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EDITORIAL.

Is there anything more lonely-looking, more out of taste, or more strikingly suggestive of opportunities unimproved than an extensive set of farm buildings standing bare and uninviting in the midst of an unplanted space? How much better a house half the size snugly ensconced amidst trees, shrubs and vines, with perhaps a few flowers and bits of ornamental green!

Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of manure have been wasted in Canadian barnyards this summer. Some wasted in our own, very greatly against our will. However, it could not be helped, and there is no more use crying over leached manure than over spilt milk. Under ordinary circumstances, or whenever humanly possible, we believe in keeping a clean barnyard, but we draw the line at hauling manure in the rain.

It is surprising, says a dairy farm census taker, the different views people take of the poultry on their farms. There are those who pay very little attention to their flocks, almost ignoring the income from this source. On the other hand, one man with two hundred hens said if he had to give up poultry he would quit the farm. It is not difficult, with proper treatment, to get a farm flock of poultry to produce \$1.50 to \$2 per year per hen in eggs, and table poultry over and above the cost of feed. In a small way few things pay better than a nice flock of poultry on the farm. Attention is the price of success.

Practical farming is taking a strong hold these days upon the interest of all who come within the inspiring influence of applied agricultural science. The Professor of English at the Ontario Agricultural College has bought a nearby property which he is running as a dairy farm, and during the summer might have been seen in the fields, with his coat off, helping to garner in the crops in those brief snatches of weather when harvesting was possible. One of our most pleasing impressions of the recent Winter Fair was Prof. Reynolds sitting in a corner of the Seed Department beside the first-prize lot of Empire State potatoes, grown by himself. He omitted to mention at the time that there was no competition in the class, but they were a good sample of potatoes, all the same.

Readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" will peruse with deep interest and approval the letter by Arthur H. Campbell, Managing Director of the Campbell-McLaurin Co., of Montreal, reviewing the grounds on which the Railway Commission recently acceded temporarily to the application of the railway companies for an increase in the demurrage charges (amounting practically to fines) on cars not promptly loaded or unloaded by shippers or consignees. Mr. Campbell contends very strongly and properly that any such increase in demurrage charges should be accompanied by a provision for reciprocal demurrage, by which the railway would be correspondingly obliged to recoup the shipper at a certain rate per day for any undue delay in placing empties ordered or in delivering loaded cars at their destination. It is a poor rule that doesn't work both ways. What say our fruit and vegetable shippers?

Demand Duty-free Ditchers.

Hundreds of thousands of farms in Canada are seriously in need of tile drainage, as the past season so strongly emphasized. Their owners know it and are anxious to supply the lack, but cannot get help to dig the trenches and lay the tile. Ditching is hard, slow work, and one pair of hands does not get very far with it in a year, especially when the same hands must attend to practically all the other work on a farm. Except in a few fortunate cases, hired help is out of the question, and, when it can be secured, wages are demanded which run the cost up to a very high figure. In most of our favored farming sections it is out of the question to get ditches dug and tile placed at a depth two-and-a-half or three feet for less than thirty-five to fifty cents a rod (counting board), and when the tile themselves are included, along with the mapping of the system, hauling of the tile and plowing in of the trenches, the total cost often runs close to a dollar a rod—sometimes considerably more. And this is not all, for, as stated above, it is often difficult to get the work accomplished even at these figures. Ditchers are almost as scarce as hens' teeth, and if a farmer does secure one, he has no assurance of being able to keep him. Probably when a ditch is half finished, the man concludes to try a change in the hope of securing easier digging. So there is a short piece of drain to plow in instead of a full length, as mapped out. This means extra cost for filling, and perhaps the tedious progress of hand-ditching keeps a field the best part of a season in bad shape for tilling or grazing. It is a slow, expensive, discouraging business.

The solution to the problem is the traction ditching machine, but as this is not made in Canada, the cost is enhanced \$500 or \$600 per outfit by the Canadian import duty. Prof. Wm. H. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, whose energetic drainage campaign has been gravely hindered by the lack of help to do ditching, and who has tried in vain to secure the establishment in Canada of a branch factory to manufacture traction ditchers, has been for upwards of two years endeavoring to persuade the Dominion Government to remove the duty from these machines, having laid the facts relating to the question before the late government as well as the present one, also before the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which, after investigation, assured him that it would not oppose the proposal, seeing that the machines are not manufactured in Canada, and not likely to be on account of the number required in Canada being insufficient to warrant their manufacture as a specialty.

The case for duty-free ditching machines is strong and clear, and we are pleased to learn that notice of a resolution has been given in Parliament declaring that traction ditchers should be placed on the free list. This resolution ought to carry; but whether it will or not is doubtful, unless agricultural organizations speak out plainly and farmers individually get into communication with their respective members at once urging them to support it. A few such personal appeals will do wonders. Drop a line to your member at once asking him to support the McCoig resolution. Make it strong.

What the Dairy Census Discloses.

What is the average income of the hundred-acre Ontario dairy farm? How far does it fall short of the possible? In other words, what are the probable chances of improving the showing by sustained and enterprising effort? These and other questions were suggested to us by a recent chat with A. E. Gracey and T. F. Boyes, of the Western Ontario Dairy Instruction Staff, who have been lately engaged in completing a dairy census of the township of Dorchester, in Middlesex County, Ontario. In this well-rated farming section the two main sources of income have been milk and hogs, and the average receipts among the better class of farms here would run about a thousand dollars from milk and five hundred from hogs. Individual farmers have done much better, but the average of the township would fall below the figures mentioned. Most of this income would be secured from the farm direct, perhaps with the exception of a ton or so of shorts purchased for hog feed. It needs little figuring to show that on a capitalization represented by land worth ninety to a hundred dollars an acre, this leaves no very princely labor income over and above taxes, interest and running expenses. True, there are some other small items, such as poultry and eggs, horses, beef, fruit and garden produce, which latter has a value even though commuted directly into terms of human necessity and luxury. The same applies to the farm residence, which, although it contributes value, does nothing to augment the nominal revenue. A city man to live equally well, would require to earn an income two or three hundred dollars greater than the farmer's in order to pay the rent of his home.

It is important that these indirect considerations be not overlooked. At the same time, it must be admitted that the showing of fifteen to eighteen hundred dollars a year gross income from the better class of dairy farms in one of our best townships leaves something to be desired. Could not the cash income and net profit be materially augmented by growing apples, small fruits, and a proportion of other cash crops, such as turnips, beans, sugar beets, superior seed grain and the like? Also by better breeding and selection of cows and by higher feeding, especially in summer, utilizing for this purpose silage and green feed? These are vital questions and worth pondering. We feel sure that when results are analyzed in detail some significant facts will be revealed. It is never enough to do well when better is possible. How can we do better?

A farmer expresses himself in his farm. That is to say in the appearance, condition and conduct of the place he reveals his traits of intellect and character. In no business that we know of is this more emphatically true than of farming. It constitutes one of the special attractions of the calling to men of original, positive and creative character, adding interest and satisfaction to the labor of hand and brain.