

and raising those sad monuments to lack of agricultural organization which we see in the form of vacant farms.

Our school teachers would do well to inculcate a sentiment of charity, good community feelings and co-operation into the minds of the younger generation, thus banishing those indefinite sentiments of suspicion and jealousy which often grow unnoticed, but steadily producing a narrowness of vision which leads the unwary on the road to isolation to work out all the problems of life alone, or at least within a very narrow circle.

P. E. I.

T. A. BENSON.

A Time of Re-construction.

By Peter McArthur.

If I am somewhat rushed just now it is entirely my own fault. I suppose a man has no business trying to be a Government employee, a writer for the papers, and a farmer all at the same time, but I am gradually getting things in shape. With a competent hired man to look after the apples and the corn, I am practically able to forget the farm. The newspaper articles give me a chance to blow off steam, so I guess most of my trouble is with the job of giving publicity to our Canadian apples, so that the crop may not be allowed to go to waste. Being much more interested in saving the apples than in my job (it is only for ten weeks anyway) I have been fussed up ever since I started at the work. I have come in contact with three Departments of the Government, and the railroads, and at the present time I am so wound up with red tape that I will not need to buy winter under clothes. Apples are a food, and at such a time as this, when the world is threatened with a scarcity, no kind of food should be allowed to waste. But farmers cannot do everything. With the markets for apples, potatoes, and vegetables largely disorganized, they are helpless, and a great deal of valuable food will go to waste unless some one comes to their assistance. One would naturally think that the Government should act, but after you have had some experience of red tape you don't think anything of the kind. Five days after my appointment I resigned, but that was patched up. Two weeks later I came near resigning again, so that I could have a free hand in getting after them, but the situation cleared somewhat, and I made up my mind to try to stick out my term of office. I shall probably be able to do it unless I get fired for offensive non-partisanship. The experiences of the past few weeks lead me to believe that Governments are much like the village bull in Tristram Shandy. "It was quite true that he left no calves, but he was so dignified that the whole village respected him."

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Although not claiming to be much of a farmer, I am still farmer enough to be annoyed at many of the letters and editorials that are appearing in the papers. Farmers are being urged to produce more, although competent labor is still as hard to get as ever. They can only produce more by overworking themselves. At the same time the rural districts are being taunted because so few farmer's sons are enlisting for the war. Now, will some one please tell me how farmers are to produce more, and at the same time provide soldiers when there are not enough men to work the land. The farmers are also being urged, as a public duty, to give employment to the men who are out of work in the cities. This also raises a nice question. These unemployed men, or at least a great many of them, might have been working on the farms if city manufacturers had not offered them better wages than farmers could afford to pay during the past few years. The manufacturers were able to pay these higher wages, because of the special privileges in the shape of tariffs and bonuses that they have received, but as soon as the slack time showed that they were in danger of losing their profits, they immediately threw armies of men out of work. And now the farmers are being asked to make homes for these men. I cannot understand why it would not be fairer to ask the manufacturers to keep their employees at work even if it had to be done at cost or even at a loss. The people who profited by increasing the burdens of the farmers in the past should now bear their share of the unexpected burdens.

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I hope that someone is seeing light as to the future, for I confess that most of the problems that are now rising are too deep for me. It is quite natural that the excess population of the cities should go back to the land, but how are they to be placed there without injustice to the present occupants, or to themselves? There are many industrious men out of work at the present moment, through no fault of their own, and our business organization is such that it is hard to see how they are to be taken care of without

almost revolutionary changes. I cannot see that our political economists are able to help as much in the new conditions that have been forced by the war. Their books are turning out to be what Shelley prophesied, "Tomes of reasoned wrong, glozed on by ignorance."

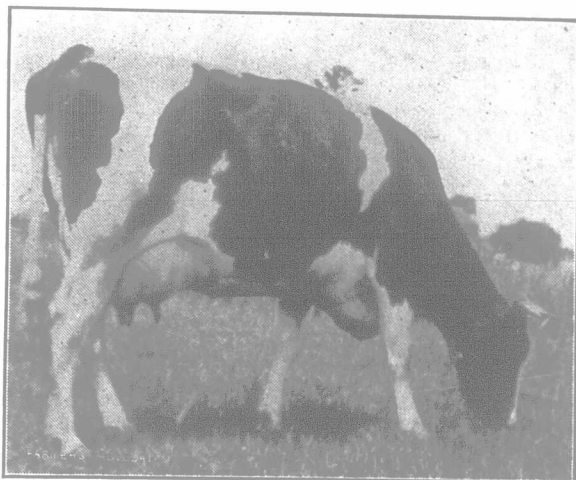
They were written to explain a social fabric based upon many forms of fundamental injustice, and they cannot give us much assistance in the present crisis. In spite of the "Business as usual" slogan of the cities, it is beginning to look as if our business and financial system would have to be reorganized from top to bottom. It is only on the farm that we have "business as usual," and the farms will probably be the foundation of whatever new order may be developed.

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There has never been a time when it has been so necessary for farmers to watch politics and public events as the present. The beneficiaries of special privilege find themselves paralyzed by war conditions, and the only remedy they are able to think of is more privileges. As they had altogether too many in the past, the farmers will need to be careful or past evils will be increased; they will be able to live even if they have to return to pioneer conditions and get all their supplies from their own farms, but they must not be burdened in order to support other forms of industry that have been crippled by war. Public discussion of these matters should be as full and free as possible, so that whatever is planned for the future may be founded on justice.

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There is one point on which I feel very deeply, and that is the absolute necessity of saving every kind of food product. We all know that every season there is a scandalous waste throughout the country, and this year it promises to be worse than ever on account of the disorganization of all the markets, except those for staples



Pet Canary Countess.

Three-year-old Canadian champion Holstein heifer; milk in 7 days, 560.9 lbs.; butter, 27.14 lbs.; 30 days, milk, 2,273.8; butter, 110.23. Record 11 months after calving, 7 days, 311.9 lbs. of milk; 17.55 butter. E. F. Osler, Bronte, Ont.

like grain and meats. It is also becoming evident that before another harvest much of the world may be hungry, and it is a duty to humanity to see that nothing is allowed to go to waste. I am even hopeful that things may soon be reorganized so that it will pay to save everything possible, to the last apple, potato and turnip in the country. But even if these things have to be saved at a loss they should be saved. The municipalities, as well as the Government, should act in this matter, for the fact that we are in no danger here in Canada of being short of food should not blind us to conditions in other countries. Some of the nations that are being devastated by the war may be too poor to buy, and if they are we must give freely of our bounty. If the more perishable forms of food are saved and used first, we can have more of such lasting kinds as grain and cured meats for a later time of necessity. The horrors through which we are now passing threaten not only the nations involved but humanity itself. We have another part to play besides sending soldiers to fight in the cause of freedom. We are in a better position than almost any other country to provide food, and it will be the part of true patriotism to do this without counting the pennies. We have no burdens to bear that compare in the slightest with those that are being heaped on the people of the older lands in this time of the madness of the nations, and we should show our thankfulness by preparing to do all in our power to relieve the suffering that is bound to come. Let our motto be, "No waste," and when the call reaches us we shall be able to give effective aid. This is a duty that we owe to ourselves and to humanity.

Fall Fencing.

The general appearance of the farms of our country and their efficiency could be improved by a systematic and general cleaning-up of old fences and fence rows, replacing some of the tumble-down fences with new wire structures where a permanent fence is absolutely necessary, and clearing all others away, leaving the land free for cultivation. We hear that there is to be plenty of labor to do the farm work in the near future, and that idle city men are anxious to get out to the country for a time at least. Many of those men who have been hired on the farms for the summer should be kept on over winter, and employment for a part of the time at least could be found for them in tearing down and replacing these fences. Late autumn is a good time to set posts, especially for wire fences. There are some who hold that the posts should be solid before the fence is stretched thereon, and prefer putting the post in in the late autumn and leaving the wire to be attached on a warm day in winter or early spring. The ground is frozen and all the posts are perfectly solid. Stretching of the wire does not cause any of them to give to any extent whatever. This insures a good tight job on the wire. Any who wish to try this method must remember that the wire should not be stretched on a cold, frosty day, else there is great danger of breaking it.

THE DAIRY.

Bouncing the Boarders.

It is poor policy to keep "boarder" cows in any season, but it is doubly necessary that they are turned away at the beginning of a winter, when prices for all kinds of feed are mounting upward as they are this year. It will take a good feeder with a good cow to make high returns this season. None others need apply. How a man is going to make a cow pay her way when she only gives 3,000 lbs. of 2.8 per cent. milk in a year with wheat \$1.25 per bushel, oats from 55 to 60 cents per bushel, barley between 70 and 80 cents, and millfeed from \$25 to \$32 per ton, is beyond most feeders. Truly, after all, the cows must milk persistently to pay for feed and labor. Milk is one article of diet which so far has not advanced in price as a consequence of the war. The cow is on the same level as before, except that she is eating feed of almost double the price that it commonly is. This is a year to get rid of every cow that cannot pay her way, and if possible fill her place with heavier milkers. It is not an easy thing to accomplish, especially as there are so many "star boarders" in the herds of the country. The cow's services are hired and paid for in feed and labor. If she does not work up to form and make a profit for her employer, bounce her at once and get another.

POULTRY.

How to Dress Chickens.

It is in the fall that the greater number of the chickens annually raised on the farms of the country are sent to market. Killing time is rapidly approaching. There is a right and a wrong way to prepare the fowls for killing, and to finish the work upon the dead bird. Every chicken or older bird to be killed should be fasted for anywhere from twenty-four to thirty-six hours before killing. If this is not done there is danger of the food decomposing in the crop and intestines, and tainting the flesh.

In killing for market all birds should be bled, preferably through the mouth. It is not difficult to learn to do this operation successfully. Arrange a wire in the picking shed, or wherever the picking may be done, at a height about level with the shoulders of the picker, or a little higher. The bird should be fastened to this by the legs, head down, and the sticking done with a sharp knife, having a blade somewhere in the neighborhood of three inches in length. Grasp the bird's head with the thumb and forefinger just around the ear lobes, and with the third finger open its mouth, insert the knife down the throat, practically the length of the blade, turn the knife and cut rather lightly. If the cutting is properly done the bird will bleed freely. Immediately after the cut is made quickly draw the knife out and insert it along the roof of the bird's mouth, and push straight backwards on a level with the beak to pierce the brain. If the knife reaches the fatal spot a characteristic squawk will be uttered by the bird, so that the operator knows exactly when his weapon has reached its mark. If the bird does not make this noise its brain has not been pierced, and the feathers will not loosen so as to make easy picking.

Chickens killed in this manner should be plucked dry. The piercing of the brain loosens the feathers, and a good picker will soon strip them off. The long wing feathers and the tail feathers should be first removed, the breast next,