THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

164

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Size Up the Plowing Match

We have discussed the plowing match and its value to the average farmer pro and con in recent issues of this paper. The old iron plow, with its long, narrow bottom and its long, iron handles, which hangs from the roof of the implement shed all summer and is taken down on the day of the plowing match or a few days before to practice for the match, has no place in practical farm agriculture, but good plowing has. We have contended that the plowing match, as carried on, is a little too far away from the actual plowing practice, that is, no farmer could afford to waste time plowing as it is done at the match, and it would be far more valuable were prizes awarded for the best plowing done on the farm, say ten acres on each competing farm. The first three days of next month will witness the Provincial Plowing Match, to be held in Ontario County, near Whitby. We would advise all farmers who can to plan to attend this match, as in connection with it there will be a demonstration in tractor plowing and tractor farming, which should interest every farmer whether or not he contemplates buying a tractor in the near future. It would be well for all to be familiar with this new machine, and also to be present and size up the plowing and the way it is done at the biggest contest held in the Province. The time is past when the average farmer can afford to turn only one-half acre or less per day. He must plow at least an acre and a half per day with a single plow, and where a doublefurrow plow is used three acres per day is a fair day's work. Why not put the contest on a similar basis, if it is impossible or not practicable at the present time, to carry the contest right to the farm as suggested in an article published in this paper a few weeks ago. The Provincial Match this year will furnish an excellent opportunity for all those not familiar with the plowing match to see how it is carried on, and the tractor demonstration should be an education to a large number, because the small tractor is not well known in Ontario at the present time. We would like to see a large attendance of practical farmers at this demonstration, and then to have them express their views on the plowing match and the tractor through these columns. Ontario

needs more good plowing on its farms. In so far as plowing matches prove an incentive to better work they are valuable. Could they not be made even more valuable? Look this one over and decide for yourself.

The Price of Milk is Going up.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Competent authorities have worked it out that the farmer's dollar is whittled down to about thirtyfive cents. That is to say, for every dollar's worth of produce that he turns out he gets only thirty-five cents. The other sixty-five cents of the dollar are appropriated by various middlemen, some of whom are necessary, some unnecessary, but all of whom get too large a share of something they did nothing to produce.

Instead of the farmer getting thirty-five per cent-of the wealth he produces, the position should be reversed. He should get sixty-five per cent. Doesn't it seem absurd, on the very face of it, that out of every hundred quarts of milk that the farmer produces he should get pay for only thirty-five? That of every hundred hogs he produces with so much care and labor, lasting so long a time, somebody else should be able to take sixty-five hogs as pay for a relatively small amount of work in the process of distribution, all done in a very brief time, and the farmer only gets pay for thirty-five hogs?

In the recent flurry over the price of milk at Ottawa it developed that the producer has been getting only 17 cents a gallon, while the Ottawa City Dairy has been retailing it at 32 cents. Dividends and bonuses up to 46 per cent. have been paid in a single year. The company's manager is now judged to be worth a cold half million—\$500,000! Talk about middlemen's profits! The Dairy demands a butter-fat test of 3.5 and gives the consumer 3.0 (Government standard). Thus the middleman catches producer and consumer, both coming and going. He pockets his profits, smiles blandly to think what a lot of dunderheads he does business with, and passes us

the High Cost of Living. The middleman is within his rights; he is breaking no law; it is the farmer who is the unmitigated ass in the transaction. He allows himself to be the same kind of tool that his great grandfather was in the hands of the middleman. The farmer is an expert at two things-production and howling. When his corns are trodden on, if he is wide enough awake to notice it, he lifts up his voice to Heaven in one tre-mendous howl—and then the thing ends. He hasn't the grit to punch the other fellow's head, or the sense to keep his corns back to prevent them being trodden on again; but he gets red in the face, strikes his fists upwards and downwards in the air as if to frighten somebody, and then goes on about his work of production as if nothing had happened. The trouble with the farmer is the way he punches.

Instead of striking upwards and downwards at the air he should strike outwards, and he should make sure that he lands.

I'm afraid there is only one kind of "lands" the farmer knows about, and they are earthworks thrown up by the plow, behind which he lies down and shelters himself when trouble comes. He still prefers to take his medicine lying down, as his great grandfather did before him in the same business. Continuous stooping over the hoe, the wheelbarrow and the milk-pail has rounded his back until his backbone has developed into a sort of wishbone, whence it takes its particular rounding shape. The same thing has caused him to look downward and not upward; and, not having the sense to come in out of the rain has given the habit of looking inwards and not outwards, all of which is bad, mighty bad-for the looker.

I am not questioning the farmer's ability as a farmer. He farms as well as he knows how, makes the best of pretty trying circumstances very often, and is fairly ready to adopt better methods. But he is "from Missouri" and must be "shown." He is not very rapid in proceeding from thought to action, which is one reason why we don't get better results from the findings of our experimental farms. One demonstartion farm in a neighborhood would do more for that neighborhood than twenty experimental farms away off, or the distribution of ten thousand bulletins or annual reports. Ocular demonstration is what the farmer wants; then you will find that he is not really so slow after all. While I can flay the farmer in his nakedness for his shortcomings, when I believe he has no need to come short, I can sympathize with him in his apparent helplessness, just as I sympathize with myself in my own helplessness with regard to a great many things. We are all in the same boat when it comes to dealing with middlemen or the Big Interests, such as railways banks and manufacturers, all of whom have squeezed the farmer unmercifully in the past and who are still at the same old stand handing out the same old medicine to the long-suffering but short-memoried

and the farmer will be nowhere as of yore. The In terests will pass him the hemlock till next electron day, and he will have to be content to swim in Interest made soup, or lie down by his earthworks till a midd man stalks up and kicks him from behind, when in will grow red in the face and strike upwards and down wards into the thin air. He can't strike outwards and land, even if he would, for the Interests and the Middlemen, who kick farmers from the rear because they find them lying down, are fleet of foot and the only time you can catch them is on election day when they are at bay.

The moral is, of course, that there is no such this as Conservative or Liberal farming.

The deficiency, the deplorable deficiency of the farmer is his lack of co-operation. In union is strength but when it comes to union the farmer is nin noddings! The Big Interests—the railways, and manufacturers—'sometimes called in the the Triple Alliance), and the middlemen act together they unite in action with a single purpose in view They put up their candidates, and what is more the put them in. They vote solidly together as a che with a direct object in view and with self-made pla forms.

There is no such thing as a Farmers' Vote Politically, farmers fall to pieces on election days and become simply Liberals and Conservatives. There vote is split and their power vanishes. And all because the farmer has no class-consciousness and won't act in co-operation with his fellow-farmen. And, ten to one, if a Class A Farmer were put up as a farmers' candidate he'd be turned down and some apple-buyer with a glad hand and smooth tongue, who goes around offering seventy-five cents a barrel in the fall would be given the preference by that queer-acting thing the Farmers' Vote, Minus.

That very thing happened some years ago in the constituency where these notes are written. A farmer of superior intelligence, of unsullied character, well educated, splendidly read, abreast of the times in his ideas, and possessing a pleasing personality, we beaten by a loyal representative of the other interests and the farmers were again nowhere. The Farmer Vote, had there been such an Entity, was sufficient to have placed him at the head of the poll, but the thing having wobbled as usual came tottering on election day into Liberal and Conservative fragment and there it ended. Doubtless those farmers who voted for the winning side plumed themselves on the victory, as usual, though it was a victory for the professional politician and a loss to the farmers as a class.

The crucial question is this: Should the farmer permit economic conditions to be so bad that the average farmer cannot get a reasonable return from farming?

Someone will doubtless follow with the question Well, how are you going to change it? 'Isnt that what we've been contending for these many years' If contending means making a noise and kicking

up dust, why yes; but what has been the net result to the farmer as a class, or as an individual either Have the elections of the past twenty years made you rich? If not, why not? The other part of the question—How are you going to change it?—I will answer in part by a quot-tion from Classe Accels they be a constructed to the second seco

tion from Clarus Ager's thought-provoking book "The Farmer and the Interests

The farmers should do what the banks, the many facturers, the railways and the labor men have done they should form organizations and put their leaden in control of their organizations, and these organizations should combine into one or a few general organizations, and the heads of these organizations must be authorized to speak for the farmers. Organization means that the farmers must combine, submit to majority rule, formulate policies, select and instruct leaders, and follow these leaders loyally. farmer must develop class-consciousness in his political as well as in his other class relations. Indeed, the growth of class interest cannot well avoid being general to a large degree. It is true there may be growth m industrial and commercial combination with

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(N. B.--His memory fails on election days, when, instead of acting the Big Farmer, he becomes a Little Conservative or a Little Liberal and is content to whoop it up for the same old party in the same old way, glorying in the fact that he's no turn-coat and that he doesn't desert his party if Bill Jones does.) Hurrah for Laurier! Hurrah for Borden! Which-

ever side wins it amounts to the same thing from the standpoint of the farmer-the Interests will rule

hout development of any political solidarity, but there will be a tendency for farmers who unite in their industrial and commercial relations to draw together in their political relations.

"The order of development then is: Social and informal class union; growth of class-consciousness, then formal organization and co-operation for m dustrial and economic purposes, coupled with the growth of political community-of-interest, and finally, political solidarity.

Mr. Ager, himself a farmer, explains that "There may be economic class co-operation while there much political divergence, but the tendency of economic co-operation is to induce political co-opera-tion." Again he tells us that "the farmers must develop enough self-reliance to determine what they need economically, and having done so they must stick together and the trick is done." Then he adds this rider: "I am not suggesting for a moment that the farmers will do this to-day or to-morrow or the next day. The special interests will make every effort to keep them divided between the two political effort to keep them divided between the two political parties as long as possible, in order that they them selves may be the determining factor in every election and then, whichever party is in power, they will control that party and dominate government. The control that party and dominate government. farmers can readily stop this. They must put the interests of the farmers first and the dictates of the party machine second. So long as the farmers are willing to be also it to be a stop of the farmers are willing to be clay in the hands of the party potter,

to the f platform The ma was mo tom wi rootlets feathers Thrush wards, ing inw which as the spread varied deep cr of a pa entire : In size The like the found migrati or so month are no From comm about above and ha can be that po