

Farm and Dairy

AND
Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
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We guarantee to our advertiser in this issue is reliable. We are able to do this because the advertising columns of Farm and Dairy are as carefully edited as the reading columns, and because to protect our readers, we turn away all unscrupulous advertisers. Should any advertiser herein dare dishonestly treat you as one of our paid-in-advance subscribers, we will make good the amount of your loss, provided such transaction occurs within one month from date of this issue, that it is reported to us within a week of its occurrence, and that we find the facts to be as stated. It is a condition of this contract that in writing to advertisers you state: "I saw your advertisement in Farm and Dairy." Refuses shall not be made on the expense of our subscribers, who are our friends, through the medium of these columns; but we shall not attempt to adjust trifling disputes between subscribers and honorable business men who advertise, nor pay the debts of honest bankrupts.

The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.,
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confuse nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

The Aftermath

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL No. 1259 is the most direct result of the visit of the great delegation of farmers to Ottawa. The preamble of this order, which was published in Farm and Dairy last week, admits that extreme hardship "may result from the unlimited application of the order of April twentieth and that this hardship may be disproportionate to the usefulness of the men concerned for military service. Relief is then offered by the following procedure:—In such cases of hardship the man, upon reporting, may bring to the attention of the officer commanding his unit, the facts of his case and if the officer thinks well, leave will be granted the applicant and the case carried to the District Officer Commanding, who will give further consideration and, if he thinks well, transmit the report with his own recommendation to the military headquarters where still further consideration will be given. When this regulation was mentioned in the House, the Government was careful to emphasize that its most recent orders apply to all cases of extreme hardship both in town and country, and had no special application to farmers. The farmers who went to Ottawa, however, will be justified in taking to themselves the credit for this humane and necessary amendment to the previous order.

In some quarters a fear was expressed that an aftermath of the delegation might be a cleavage of sentiment between Eastern and Western farmers, particularly in view of the action of the executives of the United Farmers of Alberta. It now develops that the Alberta resolution was intended merely to express the belief of the U. F. A. executive in the sincerity of the Premier and his Ministers and their acceptance of the verdict of the Government, but not their approval of it. The Grain Growers' Guide, of Winnipeg, speaks for the rank and file of western farmers when it says editorially:—

"While the West was not directly represented in that big deputation, the sympathy of the western farmer towards his eastern brother was strong in

the claims that were made to the government. The large number of letters which have been received at the different central offices of the organized grain growers, reveal the extent of that sympathy. The interests of greater production from the land are vitally affected by the new Military Service Act, and the farmers in the West realize that fact as strongly as they do in the East. Production of food in Canada will unquestionably be reduced by the unqualified application of the recently amended military law; and it is the national importance of that fact which looms up in the mind of the Canadian farmer at this time. In some of the Allied countries, now at war, has there been such a rigid and drastic order of conscription as that recently adopted at Ottawa. The Government, in the face of these grave personal hardships, will undoubtedly and thus come to alleviate such distress."

While the offensive on Ottawa did not gain all of its objective and to some may seem almost fruitless, we have good reason to believe that its effect will be decidedly beneficial and will exert a steady influence on legislative enactments for some time to come. The spectacle of some five thousand farmers presenting a solid front in defence of what they considered to be their rights, cannot but incutinate in the minds of our legislators a new respect for the people whom they are supposed to serve.

Permanent Improvements This Year

"THIS is a good year to make permanent improvements," asked a subscriber from Halton Co., Ont. "I find that the cost of every kind of building material is away up, but then the selling prices of the products of the farm are up also. Just where does the farmer stand on the building proposition?"

We cannot give a "blanket" answer that would be satisfactory. On general principles we would say that permanent improvements to farm buildings should be deferred if possible. Building materials are high, wages of artisans are even higher, and both of the conditions, we expect, will tend to rectify themselves after the war. Even granting that the prices of farm products have advanced equally with the cost of construction and that, comparatively speaking, construction on an extensive scale would be no more costly now than before the war, the fact still remains that all available men are needed for work of national import, such as food production, and to divert their energies to work not absolutely necessary, is hardly a patriotic thing to do.

There are permanent improvements, however, that are just as advisable now as in the years gone by. The erection of silos, the improvement of stables and the addition of conveniences to the equipment of the farm home are all works of national import. In that, directly or indirectly, they add to the efficiency of the food producing plant. And here we have a good general rule,—consider carefully every improvement that may lead to increased efficiency in production; reject all others.

The Term "Holstein"

THE British Holstein-Friesian Cattle Society has decided that hereafter the association will be known as the British Friesian Cattle Society. The New Zealand Society has also decided to drop the term "Holstein" from the association name. Elsewhere in this issue we publish a letter from the president of the British society to Mr. W. A. Clemons, secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Cattle Breeders' Association of Canada, suggesting that Canadian and United States breeders fall into line and eliminate the term "Holstein" from the association names, trusting that eventually it will drop out of use altogether in connection with black and white cattle. The reasons given in favor of such a change are two—that the word Holstein has a German flavor and is therefore irritating to people of pro-ally sentiment; and, secondly, that the black and white cattle come from the province of Friesland and to tack "Holstein" on to their name is an injustice to the Friesland farmers who were the originators of the breed.

We would hesitate to endorse the suggestion of the British society on either of these grounds. While

it is true that Schleswig-Holstein is now a German duchy, the province was originally taken from Denmark by conquest and the term Holstein is therefore of Danish and not German origin. The suggestion that the term constitutes an injustice to Friesian breeders will carry more weight, but it should not be forgotten that America and not Holland is now the great breeding ground of Holstein-Friesian cattle and the breeders of the United States and Canada have more at stake in any attempt to change the breed name than have the breeders of all other societies in the world put together, not excluding those of Holland itself. It is the interest of American breeders, therefore, that must be considered first for it is in their hands that the breed has reached its greatest development. Black and white cattle have been popularized under the name of "Holstein" and the term "Friesian" was a later addition and added merely as an acknowledgment of the breed's origin. To make such a change is now suggested by the British society would not merely cause endless confusion in the public mind, which would in itself be detrimental to the interest of the breed, but would involve changes in the names of dozens of periodicals devoted to the interest of the breed in America, the renaming of hundreds of farms where black and white cattle are bred and the scrapping of all the dies and plates now in use, to say nothing of the loss of tons and tons of letter heads and envelopes stamped with the old familiar term, "Holstein-Friesian." Is the change worth the confusion it would cause? It is for the breeders themselves to say.

Development or Exploitation

"WE have two words hopelessly mixed up in our national vocabulary," recently said Dr. J. G. Rutherford of Alberta. "One is development; the other exploitation."

Dr. Rutherford comes from the West, where as many of the so-called "development projects" are really intended for no other purpose than to exploit the settler. To illustrate the extent to which exploitation has taken the place of development, Dr. Rutherford states that there are 136,000,000 acres of land in Alberta and not a free homestead left to take. Millions upon millions of acres of good land are held out of use by speculators who have no intention of working it themselves, but who have high hopes of selling it at an advanced price to the bona fide settler and developer. The holdings of these speculators range all the way from that of the man with an idle quarter section, to the big land companies with their thousands of acres. All alike are exploiters.

Fortunately, many people are coming to realize that the land exploiter is a parasite on the wealth producers of the country. Not so many years ago the speculator's right to hold land out of use was hardly challenged. But in the intervening years a new school of thought has grown up, who believe that the land of the country should be for the use of all the people and not merely for the enrichment of the few who happen to get there first or who, by fraud and manipulation, secure claims for big tracts of territory. Such is the view now taken by practically all of the farmers of Western Canada, by a large number in Eastern Canada and a good proportion of the cities' wealth producers as well. As a result of the growth of this ideal in Western Canada, the land now bears all of the burden of municipal taxation and in Alberta a special tax is being levied on vacant lands. It will be a great day for Canada when all taxes are received from land values and use becomes a condition of ownership. We are glad that the farmers of Canada are right in its foreground of the movement for the freeing of the land and its resources from the hands of the speculator.

The best width of wagon tires has been found to be: One-horse wagon, two inches; light two-horse wagon, two and a half inches; medium two-horse wagon, three inches; standard two-horse wagon, four inches, and heavy two-horse wagon, five inches. These figures were secured in extensive tests on car and macadam roads by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

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