

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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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 consider."—Bacon.

A Homely Hint

"DON'T think the whole black yard into the house." How often we have heard it, everyone of us. Sometimes we thought mother was cranky. With more years and greater wisdom we realized that the trouble was just overworked nerves. Mopping up the floor continually should not be called work. It is drudgery; especially when one has to chase a mop over the large kitchens that are common in farm homes. Mother has good reason to object. Mud is a part of the farm, not of the house, and she believes in keeping things in their proper place. We men folk can help her.

It is now spring, the loveliest and the dirtiest season of the whole year. Here are some of the things we might do to keep the dirt outside: We might build a walk from the house to the barn and from the house to the driveway, so that occasional visitors may step direct from their carriage to a clean, dry walk. We might fix up the old dilapidated steps and put a foot scraper where it may be handy, also make it a rule that the foot scraper be used. Yes, we are in a great hurry nowadays, but so is mother—and she deserves some consideration.

Make Country Life Attractive

"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.'"

The foregoing is an extract from an open letter addressed by Lord Shaftesbury to the Canadian people. It explains, in few words, the conditions that must prevail in agriculture before returned soldiers will be attracted to the land in any large numbers. We regret that the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway does not mention in more detail just how farming is to be made so profitable and desirable an occupation. Educa-

tional work and long time loans have already been tried extensively in many countries. In any case these measures proved to be more than palliatives. Rural depopulation still goes on, and every country in the world continues to nurse a rural problem. Surely at this late date, men occupying official or semi-official positions should come to realize what leaders of organized farmers' movements have long known, that government aid to agriculture can best be given by removing the legislative disabilities under which farmers labor. So long as farmers are made the taxpayers of the nation and indirectly the victims of exploitation, just so long will farming require long hours for very modest returns. And just so long will it be difficult to induce people in large numbers to settle on the land.

Production This Year

TEN nations in the world are now on short rations. Six nations are on the verge of starvation. Surely the call for greater food production this year could not be more insistent. Under these conditions production becomes a humanitarian as well as a patriotic duty. A few weeks ago it seemed that Canadian agricultural production could not possibly be kept up to normal. As we write, the situation is more promising. Alberta is talking of increased production. Labor is spoken of as plentiful in the other prairie provinces, and although the area fall plowed was smaller than usual, the area in crops this year may be even greater than in 1916. Dr. G. C. Creelman assures Ontario farmers that they can seed every acre of crop possible with the full assurance that there will be abundance of labor for the harvest, even if ships and factories have to be closed to supply the men.

An inspiring phase of the situation as we find it today is the hearty interest that city organizations are taking in the production campaign. At a great meeting in Massey Hall recently, the citizens of Toronto pledged their support. The War Production City of the same city are carrying on an advertising campaign to induce employers of labor to free all experienced farm workers they may have in their experience to help get in the crops this spring. City people apparently are coming to realize that this problem of production is a national one and one in which they are really more interested than the farmers themselves. Let us repeat now as we did two weeks ago that there will be no starvation in rural districts. It is the city dweller who has caused fear that famine may yet reign in the land. Even with the best that our cities can do, however, the food production of 1917 rests largely with the Canadian farmer. And he can be depended upon to do his work and do it well.

Extending Dairy Influence

AT one of the most important dispersion sales last spring, the highest priced cow fell to the bid of a Grey county man. Now Grey county has comparatively few dairy herds. The buyer assured us that in his district theirs was the only herd of dairy cattle. He is working at a disadvantage. Local conditions minimize his opportunities for manufacturing his milk product to the best advantage. There is no local market for stock, and one herd is not sufficient to attract buyers of pure-bred cattle from a distance. Was our Grey county friend foolish in paying a high price for cattle to take to such a community?

We think not. Our friend is a pioneer and has the courage of a pioneer. If his cattle do well others will follow his example and purchase dairy stock—for the pocket book argument is one that appeals in every community. Once the dairy cow gets established in any district, she makes her imprint indelibly in better buildings, more prosperous homes, more fertile fields and citizens with an all the year income who are independent

of the bankers. Every good dairy herd established in a beef making district, is that much done to extend the sphere of influence of the dairy cow.

Oleomargarine Legislation

EDITORS of city papers in general and of one Toronto paper in particular, are very busy nowadays labelling margarine restrictions as class legislation. They tell us that this legislation is designed to protect the dairy farmer from the competition of a cheap and wholesome substitute for butter and to enrich him at the expense of the poor consumer in the city. As a matter of fact, the present restrictions imposed on the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine in Canada, were not designed for the advantage of the dairy industry but to protect the consumer from the deception and fraud universally practiced by dealers in butter substitutes. When imposed, these restrictions had the whole hearted support of the Canadian public and probably, too, of the publications that are now berating them.

When the manufacture of margarine was first introduced into the United States, wholesale grocery and provision houses paid high wages to buyers who were keen in detecting oleomargarine that was being "palmed off" as butter. Then the government took a hand. For thirty years, legislators have experimented but failed to find any adequate means of protecting the consumer. Even in 1916 forty-four margarine importers were sent to jail, and several thousand cases of deception were brought to the attention of the courts.

And yet, in face of the failure of legislators in the United States to protect consumers against margarine deception, our Canadian government is advised to let down the bars and permit both the importation and manufacture of butter substitutes in Canada. Have we any reason to believe that margarine dealers in Canada would be any more scrupulous or conscientious than they have been in the United States. We fear that the publications who advise such action are themselves deceived by the dealers and packers who would expect to profit by the change; or else they are very short of information.

When the Soldier Returns

FOR which will the government do the most? For the returned soldier or for the land speculator? The land speculator is specially favored, inasmuch as he escapes with a single land tax. Will we treat the returned soldier in the same way, or will we increase the soldier's taxes for every improvement he makes on his land?

The industrious classes must now pay all the taxation, for idle speculation furnishes nothing for the support of society, and they must support the speculator besides. When the soldier returns, will he have to do the same thing, namely, work for the enrichment of the speculator?

Will the government do as well for the returned soldiers as it did for the manufacturers? Before the war the manufacturers had a free list of raw materials. Will the soldier be able to import his raw clothes, his raw tools, etc., free from duty, or will he be subject to the same import and extortion as the laboring classes have been, namely, often to surrender his third dollar. Will he have to take three dollars to market to buy two dollars' worth of goods? Will he also have to add something to that to maintain the luxurious establishments of the ground lord?

When the war is over, what will the veterans find to welcome them? Will it be a lot of speculators to make the land dear, and a lot of favored manufacturers, enabled by law to make the goods dear—a double grind between the upper and nether millstones? Will it be monopolists to right of them, monopolists to left of them, and monopolists to the front of them?—The Square Deal.