## FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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## The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd. PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

## A War Time Christmas

HAT a paradox it seems. On this day of all days when we of all days when we celebrate the advent of the Prince of Peace, half the world is at war. The beating of the wings of the Angel of Death can almost be heard throughout the land, in seeming mockery of the angel's song, "Peace on earth and good will towards men,"

Many would tell us that the war is the result of the failure of Christianity, but nothing has failed that has not been tried. When it is tried the golden age of the world's history will have dawned and the angel's song be the daily reality. With this hope in our hearts, we can still keep Christmas in the spirit of its great founder, and pray for that strain's fulfilment—that the battle and strife may vex the nations no more; that not only on Christmas but the whole year round men shall be brethren, owning one Father in heaven.

Too prone are we all to allow our Christmas to evaporate with the day; forgetting are other days in the year for a sympathe sand clasp and an encouraging word. If Christmas is better than other days in the year, it is because the feeling of fellowship belongs to it. Why not have every other day in the year filled with fellowship? Why not soften the asperities of life, speak the kindly word and extend a helping hand for the other 364 days? In a word, why not make every day a Christmas. Carry the Christmas spirit with us throughout the year and say, with Tiny Tim at all times and seasons, "God bless us everyone."

Let us keep Christmas in this spirit then, forgetting not to return thanks for the many blessings and privileges of the land we live in, and looking forward to the age that is coming:

"When the common sense of most shall held a fretful realm in awe

And the kindly earth shall slumber lapt in universal law."

HAS the time arrived for Ontario to adopt per cent, of the creamery butter in Alberta was made from graded cream. Of this fifty-nine per cent. graded specials, and over seven per cent. graded seconds. In Saskatchewan ninety-eight per cent, of the creamery butter was made from graded cream. In Manitoba sixt cone per cent. and in Nova Scotia sixty per cent, was made from graded cream. Quebec is making cream grading compulsory. In Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick the creameries are adopting cream grading rapidly. It is fair to assume that the quality of the creamery butter produced in these Provinces bears some relation to the extent to which cream grading has been adopted.

Alberta and Saskatchewan butter has practically put the eastern townships butter out of the Vancouver market, and is successfully competing with the New Zealand product. This season the Edmonton Creamery shipped butter by the car load to Montreal, and it is being freely stated that butter from provinces which have adopted thorough-going grading systems for cream and butter will soon be competing for the best trade in Ontario cities. Most striking of all is the success with which Quebec and Western Canada creameries have competed with the Ontario creameries at the leading fairs. For the last three years they have walked away with practically all the prizes at Toronto. This year they captured everything at Ottawa, and all but fifth and seventh prize at the Canadian National. They also appeared at London and got into the prize money. investigations conducted by Mr. J. H. Scott, in

Toronto during July, August, September and October of this year, indicated that less than sixty per cent. of Ontario creamery butter as made during those months, would reach first grade, and that over 40 per cent, of it would grade second or lower. This is in striking contrast to the quality of the product of those provinces that have adopted grading.

The creamery men of those provinces in which grading is practiced, have no hesitation in stating that it is the greatest contributing factor to their success in producing high quality butter. The adoption of grading has resulted in every case in a marked improvement in the quality of their creamery output. The poorer quality of Ontario butter, as indicated by Mr. Scott's investigations, can be attributed to no other cause than our failure to encourage the production of better cream by paying better prices for it than for cream of inferior quality. That the introduction of a system of grading with prices that correspond to the quality of the cream received, would result in the great improvement of our butter, is the almost unanimous opinion of the dairymen, extracts from whose letters appear elsewhere in this issue. Has the time arrived for the Province to adopt cream grading? We invite discussion on this important question.

The Ice Harvest

HE rapid cooling of milk and cream is one of the most important considerations in successful dairying. Cheese of poor quality, and less of it, is made from milk that arrives at the factory in poor condition, than would be the case if the milk had been properly cared for. Regarding butter, the investigations of Mr. J. H. Scott in Toronto this season, showed that of the shipments of the June make inspected, seventy per cent. graded first. June, it will be remembered, was a cool month. Of the July and early August make, only thirty-nine per cent. of the shipments inspected graded first, showing a remarkable falling off in quality, due to the extreme heat of midsummer. One of the chief lessons of the 1916 season for the dairyman is the neces-

sity for making ample provision for the cooling of milk and cream during the summer months.

The simplest and cheapest way yet devised for cooling milk and cream is to place the cans containing them in ice cool water. The gathering of the ice harvest during the present winter will, therefore, have an important bearing on both the quality and the quantity of our dairy output next season. To house a suitable supply of ice no great expense is necessary. No building on the farm can be constructed more cheaply than the ice house. The corner of a mow, or the apartment of an outbuilding can frequently be utilized, if a separate building is not available for storing the ice. The return of zero weather reminds us that we live in a country where the ice crop never fails. The only failure that occurs is in the harvesting of it. Within a month or two, the storing of ice will be in order. 'Any provision that is made for putting up an adequate supply for cooling the milk for next season when the warm weather arrives, will be reflected in the returns from next year's dairying operations,

Keep Up the Breeding Stock

HE depletion of farm herds by the selling of stock that should be kept for breeding purposes, is the most important cloud on our agricultural horizon, according to Prof. Geo. E. Day. The shortage of feed is in most cases the reason given for reducing the number of animals to be kept over winter. In many cases this reason is adequate, though there is always a tendency for increesing prices to result in the unnecessary selling of breeding animals. The undue depletion of breeding herds is always a short sighted policy and it never was more so than it is this season. It is agreed on all sides that prices will continue good, and some state-city consumers are fearful of it—that they may go even higher. Under these conditions no efforts should be spared to avoid selling wherever possible. Banks have announced their readiness to loan to responsible farmers all the money required for the purchase of feeding stuffs for carrying stock over winter. High in price though these feeds are, it would appear to be good business to secure them, if by so doing the breeding herds may be main-

> Expensive Food for Flames UR front cover illustration this week shows

a night view of the great fire that destroyed the plant of the Quaker Oats Company in Peterboro recently. Some idea of the extent of the conflagration may be inferred from the fact that this photograph was taken some ten hours after the fire started. As the offices of Farm and Dairy are situated only two city blocks from the scene and were directly in line, had the fire broken bounds, Our Folks will realize that some hours of anxiety were spent in which it was feared that the next issue might have to be gotten out under the handicap of having its recent home destroyed.

It may be thought by some that the interest of the farmer in a city fire such as this one, is somewhat remote. Such, however, is no longer the case. Under our complex industrial system, the interests of agriculture and other industries are becoming more and more closely linked together. In this instance, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of flour, feeds and cereals, which and only recently, in the form of grain, left the hands of farmers, and which represented the summer's toil of hundreds of them, became the prey of the fire fiend. One of the most regrettable features of the destruction of what was said to be the largest cereal mill in Canada, is that it will increase the difficulty of making the Canadian farmers' contribution to the food supply of the Empire, available in the manufactured form.

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