

# 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, Horticulturists and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Horse, Saddle, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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**WE INVITE FARMERS** to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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## FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

### UNFAIR BURDEN ON THE FARMER

In spite of all that has been said and written on the question, our boys and girls continue to leave our farms for the cities. What is more, they will continue to do so until we deal with this difficulty at its roots. These roots are buried much deeper than most of us realize. People who advocate rural mail delivery, better roads, more attractive home surroundings as a means of keeping the young people on the farm are all very far as they go but they do not go far enough. They only scratch the surface of the question. The fact is, our system of taxation is so adjusted that our farmers are carrying an unfair share of the burden. It is their productive labor which creates the cities. Property holders, in the cities reap a certain portion of benefit from the efforts of the farmers to which they are not entitled. As long as this is the case people will flock to the cities and our farmers will not come into their rightful heritage.

An eighth of an acre of land, on

the corner of King and Geogre streets, Toronto, was sold recently for \$425,000. This is at the rate of \$3,400,000 an acre. How many acres of the best agricultural lands in the province could be bought for that figure? At fifty dollars an acre it would buy 680 one hundred acre farms.

What made that piece of land so valuable? Nothing that the owners of it have done. It is quite possible that they may have been living on their money and doing nothing in the line of productive labor. That property and thousands of others like it, has been increasing in value because our farmers, year after year, have been engaged in growing crops and raising live stock and thus increasing the wealth of the country. Because our farmers have been working, the railways have been transporting their produce and making the cities their distributing centres. Factories have been constructed to manufacture farm machinery and the thousand and one other articles required by our farmers and—incidentally—by city people as well. Without our farmers there would be no cities. Were our farmers to cease work for one year, real estate values in the cities would commence a tumbling.

In other words, people who have enough money to enable them to buy land in a centre like Toronto can afford, if they have enough of it, to sit back and do nothing but watch the farmers—and workers in other lines as well—increase its value year by year. Is that right? Is it fair? If our farmers are increasing the value of land in the cities should they not reap their share of its enhanced value?

This is where the Single Tax question comes in. Its advocates claim that were this land to be taxed for Dominion and Provincial purposes, and for municipal purposes as well, according to its value it would pay as much taxes as the 1,000 one hundred acre farms already mentioned. In other words, a great share of the burden of taxation now being borne by our farmers would be transferred to other shoulders. The value of land in our cities would decrease while the value of farm lands would increase. Instead of flocking to large cities people would go to smaller centres where the value of land, and consequently the taxes on it, would not be so high. The trend from the country to the city would be checked.

This is what is meant by taxing land according to its value or, in part, by the Single Tax. It is a question that our farmers should give far more attention than they have. What do you think about it?

### CO-OPERATION GROWING

The rapid construction of improved roads, the extension of rural telephone lines and the introduction of free rural mail delivery are going to result in more co-operation among our farmers as a class. In the past we have been so isolated by our conditions that it has been a practical impossibility for us to co-operate with any marked degree of success.

When farmers co-operate to dispose of their produce rapid means of com-

munication is a necessity. Incidents occur constantly that require quick decisions by the chief parties interested. Until only lately we have not had the means required for such consultations.

Since farm telephones have become almost common, conditions have changed vastly. Meetings of directors can now be arranged over the telephone at only a few moments notice. Rumours, started by interested parties and calculated to create trouble and dissension, can be nipped in the bud by means of the telephone. Being able to communicate with each other more freely our confidence in one another will grow. One of the most encouraging signs of the times is the large number of farmers' clubs that are being formed. During the next ten years the co-operative handling of farm products will show a rapid increase.

### AGRICULTURE IN QUEBEC

Agricultural conditions in the French sections of the province of Quebec are in a backward state. One of the chief reasons for this is because there is no good agricultural paper, printed in French, circulating among the French farmers of that province. The only attempt that is made to fill this need is represented by the *Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture*. The French edition of this paper is not much more than an imitation of what a good farm publication should be. It is printed only once a month, is small in size, its articles are mostly clippings, they are seldom seasonable, it makes little or no attempt to keep its readers posted in regard to agricultural happenings even in its own province, and such features as accurate market reports and letters from live local correspondents are prominent by their absence.

And yet, considering the conditions under which the paper is issued it is about as good as could be expected. It is published by the government. Its articles are prepared by government officials. Being sure of their salaries and having no interest in the financial success of the paper these officials naturally do not concern themselves, any more than they can help about the paper beyond getting it out once a month. The contract for printing is given to a firm, the management of which supports the government. This firm is paid a certain sum for every copy of the paper printed and has the right to solicit advertising and to retain all revenue derived therefrom.

There was a time when no private concern would attempt to publish an agricultural paper in French. This led the government to start the *Journal of Agriculture*. As long as private capital could not be interested in such a project the government was justified in undertaking the work. That time has passed. Private parties are willing and anxious to start an agricultural journal and conduct it on up-to-date business principles. They are prevented from doing so by the presence in the field of the government paper. The government organ, being given practically for nothing to the members of the farmers' clubs in the province and charging very low advertis-

ing rates, makes it impossible for another paper, that would have to depend on its revenue for its support, to exist. Were the government to withdraw from the field, at least one and probably a couple of good papers would be started and the province at large would soon feel the benefit.

These papers are needed. The introduction of modern methods of conducting the work of the farm is being retarded by their absence. One of the chief reasons for the rapid progress being made by our English farmers in the Maritime provinces, Ontario and the West is found in the numerous splendid farm papers that circulate among them.

The French daily papers printed in Montreal are as well conducted as any English daily printed in Canada. One of them has the largest circulation of any daily paper in the Dominion. This shows that our French speaking brothers or Canadians have all the enterprise and ability that is required in the publishing business. Their provincial government should give them an opportunity to display these qualities through the publication of one or more good agricultural papers.

### THE LOCAL OPTION MOVEMENT.

The rapid spread in Ontario and elsewhere of the local option movement is due in a large measure to the fact that as farmers we have discovered that the open bar is a menace to any community and therefore should be abolished. The day when a public tavern, licensed to sell intoxicating liquors, could be found almost every couple of miles along each well travelled road leading into an important town or city, is fast disappearing. These taverns have been the cause of so many brawls, runaway accidents, common assaults and even murders and suicides that the good common sense of our farmers is asserting itself and these breeding spots for crime are being driven out of the country or replaced by well conducted temperance houses.

This year over 130 municipalities in Ontario, including two cities, will vote on local option. Such utter failure has generally met attempts to repeal local option where it has once been introduced, it is doubtful if there will be any repeal contests. If one half of the constituencies that vote on the question decide in favor of abolishing the bar it will mean that over half the municipalities in the province will then be under local option. When this is the case it will not be more than a year or two before the question of provincial prohibition will be again to the fore and, if the question is put before the electors fairly, it will be sure to carry.

Instead of leading in prohibitory legislation we in Canada are behind the States of the American Union. In the States now enjoy total prohibition. A number of them have had it for many years. In Kansas it has been in force for so long that there are many young people who have grown to manhood and womanhood without ever seeing a public bar or a drunken man or woman. In one year recently some

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