contains. Continually we are having it dinned in our ears that it is up to Canada

to produce enough grain to feed the Old Country and beat the Hun. We are told that the supply of food grows less and less and that the spectre of famine looms large across the water, and yet the product of 900,000 acres of land and the labor of 35,000 men is placed at the disposal of the brewing interests. It is these truths and others more awful that the book emphasizes, and which an all-wise Government, which does not deny the appalling figures, because it cannot, sees fit, in its prudence, to suppress.

Why should Canadian farmers on the plea of patriotism be urged to produce more grain; why should more ships be built to carry it, and why should men risk their lives in piloting these grain ships across the Atlantic, if 100,000 tons of grain per month is to be wasted in the manufacture of liquor, and the greatest enemy we are called upon to fight—according to Lloyd George—is aided by our efforts, and under the specious plea of patriotism? What a paradox!

These are a few of the unpleasant questions that are beginning to stir the minds of men and women these days, and the feeble attempt of the Government to stifle the truth by proscribing the book that tells the awful waste of food in the manufacture of liquor has merely served to accentuate them. The farmers of Canada give place to none in patriotic endeavor to supply the home land with grain in its time of need. They have more than risen to the occasion now, and will do so again. Despite the many difficulties and handicaps they have encountered, but they demand in no uncertain voice, that the produce of their labor be used in the making of bread and not of booze; that the appeal to their patriotism be not made a travesty, and that their labors be used to the defeat of Germany and not to aid that enemy within our gates which men place in their mouths to stave away their brains.

Helping Industry

A FEW years ago, with a great deal of publicity, the Dominion Government announced that it was going to "help agriculture," with an appropriation of \$10,000,000 to be spent over a period of ten years. What the government really meant was that it purposed creating a brand new army of officials whose salaries would constitute a fat slice of that \$10,000,000 and that the rest was to be divided among the various institutions of learning already established. None of it was to be given directly to the farmers; it was to be spent on their education. That these expenditures will result in much permanent good, Farm and Dairy does not question. But in contrast with this method of helping agriculture, we would draw attention to the form of assistance which is given to other industries and in connection with which neither the present government or its predecessors, have desired any publicity whatever. From the latest report of the Department of Trade and Commerce, we find that the government is paying out annually \$21,565,965 as bounties on the manufacture of iron, steel, lead, manilla fibre and crude petroleum. This annual sum, twenty-one times greater than the special expenditure on agriculture referred to, is not spent in educating the manufacturers of iron and steel, lead, manilla and petroleum, in cheap and efficient methods of production, but is paid to them in a direct cash subsidy on their production. Now, farmers are not asking for subsidies; we neither want subsidies ourselves, nor do we view with complacency the giving of such immense sums of the public money to the assistance of other industries. But why is our government so secretive when aid is given to other industries and so desirous of publicity when they give a little indirect aid to the greatest industry of the land, agriculture? Is it possible that they under-rate our intelligence?

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