

# FARM AND DAIRY

## AND RURAL HOME

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**The Rural Publishing Company, Limited**  
PETERBORO, ONT.

#### Direct Marketing

FROM producer to consumer is usually a long and tortuous thoroughfare. A plan is now on foot in Winnipeg to eliminate some of the curves and bring the producer and consumer nearer together. A company has been organized under the name of the "Central Farmers' Market Association." The promoters and stockholders are farmers. The government is on the cooperative plan of one man, one vote, thus eliminating the danger of large stockholders manipulating the concern for their own ends. A market building has been rented in the city of Winnipeg. Stalls will be rented to farmers and their wives for direct sale of butter, eggs, poultry and other produce. Farmers who cannot attend personally may ship produce to the association, which will arrange for its sale direct to the consumer. But this is only the beginning. Eventually the association hopes to operate a public abattoir and provide cold storage facilities, thus enabling them to cater to the consumers' demands twelve months in the year.

This is an ambitious undertaking. Its success would seem to be assured by the presence on its executive of men who have been prominently identified with The Grain Growers' Association, such as R. McKenzie and T. A. Cregar. This, the first organized attempt of Canadian farmers to deal on an extensive scale, directly with the consumer, will be watched with keen interest by other farmers and farmers' organizations throughout Canada. Farm and Dairy wishes the Central Farmers' Market Association good success.

#### A Lesson for Ontario

IF Ontario adopts the suggestions of its Good Roads Commission, \$30,000,000 will be spent in the next ten years on the improvement of rural highways. What kind of roads are going to be built? Presumably macadam. As the good roads movement has the unanimous support of both parties in the Ontario Legislature, good

roads legislation is apt to go through without the consideration that the magnitude of the expenditure should merit.

New York State is now building improved highways at a cost of \$30,000,000. Experts tell us that under modern conditions of traffic these roads will go to pieces before the bonds sold to build them have matured. The taxpayers will then face the alternative of going still deeper into debt or of having no adequate road system. Macadam highways were perfect roadways before the automobile came in vogue, but under present conditions the concrete or brick highway alone seems to meet the test.

Farm and Dairy would suggest a thorough investigation of highway construction before any further moneys are voted for highway improvement. If the macadam road is a thing of the past, and many experts say it is, let us know it before millions of dollars are spent on a method of construction that modern travel has rendered obsolete.

#### Immigration on the Decrease

THE decline in immigration into Canada during the past few months has been almost startling. Immigration from Great Britain, for instance, brought to our shores in April and May of last year, 56,940 souls. In the same two months this year immigrants numbered only 30,375. Arrivals from the United States in the same two months last year numbered 33,507, and this year 20,713. Other countries sent us 37,665 this year as against 55,976 last year. Such serious declines as these call for an explanation.

Many factors influence the situation, but one, we believe, stands out prominently—Canada is no longer regarded as a land where a home and a competence may be easily obtained by every industrious worker. Free land was the magnet that first attracted the stream of immigration our way. The best of our free lands are now either homesteaded or are in the hands of speculators and held at a price beyond the means of the impetuous immigrant. People of other countries are also coming to know that the returns of farming in Canada are neither so large nor so sure as Government advertising literature would lead them to believe. In our haste to build up urban industries we have placed too great a burden of taxation on the shoulders of the farmer. Unburied land speculation has turned capital away from productive industry. Likewise we have failed to provide access to markets commensurate in importance with our increasing production of farm produce. Until some of these disabilities are removed from agriculture we may expect to see immigration decrease; particularly will the best class of immigrants shun our shores.

#### Interest and Land Values

SPEAKING before the Canadian Club of Peterboro, Prof. Mavor, of Toronto University, threw some light on the relation of rates of interest to land values. The speaker stated that before British occupation in Egypt rates of interest were as high as 60 per cent. and land worth five dollars an acre. Thus the interest on the value of one acre for a year was three dollars. Since British occupation the rate of interest has been reduced to five per cent. and the land has increased in value until it is worth as high as five hundred dollars an acre. Hence the interest charged on the money required to buy an acre of this land runs up to twenty-five dollars a year as against three dollars when land was worth only five dollars an acre and interest at sixty per cent.

British protection made Egyptian loans a safe proposition, but the benefit of cheaper money was

immediately absorbed in increased land values. British capital built railroads through the country, enabling Egyptian farmers to market their crops more cheaply; this advantage, too, was absorbed in increased land values. Extensive irrigation projects under the supervision of the British Government have also tended to increase the value of Egyptian land. Hence these three improvements—cheaper money, cheaper transportation, and irrigation—that were intended to improve the lot of the Egyptian farmer have served only to increase his rent.

Does not this experience of the farmers of Egypt give us cause to doubt if cooperative credit societies and cheaper money will in the long run prove of as much benefit to Canadian agriculture as some of our cooperative enthusiasts seem to believe? Farm and Dairy is a strong believer in the merits of cooperation. At the same time we believe that a reform in our methods of taxation which will prevent landowners capitalizing all improvements in the value of their land is the fundamental reform and the one most necessary. Farm and Dairy shares this belief with the organized farmers of Canada, who, through their great central committee, The Canadian Council of Agriculture, have endorsed the taxation of land values as a much needed reform.

#### The Isolation of Farm Life

"THE greatest drawback of farm life, and at the same time its greatest advantage, is its isolation."

This is an exact quotation from our esteemed contemporary, Hoard's Cairyman. The statement may seem contradictory, but it is not so contradictory as it seems. For the superficial and shallow, the isolation of the farm is very real. Such people cannot take pleasure in their own company nor in the company of books. They must be in a crowd, or life for them is dead. For them the life of the city with its constant contacts is the ideal one. And it is a life that kills true development. Many engagements, frequent interruptions, and constant brushing up against other men leaves the average city man without time to study or think. He is not what he makes himself; he is what his environment makes him.

We once heard this comparison drawn so effectively in a rural school debate that we reproduce the speaker's simile. He compared the city dweller to a rock in the bed of a stream. The rock has been rolled about and rubbed against the other rocks in the stream until all its edges are rounded and smooth. Each rock is like every other rock. It lacks personality. Such is the influence of the city. The rock of the mountain side stands out by itself. It is not influenced by other rocks. It has its own peculiarities of shape. It has personality due to its very lack of contact. Such is the man of the country. The speaker then went on to show that rural environment has produced great thinkers and great inventors largely because of its isolation.

We are not advocates of an extremely isolated life. We believe that farm people, particularly farm women, should have more social life than they do. At the same time there has been much superficial writing and thinking on this subject of rural isolation that tends to obscure the fact that a certain amount of isolation is desirable and necessary to our best development. Let us count our blessings.

Tax collectors are held more in reputation than in Biblical times. Every merchant in the land is a tax collector; customs taxes that are added to the price of his goods.

#### Violating Ho

It was the cat's fault, it was so cold I let her. The stall where I was. An' that ends me I was. She rubbed agin me while I was milkin' 'n' I leaned up on me w' she knew that I co

Plumb full of milk I An' so I did, just to

Say I murred that cat w' she purred around at

squeezed Between the milk stool 'n' every minute she w' In such a tone as if it For me to give her one An' then, because I let She rose up on the co

le got an' so I did, ju

An' sharpened up his

In 1900 Canada In 1911 Canada In 1912 Canada In 1913 Canada

Yes, that's the reason I

The stable's got a flim

so if it hadn't got one

No cause to think I'd b

That cow's foot hit me

No brickbat ever hit no

As hard as I did when I

That door and smashed

Keplaph in the cow's c

All I could say was just

Say, when I crawled ba

cat,

Was happen' where the

! At

An' the cow horned at

Had a foot notion it w

That scratched her leg

! At

She patted me plumb thr

An' never kicked the ca

That cat can mew till t

But she stays out ne

goes!

How Children are

Their Birth

(Continued from

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of these three boys.

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son and had a chance

appreciation and love of

to get an education that

had him in good stead

is less certain

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to him, who can greatl

his one ambition in li