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The Rural Publishing Company, Limited PETERBORO, ONT.

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and con sider."—Bacon.

Farms for Soldiers

WHAT to do with returned soldiers after the war, is a problem that already looms large in the minds of British statesmen. Sir Rider Haggard has been appointed to head a commission that will investigate the possibility of settling large numbers of them on the land. All of these soldier farmers are to be placed in the outlying parts of the Empire-Canada, Australia, and so forth. Many would make good farmers and good citizens. They would be an asset to this country or any other. Speaking for ourselves, Farm and Dairy would like to see our soldier boys established on farms of their own as independent, land-owning farmers. Yet we predict that the plan will fail of accomplishment in the Dominion for the same reason that it would fail in the Old Country.

There are millions of acres of waste land suitable for agricultural production in Great Britain. There is room for thousands of her soldier sons to homestead right at home where the majority of them would prefer to stay. But this is impracticable. The sad fact is that the land for which Britain's sons are fighting is not their's at all, but the private property of a comparatively few British landlords. It is not so generally recognized, however, that almost identically the same conditions now exist in Canada. The millions of acres of desirable land for free farms, which once attracted settlers, are now gone. They are not under cultivation. Oh, no! They are in the hands of speculators. If our soldiers are to be given homes in the land they are so valiantly defending, the speculators, the worst of all social parasites, must be made to let go.

The organized farmers of Canada have already pointed the way. Land must be able to bear the whole burden of taxation, so that speculators cannot afford to keep it out of use when others desire to till it. The Commission on Industrial

Relations which recently investigated this problem in the United States, recommend the same method of bringing untilled land into use. To tax land into use is the only way in which we can give the soldier boys of the Empire a square deal when they return home from the battlefields of Europe.

The Coming Commission

S announced in these columns last week, a A Rural Commission is to be appointed to inquire into agricultural conditions in Canada. Premier Borden, who suggested the appointment of this Commission, is to be congratulated on his action. He proposes to endow the Commission with wide o wers. He recognizes that farming is more than production of crops, and mentions marketing as one phase of the agricultural problem that should be thoroughly investigated. The advisability of establishing greater cold storage and abbatoir facilities, the Premier suggests, should also be looked into.

The work of this Commission, when once appointed, will be followed with great interest by the people of Canada. Farm and Dairy would again suggest, however, that the findings of this Commission will have but little weight with the organized farmers of Canada, unless they are given a voice in selecting their representatives on the Commission. If the Commission is to be composed principally of representatives of the railroad interests and the legal profession, or of pseudo-farmers, who made their money elsewhere than from the farm, such as Government officials, no matter how eminent they may be or even genuine farmers who have not made any study of economic conditions and are incapable, the efore, of making their influence felt on the Commission, it cannot be expected that the work of the Commission will have the confidence, sympathy, and whole-hearted support of the 50,000 to 75,000 farmers who are connected with the independent farmers' organizations in Canada. The Canadian Council of Agriculture will probably suggest names of farmers who would be acceptable to them as their representatives on the Commission, and Premier Borden would do well to give their nominations first consideration.

A Tractor Demonstration

TF it costs one hundred dollars a year to main I tain a horse and a tractor will displace four or five horses, how much can I afford to pay for a tractor?

This question is a difficult one to answer. Farm tractors have never been adequately experimented with under conditions prevailing in a rolling country such as we find in the greater portion of Eastern Canada. As a result, the farm tractor has not found wide adoption among Eastern farmers. At the same time, information as to the possibilities of the farm tractor has never been so much desired as now. For this reason, if for no other, the Ontario Provincial Plowing Match this year should attract record crowds. There will be a new feature in the proceedingsa real tractor demonstration, offering to Ontario farmers the best opportunity yet to see tractors in operation and discuss their merits with the manufacturers. Remember the time-the first week in November, at the Ontario Agricultural College farm at Guelph.

Direct Dealings

FRUIT grower in the Niagara district of A Ontario, who has ruade a reputation for himself by his "direct from producer to consumer" trade, still sells the major portion of his crop through the negular channels; that is, through the wholesale fruit dealers. Per basket or per box, he realizes the highest prices and

the most profit from his direct trade. In ex. plaining why he has not extended this trade to absorb all of his produce, he at the same time explains the greatest hindrance to direct dealing -he cannot fully meet the needs of a greater number of customers than he now has.

When the city housewife visits her retail mer. chant, she orders fruit of a certain kind and variety and wants it delivered at once. The merchant, in turn, goes to the wholesaler, who receives fruit from many sources and of all varieties and can fill any order on short notice. When the consumer deals directly with the producer, she expects the same ready service, and it is only by keeping the "direct-to-consumer" trade down to small proportions that the producer can give satisfaction. Even then, producers who deal directly with consumers often have to buy from their neighbors to fill orders. For these reasons, direct dealing must always be limited to a small proportion of the total out.

We utter these words of caution so that those of Our Folks who are planning to sell directly to consumers may enter this new field of business with their eyes open as to its difficulties. They must expect to give the consumer the same service that she receives from the city merchant, and this the individual farmer is seldom in a position to do. A cooperative association could haudle such a trade to much better advantage.

Influence of School Fairs

WRATHY parent called on Farm and Dairy a few days ago. Figurativaly speaking, he was after the district representative "with a club." When the irate father had cooled down sufficiently to explain himself, we learned that his little son, a lad attending school, had grown a plot in connection with the School Garden and Fair Work., and the particular plot had been missed by the judges in their rounds. He wanted to know why-ver emphatically. We, of course, referred him to be district representative.

This incide brought forcibly to our attention one of the most valuable features of the school fair work-it is creating almost as much interest among the parents as among the children, and at one and the same time educating two generations to the value of improved seed and better agricultural methods. The work is giming tremendously. Only a few years ago, the first school fair was held in Waterloo county; 234 such fairs will be held in Ontario this fall. inc ading 2,291 schools and 48,386 pupils. Altogether there were 51,243 plots grown and 6,888 settings of eggs distributed.

The distribution of superior seed of the best varieties has been a valuable feature of the work For instance, O.A.C. No. 72 oats have been supplied the last couple of years, and many farmers, through the garden plots of their children, have become acquainted with the superior merits of this new variety. Many others have adopted the Deleware potato because of the excellent results secured with it by their children. From the standpoint of the children themselves, the rural school fair is giving them new interest in agriculture and a splendid training in citizenship. The district representatives have fostered no more valuable work than this.

The Fundamental Reform

** MERELY to add new studies will not meet the need, although it may break the ground for new ideas. The school must be fundamentally redirected, until it be-comes a new kind of institution. This will require that the teacher himself be a part of the community and not a migratory fac-

U. S. Com. on Country Life.



Orchard and Ga So far as it is possi

year's use now. Carrots and beets l little dry sand is put of prevents drying out.

A cool cellar is the cabbages. Hang the them in paper and la See that the sweet next year's planting well-aired place when

freeze.
The branches of should be drawn clos tied to prevent the sn ing them down.

While many raspbe through the winter wi it is always safer to

nd cover them with As soon as the frost of grape vines they be covered with earth be covered before the Remove all trash an the garden. If converto plow the land that garden next year. The get rid of many insec Cuttings of grapes this month and store sawdust until next spi may be set out.

Squash should be ca in hauling, and placed on wooden racks in a tilated storage house.

Fruit for the HE Quebec Branc League is forwa fruits and vege ls of the fleet in and has asked for corticularly of apples, wheeptable. The distrib out in Great Britain b roducts Committee, t which is Admiral This committee up this year has supplied lbs. of fresh fruits and ides thousands of spec Christmas, all of which His Majesty's warship Sea fleet.

Ontario growers car help in this good worl oice apples from would mean much to get no fresh fruit w what they pay for ou pockets. The strain pockets. The strain which these men are it call not only for ou pathy but for sometly gible. Try your has and packing a few bo orchard this fall and paid on to Quebec to shes. The honorary Scott, 1 College

Fruit For the Arr The Ontario Govering apples regularly wounded in the hosp Britain and France. carload of Duchess warded and two carlo nd Ribston are awai These will be followed winter varieties from ships are available. Al in all will be sent over office for distribution. fruit is being packed in boxes in the only difference being the ends over the cle