

## Letters to the Editor

### Machinery and Depopulation

**E**DITOR Farm and Dairy: I noticed in your issue of May 23rd that you ask the question: "What do our folks think of it," in reference to "The Machinery Age." I will endeavor to explain what I think of it.

Machinery is beneficial to accomplish any task that cannot be done by human labor, or where there is a scarcity of labor, but where there is abundance of labor, to displace that labor and drive the labor into other callings that are already overcrowded, lowers the standard of living of the laborer in every calling, and in the end must defeat itself, for if machinery reduces the cost of production it at the same time reduces the ability of the people to buy the article at the reduced price; for the man out of work has but little to buy of anything, and the more machinery the more idle men I know the old argument is, look at the numbers employed making the machinery. True, a number are so employed, but what is the number so employed, say in a factory such as Massey-Harris, compared to the number that their machines displace on the farms and in the villages? In proof of this, is not the rural population in all parts of Europe and America fast leaving the country for the cities?

Of course I do not think that the making of machinery can ever be stopped, but I do think that machinery is the main reason for the spread of the socialist ideas. And the time will come when the people will have to own the machinery or get off the earth. I would say to the question, if machinery makes a small class of immense estate owners and drives small holders off the land, it then becomes a positive curse, and there is a proof of it in Scotland at this time, in the loss of soldiers from places where the people have been driven off to make room for sheep farming on a large scale.

"I fear that land is hastening this a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

—J. Parkin, Wasing, Ont.

### Farm Drawbacks

**E**DITOR Farm and Dairy. — It makes me feel very hopeful, to say the least of it, when I read such remarks from Lord Shaughnessy as the following:

"Farming should be made so profitable by educational and financial aid, and the social conditions of rural life should be so improved, that thousands of men with natural inclinations that way, will be attracted to agriculture and will succeed at it."

Who is to give us the financial aid? If any man more than another is financially floored, it is the farmer. For instance, if he buys a farm he has to pay high taxes for his money invested. The capitalist can lose the same amount of money and not pay a cent of taxes on it, but instead, he receives high interest on his money. If roads are to be opened and maintained, it comes out of the farmer. If bridges are to be built, it comes out of the farmer, while the moneyed man can travel and use the railroads without paying a cent, and the man who doesn't own a foot of land can do the same.

If implements are to be bought, we are held up by high prices charged by government-protected manufacturers. Why should they be protected any more than the struggling farmer?

As to educational conditions, our school equipments are only an apology compared to the city outfits. When children try for the entrance examinations, do the city children come to the country schools and pay train fare and

high board. No, it is vice versa. When the farmer needs an outfit of clothes, etc., can he go with his load of potatoes or hay to the merchant and exchange? No, he is tied up to the speculator or middleman, who takes the lion's share. Talk and write essays on how to keep the boys on the farm! You might as well try to make an impression on the moon by shooting balled peas at it. The boy says, "No thanks—I won't rise at daylight and do necessary chores, milk cows, feed calves and pigs, then follow the plow all the day and do the evening chores after dark," when he sees the city boy dressed up with collar and tie, and who does not need begin work till seven or eight a.m., and stops at 6 p.m. After supper the city boy can enjoy any amusement that goes on, while the country boy says, "I'm too tired to enjoy any sport."

Although I am a farmer and a father of six sons, I don't encourage one of them to become a farmer, but to try with all their might to succeed at a more remunerative occupation. All honor to Lord Shaughnessy for his suggestion to emancipate the farmer's condition. When it materializes, you will not see any more essays entitled, "How to keep the boys on the farm."  
—J. M. Munro, Thunder Bay District, Ont.

### Mr. Archibald's Figures

**E**DITOR Farm and Dairy.—In Bulletin 21, Mr. E. S. Archibald, Dominion Animal Husbandman, endeavors to discuss "What Profit per Cow?" and by crediting the manure twice, once as "chemical value \$22.50," and again as "humus value \$22.50," or a total for manure of \$45, and \$5 for a calf, making \$50 in addition to the milk products, he is able to show a profit. Crediting the cow with \$45 for her manure is ridiculous. Manure has no market value; its value is problematical. I know of hundreds of farmers in the West (and some few in the East) who would not give a sou for the cow's manure. Can Mr. Archibald, or any other dairymen, sell or use one ounce of manure for cow feed? Many milk men near the city place no value at all on the manure. Then, again, he has no warranty in crediting the cow with \$5 for the grade calf. If the calf has to be fed on the cow's milk for three weeks, and vealed, there is little profit in the calf. If the calf is given the dam's milk and reared, the cost of the calf is about equal to the value of the milk, perhaps more.

And \$52.21 for cost of feed for a whole year. It is such statements as these issued broadcast that keep down the price of manure and its products. Why, it's costing me 45 to 48 cents a day to feed my dairy cows these last six months, and the ration is not as costly and nourishing as it should be. I feed only nine pounds of mixed meal, but that nine pounds costs 31 cents. The balance is made up in costs of roots and hay. Like all other dairymen, I am, of course, working at a loss in labor income, interest and depreciation. How do dairymen exist in working in this way at a loss? Simply by doing the work themselves for nothing, getting no interest on investment, no depreciation allowances, and by growing most of the feed instead of purchasing it. In many cases our Experimental Farms are doing more harm than good, and this is a case in point.  
—J. A. H. Kings Co. P. E. I.

"You don't dissipate, do you?" asked the physician sternly of the little, worried-looking man who was about to take an examination for life insurance. "You're not a fast liver or anything of that sort are you?" The little man hesitated a moment, looked a bit frightened and then piped out: "Well, I sometimes chew a little gum."



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