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WE WANT AGENTS FOR A FEW UNREPRESENTED DISTRICTS

The Taxation Question

The Evils of the Present System

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—Your correspondent, Mr. H. Gammon, of Brant Co., Ont., is a little off his

farms has always made me advocate "Tax the land, not the improvements." I have four farms of my own, so I come in for my share of taxes. My neighbors have as good land as I. They should fit it up and improve their places and fences. Under the present system of assessment they are not liable to do so.—An Old Farmer, Norfolk Co., Ont.

A SERIOUS CHARGE—CAN IT BE TRUE?

FARM AND DAIRY was informed recently that the farmers of Denmark are able to purchase Canadian mill feeds, from the mills around Kenora and Port Arthur, at lower prices than our Eastern Canadian farmers have to pay for the same feeds. If this is the case it helps to explain how it is that the Danish farmers are able to feed their hogs on our mill feeds and then drive our bacon out of the British market.

A prominent Canadian manufacturer furnished Farm and Dairy with this information. He stated that it cost him more to send a car load of his goods from such a point as Ottawa to St. John, N. B., than it did when he sent the goods through to Liverpool or London, Eng.

THE EXPLANATION.

Our western millers, when they ship their mill feeds to Eastern Canada, have to do so over Canadian lines. The Canadian Pacific is practically the only line they can use. Having no competition to meet, this railway is able to make its own charge for hauling this feed and our Eastern farmers are forced to pay it or give up the use of such feeds.

When, however, our western millers desire to ship their product to the farmers in Denmark they have their choice of several roads. They can ship either by Canadian lines or through the United States, by such ports as Boston and New York. It is claimed that our Canadian railways in order that they may hold this business and meet the competition of the United States roads, have been giving a lower rate on mill feeds sent to Denmark than they have on similar feeds consumed here in Canada.

On receipt of this information, Farm and Dairy wrote to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and asked for a schedule of their rates for handling mill feeds from Kenora to Eastern Canadian points, and, also to Liverpool, Eng., and Copenhagen, Denmark. A reply has been received that dodges the question. We are given the rate asked for to the points in Eastern Canada, but are told to apply to Montreal for the steamship rate from St. John, N.B., to Liverpool and Copenhagen. The latter implies that the Canadian Pacific does not quote a through rate. It is well known that it does.

DR. MILLS IS INVESTIGATING.

Farm and Dairy has now referred the matter to Dr. James Mills, the special representative of our farmers on the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. Dr. Mills has promised to conduct an investigation. In a letter we received from him recently Dr. Mills stated that he was finding it necessary to investigate the steamship as well as the railway rates.

It is possible that the railway company may claim that the Board of Railway Commissioners has no power to investigate steamship rates. In such an event it may be difficult for Dr. Mills to gain the needed information. Should such prove to be the case we, as farmers vitally interested in this matter, will have to adopt other means of gaining the required schedule of rates. If Hon. Sydney Fisher sends a deputation of Canadian farmers to Denmark, to investigate conditions surrounding the bacon industry in that country, as he has been asked to do, it will be a simple matter for the members of the Commission to find what the mill feeds, the Danish farmers purchase on this side of the Atlantic, cost them. In the meantime this matter must not be allowed to drop until it has been sifted to the bottom.

base when it comes down to the taxation question. It is the rich man that do not improve their farms. We have a goodly number of them right in this section of Norfolk Co., whose buildings are a disgrace to their farms. The same men have \$20,000 or \$30,000 in the bank or placed out on mortgages. If any one needed a demonstration setting forth the evils of the present system of assessment, he should come to Port Loran. The condition of some of these

In Holland land sells at \$600 to \$72,000 per acre, while here land is rated at \$15 to \$50 an acre. The tenant farmer in Holland pays a rent of \$50 to \$100 an acre, and by intensive culture and great yield cows he makes a living, clears the heavy rental, maintains or increases the fertility of his soil, and lays up some money.

Farm and Dairy is just "O. K."—Andrew Boa, Argenteuil Co., Que.



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