

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
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CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The paid subscriptions to *Farm and Dairy* exceed 16,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 17,000 to 18,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rate.
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OUR GUARANTEE

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Refuge shall not ply their trade at 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, Limited
PETERBORO, ONT.

Grasp This Opportunity

We hope that Our Folks will take advantage of the opportunity we will give them, next week to make their views known or the questions that will be submitted to them in the form of our Referendum. One reason we farmers have not wielded the influence in the community that we might, has been the fact that we have been divided on party lines and because, owing to the difficulties we experience in meeting together and discussing public issues, we find it hard to make our views known.

The Referendum in *Farm and Dairy* will give the 17,000 subscribers of *Farm and Dairy* an opportunity to let the public know what representative farmers think on the subjects under discussion. As soon as the ballots can be counted and the results announced, these results will be communicated to Premier Borden and the members of his Cabinet, and also to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his chief lieutenants. No political party will dare treat such a verdict lightly if Our Folks respond in the manner that we hope they will. Remember, that the women also are to have a chance to make their views known. We venture to say that most of the women readers of *Farm and Dairy* are quite as capable of discussing and voting on these subjects intelligently as are the men. It will be interesting to see whether the men or the women cast the more ballots.

It is our intention to hold a Referendum of this character each year. This year, being our first attempt, we do not anticipate the response will be as large as it will be next year. Nevertheless, we hope Our Folks will seize this opportunity and thereby help us to make the views of farmers known. Remember every vote—that means your vote—will have its influence. The ballots will be printed in next week's issue. They will appear only in that issue. These questions you are to vote on appear in this number. Look them over, if you have not already done so, and decide how your votes will be cast. We anticipate receiving your support.

True Self Government

The successful business in at least nine cases out of ten, is the one that is directly under the management of the proprietor. Whoever heard of a successful business man selecting a manager every four or five years and delegating to him the management of his entire business! Whoever heard of that manager being given such power that his employer could not question his actions, but must submit to every mistake and extravagance? True the proprietor would have the privilege of discharging an incompetent manager at the end of his period; but that would be a small satisfaction.

Of course this hypothesis is absurd. No business man could be persuaded to enter into such an unbusinesslike arrangement. He may delegate the management of various departments to various managers, but he will always reserve to himself the right to decide on important matters. And yet it is under this absurd system that our country is governed. Every few years we elect a party to power and for the next period of years we have absolutely no check on their government, except their fear of not being returned to power. That this fear is not sufficient to ensure economical expenditure, is well proved by the fact that we in Canada are to-day the most heavily taxed people in the world. Our expenditures for federal taxation alone amount to over twenty dollars a head of the population.

Is this growing expenditure unnatural? Have we any more right to expect good management when we delegate all of the powers of government to a few representatives than the business man who delegates his powers to a manager? Would not some system that retains for the people the executive power all of the time be preferable? We have such a system in the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, the subjects of the last question asked in *Farm and Dairy's* Referendum published on page 10 of this issue.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall

The Referendum is already in operation in many of the cities of Canada. Local option in temperance matters is an application of the Referendum. In most cities important money by-laws have to be submitted to the people for their approval. For instance, the citizens of Toronto will themselves decide ere long through a Referendum, whether or not they will purchase their street railway system.

The Initiative enables citizens to make their own laws, when the legislators hesitate to give them what they want. Where the Initiative is in operation it is provided that when a petition signed by a small percentage of the people, usually five per cent., is presented to a government, requesting that certain legislation be submitted to the vote of the people, the government is forced to comply. Had we the Initiative in Canada, for instance, the farmers, who are in large measure opposed to increased military expenditure, could by presenting their petition force the government to submit the question of military expenditures directly to the people in the form of a Referendum, and if the people so decided neither of the policies advocated by the political parties could be persisted in, and expenditures would stay where they are. In short, these two measures, the Initiative and Referendum, give the people true self-government. They enable citizens to keep that check on their representatives that every good business man would keep on his manager.

To refer again to the analogy of the business man and his manager; the proprietor always reserves the privilege of discharging his manager when he fails to carry out his demands. The Recall would give the people the same privilege with their representatives in Parliament. A peti-

tion sufficiently signed would make it necessary for any member who had displeased his constituents to come back to his constituency and stand for re-election.

All three of these measures, the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall, are already in operation in Switzerland, to a limited extent in other countries, and in many cities all over the world. In all cases they are meeting with the approval of the people. Would you like to have a similar check on your representatives in the municipal, provincial and federal governments in Canada? Our Folks will have an opportunity to express their opinion in the ballots that will be published next week in connection with *Farm and Dairy's* Referendum. We trust that many of Our Folks will take advantage of this, your first opportunity, of expressing your opinions on the great public questions of the day.

To Prevent Abuses

The confidence of the people is the only sure and sound basis on which any great business can be established and long endure. This is as true in the pure bred live stock trade as in any other branch of industry. For the most part Canadian breeders of live stock have lived up to both the letter and the spirit of the command, "Be just to all men." Hence they have established the confidence of the public; not otherwise could the pure bred industry in Canada have attained the dimensions that it has.

It is regrettable, but true, that abuses have begun to creep into the pure bred business. Breeders of dairy cattle perhaps have less to answer for than breeders of any other line of live stock. Even here, however, such evils as by-bidding at sales, the exhibiting of cattle at fairs that are not really owned by the exhibitors, and the selling of cattle that are known to be diseased, have become more or less prevalent, but hardly as yet to an extent to impair public confidence.

Now is the time for the breed associations to see that such practices are not persisted in. The members of the Holstein-Friesian Association will have an opportunity to show their disapproval of such practices when at the next annual meeting Mr. J. E. K. Herrick will propose to amend Article II of the constitution of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, by adding a new section to read as follows:

"To prevent by-bidding at public sales; to 'punish the sellers of diseased cattle; to prohibit the fraudulent entry at fairs, or the exhibition of cattle not properly transferred. 'Any breeder found guilty of the violation of the letter and spirit of this section shall forfeit his privileges and membership.'"

Mr. Herrick's amendment is in accord with the spirit of honesty and fair play. It is also in accord with the best business precepts. Sooner or later such amendments to the constitutions of all the breed associations will be necessary if public confidence is to be retained. If eventually, why not now?

Rule of the thumb farming is drudgery. A farm run on up-to-date principles by a man who understands both the theory and practice of his profession and who has the proper conception of the dignity and the utility of his calling, is a never-ending source of satisfaction. That what is one reason why boys go to agricultural college. True, it may enable them to earn more in dollars and cents, but a college course also enables them to get more out of life. Hence we plan to send John to college. But how about Mary?

Housework is drudgery, unless like farming it is accompanied by knowledge. It is the function of such colleges as Macdonald Hall at Guelph and the Ladies' Department of Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue to impart the knowledge that drives the monotony from woman's work, even as knowledge makes the work of a man a pleasure. Is John going to college? Then send Mary, too.