

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District Quebec Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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**FARM AND DAIRY**  
PETERBORO, ONT.

**TORONTO OFFICE:**  
Room 364 Manning Chambers, 72 Queen St. West, Toronto.

## RESTRICTIONS NEEDED

A deputation of leading dairymen waited on the Ontario Government recently, and asked for legislation that will make it impossible in future for new cheese factories and creameries to be erected until the need for their erection has been shown to the Government, and their site and plans have been approved by the Department of Agriculture. The request of the deputation should be granted by the Government without hesitation. It is legislation that is badly needed. Had we had such legislation years ago, the dairymen of Ontario might have been saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the dairy industry would be in a much better position than it is.

Dairy Commissioner J. A. Ruddick, who has visited most of the leading dairy countries of the world, stated at the dairy conventions last January, that the cheese factories and cream-

## AN OPEN LETTER TO HON. SYDNEY FISHER

HON. SYDNEY FISHER,  
Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—In the twelve years during which you have held the honored and important position that you now occupy, you have done much to advance the agricultural interests of Canada, including those of the bacon industry. This fact is generally recognized throughout the Dominion. Nevertheless, the bacon industry of Canada is in a most critical position. For a number of years, Canada's exports of bacon have been decreasing steadily and rapidly. Thousands of Canadian farmers have ceased to raise hogs. Several of our large pork packing establishments are being offered for sale. Some have failed. Unless energetic action is taken immediately, our export bacon trade, that has been worth millions of dollars to the farmers of Canada, will be ruined.

In the face of these conditions, we see that other countries, including Denmark, have been increasing their exports of bacon. We are informed, by recognized authorities, that conditions in Denmark are more favorable for the production of bacon than they are in Canada. We are at a loss to understand how it is that these things can be? They need to be investigated.

A deputation, appointed by the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, will shortly wait on you. You will be asked to send a deputation of capable and well known Canadian farmers to Denmark in order that they may study the conditions over there at first hand. There is a general hope that you will grant this request.

Your Department has published much valuable information bearing on the swine industry. Some of this information, at least, has not attracted the attention it should. Now, however, the farmers of Canada recognize that the situation is acute. They are eagerly looking for light.

If you can see your way clear to send a deputation of Canadian farmers to Denmark to investigate the methods of breeding and feeding hogs followed in that country, the cost of production and the system of marketing the finished product that prevails there, your action will be much appreciated. The appointment of the commission will attract wide attention in this country. Its report will be commensurate with the keenest interest. As this report will contain information gathered by practical farmers, it will carry great weight with the farmers of Canada, and be productive of much good.

We believe that you recognize the criticalness of the present situation, and trust that you will show your interest by granting the reasonable request that you will soon receive.

Respectfully yours,

FARM AND DAIRY,  
Peterboro, Ont.

March 17, 1909.

ies of Canada are the poorest he knows of in any country. The average factory in Ontario costs less than \$3,000. There are factories in Denmark, Holland, and in other countries that are leading competitors of ours, which cost \$40,000 and \$50,000. No wonder these countries have been able to get higher prices in the British market for their dairy products than we have.

One of the greatest curses of the dairy industry in Ontario has been the fact that there has been nothing to prevent the erection of small factories wherever any person, without proper experience, might desire. Men who have factories have been afraid to improve them for fear that opposition factories would be started at their door, which would ruin their investment without benefiting the patrons of the opposition factories. Scores of factories have been erected in Ontario on sites where there was neither proper drainage nor a good water supply. In Prince Edward and Hastings Counties alone, numerous factories have either been torn down and rebuilt on better situations, or have been removed to better sites at a cost of thousands of dollars. All this expense might have been avoided had we had such a law as is now desired.

We need greater stability in the

dairy industry. We need larger and better factories. The best method of gaining these is to take steps that will prevent in future, the erection of factories where they are not needed, and on poor sites. By leaving this matter in the Government's hands, we may rest assured that no injustice will be done to any person. There is nothing that the Ontario Government can do that will tend to more rapid improvement in the dairy conditions of the Province than to grant the legislation that has been asked for. The farmers of the Province will be those who will derive the greatest benefit therefrom.

## SHOULD NOT GIVE THE GRANT

A deputation from the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, waited on the Ontario Government recently, and asked that the grant to the exhibitions should be increased from \$70,000 to \$100,000 a year. This is a request that the Government should not grant. Farm and Dairy feels that the Ontario Government is not spending as much money for agricultural purposes as might be spent to good advantage, but it believes that it would be a mistake to increase the grant to the Agricultural Societies of the Province.

There are more agricultural socie-

ties holding annual exhibitions in old or Ontario in proportion to its size, than in any other district of the same extent on the continent. These societies already receive larger grants than the societies in any other province in Canada, or state in the American Union.

Under the new Act, by which the grants are paid to the agricultural societies in proportion to their expenditure for agricultural purposes, about half the societies in the Province have had their grants increased more or less during the past couple of years. The remaining societies, which have not been doing as good work as the others, have had their grants more or less decreased. We can afford to lose 75 to 100 of these societies without injuring the agricultural interests of the Province, as there are about 360 societies in the Province. It is the societies whose grants have been decreased, because they are not properly situated or managed, that are crying the loudest for an increased Government grant. To increase the grants to the societies from \$70,000 to \$100,000, a year, would only serve the purpose of keeping some of these inferior societies in existence for a few years longer. They are not needed, and they should be allowed to die a natural death.

There are societies which have been in existence for many years, in such old established counties as Frontenac, Grey, Haldimand, Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Middlesex, Ontario, Russell, Stormont and others, whose total expenditures for agricultural purposes range anywhere from \$100 to not over \$250 a year. Were some of these societies allowed to die, as they should be, it would result in benefit to other and better fairs that surround them. What Ontario needs is fewer and better exhibitions. This is a case where the Government will have the support of the country if it refuses to increase this expenditure for agricultural purposes.

It is several years since the Ontario Government, through its special commission, examined into the condition of the horse interests of the Province. Much valuable information was gained by the commission. It showed that legislation is needed to improve existing conditions. Where is the legislation?

## GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO MORE

*Peterboro Review, (Con.)*  
It is not necessary to be a farmer to see that the local governments of the various provinces are not doing what they ought for agriculture. It is true that much, very much, has, and is being done apparently. But the practical result is what tells of success in everything and it cannot be said that the farm is deriving the benefit it should from the desire to aid it and the means at our disposal to carry out our plans or theories. It is the one great branch of industry that is in actual need of applied education. After all, few farmers know more than the simplest rudiments of farming. We find at least that we are away behind many countries in this respect.

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## Judging

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