

Thinks Women Should Vote

Harold Childs, Kent Co., Ont.

I have read with interest the article in the December 18th issue of Farm and Dairy on "Farmers and the Public Issue of the Day." As a constant reader of Farm and Dairy I congratulate you on the article and also on the fact that your paper is among the first Canadian farm papers to take up the referendum with reference to public questions of the day. More particularly would I con-

gratulate you on your decision to allow the women to vote on your referendum. I agree with you that women are just about the most intelligent class of readers we have and are, in my opinion, capable of voting, not only on your referendum, but on general public and political affairs as well. I do not think that our farm women would neglect their household duties if given the franchise, but would, on the other hand, endeavor betterment of the community at large. With this idea in view, when challenged to take part in a debate on the question of suffrage, I decided to take the woman's side of the question.

AD. TALK

CXXIV.

"If I Had My Life to Live Over I'd be a Farmer."

Have you ever heard that remark before?

This back-to-the-land cry is constantly in our ears these days, mostly by those who never farmed, or possibly they had been brought up on a farm—years ago.

On the train the other day this subject was up for discussion by two apparently prosperous business men. I tried to explain to myself their regrets for having spent their lives in a great metropolis.

Was it because of the abundance of God's fresh air and sunshine in the country? Was it the lack of natural beauty in our cities? Was it because 60 per cent of our population lives in the rural districts—the 60 per cent, that actually produces the prosperity of our country—creating new wealth by the billions every year?

It was none of these. These men knew full well that farming was a most attractive occupation—secure, independent, and moderately profitable. But they knew better still that business life then offered even greater opportunity to accumulate more of that form of human energy—money. They knew that in business there was the possibility of a larger margin on the investment. They knew that the bulk of fortunes were being amassed not in production but in buying and selling, and particularly so in the manipulation of the prices. To-day we find these men wealthy.

There was a day not so long ago when our farmers did but little of the actual selling of their products.

The other fellow simply bought them from him, giving largely what ever price he saw fit. This condition is by no means entirely changed.

This was and is the great detriment to farming—the fact that the other fellow has largely set the price for us.

But there is light ahead—even now scores of our best farmers have caught the "business" vision. If they have goods—their products—for sale, they are adopting the methods of our big manufacturers and sales houses of making possible buyers well informed of these goods. In other words they are "in business."

They are advertising. They have choice seed wheat, corn, potatoes, or surplus pure bred pigs, poultry, cattle, or horses for sale—in fact any products of high quality they find it pays to let a large number of possible buyers know about them. This insures them a wider market and higher prices. Our most successful fellows are known not by the goods "bought from them" but by the "goods they sell." The farmer of to-day is too "the business" man. He pushes his business—pushes his products to the attention of the people who need them—and in doing so he is finding it pays to use those life, spicy farm papers that have the "business" confidence of its readers—such as Farm and Dairy.

"A Paper Farmers Swear By."

Government Control of Utilities

"Farmer," Waterloo Co., Ont.

It is my opinion that express, telegraph and telephone companies should be taken in hand by the government for the reason that they are in many cases running their business for their own gain and not for public service, and they are also holding charters and franchises so that there can not be any real competition. The telephone company is the one which comes in more direct touch with the rural population. The opposition that The Bell Telephone Company puts up when some independent line is in process of development is out of all reason. They refuse to give satisfactory service. They will tell us that they cannot come to our homes unless we pay some exorbitant figure, but as soon as the farmers start an agitation to put up an independent line they are on the spot with their gang of men.

It would be a good thing if the government would make a thorough investigation of these doings and have them published so that wherever a rural line is in process of organization they will know something of the means that are used to retard its progress. In fact if there was opposition to government ownership in Farm and Dairy, it would be hard to tell where it came from. History teaches us that there are often dark ways used to carry out projects by corporations and trusts. I would say let the government take full control of these affairs and have a decisive vote that way.

ARBITRATION INSTEAD OF WAR

If our military and naval expenditures were cut down to the actual police requirements of a country and not to be used for fighting with other nations, it would be a great thing. Let national disputes be settled by arbitration and the money thus saved used for deepening the resources of the country and for the service of the people. I believe there is enough money taken from the people in a few years by corporations, trusts, mergers, combinations and unnecessary customs taxes to pay for all public utilities. Let the farmers speak.

I am in favor of legislation for the incorporation of cooperative societies. It has been my desire for many years to cooperate with my senior farmers, and we should favor anything that will make that easier. I am at a loss to know why it is that we, the backbone of the country, are slow to grasp each other's views. When dealing with agricultural interests we must all be aware of the fact that societies mean strength, and by cooperation we are sure to improve our conditions in every line of agriculture. I trust that the splendid opportunities that are offered to us each week in Farm and Dairy will tend to bring to each one of us new ideas on the important question of cooperation.—A. J. Keane, Peterboro Co., Ont.



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