

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN Cream Separators

SOME farmers have an idea that all cream separators are alike. Because the machine they are using is not a success they conclude that there is not a better machine and that they will "just make it do for a while."

There are many kinds of cream separators, some are almost useless, some "pretty good," but there is only one make that will give entire satisfaction no matter how difficult the test. The "only" machine is



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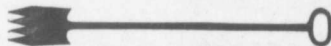
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Taxing Farm Property

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World,—I notice your item in last issue on above subject, and since you ask "What do our readers think about this?" I take the trouble of expressing myself. It is not necessary for others of your readers to agree with my statements, but my object in writing is, to get them a-thinking on this matter, and, after they have thought carefully, I shall be satisfied with the decision they arrive at.

No more important subject can possibly engage the attention of your readers. If farmers are ever to better their condition they must clearly understand what "Taxation" means, and how it is done. Yet, I venture to assert, that not one out of a hundred readers has ever given it any consideration. And yet it is the sword that is everywhere sticking farmers between the ribs, draining them of their heart's blood. That statement may seem strange, but after five years of hard study on it, I can earnestly make the assertion. I know what I am talking about, and I am more than surprised at the conspiracy of silence on this subject maintained by farm papers and agricultural colleges, and other so-called agencies for promoting the interests of the farming class.

The Dairyman and Farming World deserves the hearty thanks of every reader for inviting opinions on this matter.

That word, "land tax" does not mean a tax on the land, so much per acre, as it is rated—not at all. A five dollar bill is no bigger than a one-dollar bill, but one is five times as valuable as the other. Similarly, the title-deed to one spot of earth may be much more valuable than the deed to another spot of the same size. The land tax is a tax on the value of the land, exclusive of all improvements.

SITE GIVES VALUE

Now, what gives land its value? Is it not its situation? A farm one mile from town is worth a hundred dollars more than a farm a mile more distant. A farm with a school on its corner is worth more than the same farm would be a mile from school. A farm beside a good road is more valuable than a farm a mile back from such a road. A hundred acres in the heart of a town, village or city, is as valuable as how many acres of farm land situated so as to be useful for nothing else than farming? Farm land grows not in value practically speaking but does town site land ever cease to grow in value? Is the enormous and growing value of town sites not due to the industry of the farmers round about? If the farmers around Peterboro were to take wings and fly away, leaving everything behind, what would the town site be worth?

Again, land is not a commodity, not wealth, not riches—no, it is not consumed, or worn, or eaten up, or destroyed by fire—it is eternal, everlasting. Again, the value of land is not the creation of any one person's labor. No one man made the town site of Peterboro valuable. No, but it was made valuable by hundreds and thousands in and around. That value is common property, produced by all, belonging to all, and, in the divine economy of things, intended for all. Again, land is not wealth, but the mother of wealth, the source from which is produced by labor, our food, clothes, everything.

The value of land is not wealth. But it is power in the hands of its owner to "toll" the labor of all who use it. Thousands must use a town site, hence its owner is always rich as the result of his power to levy "toll" off all who use it.

Now, Mr. Editor, with the foregoing facts in mind, I want to say

that taxing improvements is not fair, it discourages industry, it encourages people not to improve, it is an injustice, and a fraud. It lifts the burden off the man who holds land idle, who holds land for the purpose of "tolling" the labor of some one who wants to use it. Manitoba has not tax improvements on farms for over 20 years, and for that property is entirely exempt too. The improvements, paint, lumber, labor, etc., have paid a heavy customs tax into the Federal treasury, then is it fair to tax them again year by year? Is it fair to assess the man who improves his farm, patronizes the stores, the factories, gives employment, etc., more than the man who holds his place idle, and does none of these things? Is there any sense in killing the goose that lays the golden eggs? If we, as a people, can't get honest and just taxation right at home from our councils, need we expect the powers at Toronto and Ottawa to do it fair?

Isn't it high time for the farmers to speak to their M. Ps., and demand that improvements be free from local taxation at the very first session, and the farms be assessed at their value, less cost of improvements. This little matter of "local taxation" means millions to farmers, if they only think carefully.

This letter is already too long but I trust that it will be freely criticized by your readers.

Just Taxation.

To Encourage Grades

The Holstein-Friesian Association has given a cup for the champion grade dairy cow, at the Calgary Exhibition, provided she be a Holstein, or a pure-bred Holstein sire. This is the first move of any breed society to encourage the breeding up of grade stock. The Holstein Society has realized that while it is desirable to encourage the pure-bred, the great field is the improvement of the grades by crossing with pure-bred sires. In this way, the production of milk and butter fat may easily be increased 100 per cent. Besides, the method is within reach of all farmers.

The cup donated at the Calgary exhibition, was the first one to be sent out. Each large exhibition, however, throughout Canada will be given one for a similar competition by the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. It is hoped these trophies will encourage competition along this line, in which all farmers can compete profitably.

Mr. A. P. Ketchen, B.S.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, died suddenly at Creelman, on Friday night, June 26, as a result of sunstroke. Mr. Ketchen had been addressing a gathering at the plowing match there during the excessive heat on Friday. He was one of the best known agricultural authorities in Canada, and was formerly editor of The Northwest Farmer, Winnipeg. Before going to the Stock Commission for the Dominion, under F. W. Hodson.

During the electrical storm that occurred during the latter part of June, a considerable number of barns in Halton county were damaged by lightning. One of the storms occurred on the farm of Mr. George B. Long, near Burlington, Ont. Five men were milking the cows when the lightning struck the barn. All the men and all the cows were knocked down, being partly stunned. Not a man or animal was injured. It is believed that the lightning passed over the barn and the shock was so great that it had the effect mentioned.