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The City Attitude Towards Agriculture*

By Dr. J. G. Rutherford

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the new life which, since the discovery of steam power and the consequent continual and cumulative development of commercial and industrial activity, has become general throughout the world, is the subordination of agriculture from its proper place as the head and front of all human activity to a position in which it is regarded, at least by the most unthinking men, with a careless toleration, in some cases bordering on contempt. That, under modern conditions in civilized countries, the masses have largely lost sight of the importance of agriculture as the primal factor in human affairs, is evidenced in many different ways.

Among these may be mentioned the constant and ever-increasing trend citywards, as shown by the growing preponderance of urban over rural population; the tendency of the farmer's son to abandon agriculture for commercial pursuits or for one or other of the so-called higher professions and the superior attitude unwarrantably assumed by many city dwellers towards their country cousins. Even in the great western provinces, where agriculture is and will always continue to be the leading industry, we find in our urban communities a woeful lack of proper perspective in this regard.

This is shown by the tendency to build up and develop, largely through artificial means, cities and other centres of population without any apparent regard or consideration for the welfare or interests of the tillers of the soil in the territory tributary to these centres, and on which they must necessarily depend for their future maintenance.

In the hurly-burly of present-day life, the farmer would appear to be a scarcely considered factor, though, without him and his produce, the wheels of commerce would not revolve for a single day, while, if farming operations throughout the world were suspended for but one week, our whole commercial and industrial fabric would fall to pieces, and it is best not to think what would happen to the so-called giants of finance.

Mr. Grisdale's Dairy Experience

B. H. C. B., Peterboro Co., Ont.

"Last year, at the Central Experimental Farm, we sold \$12,000 worth of dairy products from our herd of 60 dairy cows," said Mr. Grisdale in an address delivered before our County Cow-Testing Association in Peterboro. "Moreover," said he, "these products are valued at the average Canadian prices, and not at the prices which we actually received."

Mr. Grisdale then outlined how we could build up our dairy herds and get similar results. "In the first place," he said, "you can make a success with any dairy breed. Nor is it entirely necessary that it be pure bred, although pure breeds would do better. In fact, if there are any here who are intending to go in for pure bred stock I would say, go at it gradually. Some big failures have been due to too much money being put in pure bred stock that was not properly cared for.

THE SAFEST START

"Get a good pure bred bull to start with and acquire your pure bred females gradually. The pedigree of an animal is not the only thing to be considered. The animal must be a good in-

*An address delivered by J. G. Rutherford, C.M.G., Superintendent of Agriculture and Animal Industry, Indian Pacific Railway, before the 7th Annual Convention of the Western Canada Irrigation Association, Edmonton, Alta., August 6th, 1912.

dividual. This is especially true of the bull, for the bull is half the herd."

Mr. Grisdale then told us some of his own experience in the 15 years in which he had been operating his own farm. Over 15 years ago he bought 25 grade cows at \$25 a piece and a good pure bred bull of a heavy milking strain.

"The first year," he said, "the herd averaged 2,500 pounds of milk each. After 12 years the progeny from these same cows averaged 9,000 lbs. of milk in a year. Two years ago I sold out my entire herd at an average price of \$90. In 15 years the value of my herd had more than trebled, because of the influence of the bull."



An Exhibit of Special Interest to Every Sheep Breeder and Wool Dealer

In the wool exhibit of the Dominion Live Stock Branch at the Toronto Exhibition all grades of Canadian and American wool were shown in fleece, a full line of British wools of every breed raised there and many foreign wools. Partially manufactured products were also shown. Of special interest to breeders were the model sheep barn and dipping vat. Authorities state that this exhibit contained the best collection of wools ever gotten together in America.

A neighbor of his, so Mr. Grisdale told us, also used that bull. Before that time he was farming at a loss. To-day, he has a good producing herd and is doing well.

Sore Eyes of Cattle

By C. C. Lipp

Infectious sore eyes of cattle most frequently makes its appearance during the summer months although it may occasionally appear at other times. The germs may be introduced into a herd by the purchase of an animal suffering with the disease, but it is undoubtedly spread in other ways as it sometimes appears suddenly and without any known means of entrance to the premises.

As this disease is infectious, it spreads from one animal to another, and sometimes runs through an entire herd. Its duration in one animal is from one to two weeks, usually about 10 days, after which it has run its course and disappears. Although total blindness may result, the sight is not usually permanently impaired. Very often but one eye is affected, the other eye, if affected at all, shows the symptoms from several days to a week later.

The first symptom is a profuse flow of tears. Then the eye becomes very sensitive to light, and is kept constantly closed. Later the eyelids swell, and the discharge shows distinct traces of pus or matter. About the same time a white speck appears on the surface of the eyeball. This speck gradually enlarges and may cover the entire front of the eye, causing temporary blindness.

Treatment is inexpensive and easily applied. When begun in time recovery is hastened, and further spread of the disease is prevented. It is always best to confine the animals in a comfortable but well darkened stall. Feed sparingly

(Continued on page 10)

Overhead Charges in Farming

John McCullough, Perth Co., Ont.

There is a general impression among city people or even town and village people that farming is immensely profitable. My own small list of acquaintances numbers several keen business men, strong in their own line, who can sit down and figure out an immense profit from a 100-acre farm and not even need to re-sharpen their lead pencil.

I believe that this illusion as to the profitability of farming accounts in a large measure for the lack of sympathy on the part of city people towards their country brethren. They believe that the latter are getting rich at their expense.

Here is a sample:

A business man in a nearby town has a small flock of six hens kept in his back yard. With a care that we farmers might well copy he has kept careful account of all the feed bought for those six hens and the value of the eggs that they lay. From year to year they yield him an average net profit of \$2 a hen.

"If I were you I would get right into hens," he advised me when I was in his store three or four years ago. "Why look here. I get \$2 a head profit from my hens. One thousand hens should yield \$2,000 net profit. A 100-acre farm should easily support several times that number. You could double, treble and multiply your income with poultry."

That man has been talking poultry farming ever since. Fortunately for him he has never been able to get his business in such shape that he could come out and demonstrate to the rest of us farmers just how little we know about our business.

Had he tried the experiment he might have found a few expenses on which he did not calculate. For instance, in figuring his \$2 profit it never occurs to him that his own labor in looking after the six hens is worth anything, although he is very careful in figuring the labor required in his business. He does not calculate that the scraps from the table that provide for half the food for his small flock and for which he does not charge them anything, would not go very far among 1,000. In fact, when he figures on his poultry operations, he entirely forgets the overhead charges, the importance of which he fully realizes in the grocery business.

WHEN A BANKER WENT WORKING

Another man, this time a banker, objected very strongly recently when I charged him \$14 a ton for a load of hay delivered at his barn.

"At the price you have charged me," he remarked, "farming must be just about the most profitable business going. How many tons of timothy did you have to the acre this year?"

I answered that as a usual thing I didn't grow timothy, but that this year the small plot that I had went three tons to the acre.

"Then the returns from one acre," he calculated, "are \$42. You can buy all kinds of good land around here for \$80 an acre or even less. That means that you have over 50 per cent of your investment."

I would like to see that banker try farming. He might find that there are a few overhead charges such as preparing the land, buying and sowing the seed, fertilizing, harvesting the crop and delivering it to the consumer.

It strikes me that "Educate the city man" is a slogan as much needed as the old, moss-covered one of "Educate the farmer." What do you think my farmer brethren? Haven't we just cause to start a much needed campaign for urban education?