

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year. Great Britain, \$1.25 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50 cts. for postage.

ADVERTISING RATES, 10 cents a line flat, \$1.40 an inch an insertion. On page 48, include one column 12 inches. Copy received up to the Saturday preceding the following week's issue.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES
STOCKWELL'S SPECIAL AGENCY

Chicago Office—People's Gas Building
New York Office—26 5th Avenue

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The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 15,000. 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.

Sole detailed statements of circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by counties and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

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.

The Short Course Season

January is short course month. Agricultural colleges from one end of Canada to the other have become imbued with the short course idea. They realize that they owe a duty to the farmer and his son who cannot attend the regular courses of the college. To the farmer, with his multitudinous duties, a full winter at an agricultural college is well nigh impossible. Many boys who have not the opportunity to attend the regular courses have the same thirst for knowledge as those with greater opportunities. The short course in a large measure meets the requirements of both of these classes. It enables the farmer to collect many valuable ideas. It does as much for the boy, and more. It gives him new ideals and starts him reading and thinking in the right direction.

The short courses as conducted in our colleges are essentially practical. Theories and abstract science are left behind when the professor enters the short course room. Time is limited and all talk must be right to the point. The discussion among visiting farmers and the exchange of experiences is a valuable part of the short course. The expense of attending such a course is within the reach of all. Farm and Dairy heartily commends a short course at the nearest agricultural college to every one of Our Folks who would like to spend a very profitable week in this the slack season of the year.

Who Should Pay?

Farmers are not very enthusiastic over the great national highway scheme that is brought to light every time that motor enthusiasts are given an opportunity to discuss the good roads problem. Most farmers never have occasion to haul their produce to Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, or any of the other large centers lying along the route of the proposed highway. The highway that interests the farmer is the one that leads to the nearest railway station.

We suspect that our automobile driving friends who would very much like to see this highway a reality are coming to realize that they may expect very little support from county councils

or even from the Provincial Government. Both of these sources of supply are too closely under the eye of the taxpayer. Hence they are turning their attention to the Federal Government. They know that the sources of revenue of the Federal Government are so far from the supervision of the individual taxpayer and collected so indirectly that they may be able to get the money there for their highway without raising violent opposition. But let those of us who pay the taxes be not deceived. Whether the money for such a highway come from the county council, the Provincial Government, or the Federal money chest, we pay the piper just the same. Let us make our position clear to those who have the spending of the Dominion revenues. If our automobile owning friends want a Federal highway, why don't they go to work and build it and pay for it, even as the advocates for a national highway in the United States are now attempting to do?

The British Preference

A few months ago the protective tariff of the United States was reduced from its position as the highest in the world to an average of twenty-six per cent. For months previous to the reduction of the tariff the manufacturers and their lobbyists filled the halls and corridors of the Capitol at Washington, telling the members of the ruin that would come to the country in general and their industries in particular were the proposed tariff measure actually made law. They predicted that the immediate result would be closed factories and hundreds of thousands of men out of work.

The proposals against which the manufacturers protested have been the law of the United States for some time now. So far as we have heard not a single factory has closed, nor have men been thrown out of work. Does not this result of United States tariff legislation throw some light on question No. 5 of Farm and Dairy's referendum: "Are you in favor: (a) Of increasing the British Preference to fifty per cent? (b) Of increasing the British Preference year by year until within from five to ten years we shall have complete free trade with the Mother Land?"

Canadian manufacturers, who have always been loud in their protestations of loyalty, are now advancing exactly the same arguments against an increase in the British Preference as United States manufacturers advanced against the reduction of their tariff. We farmers wish to be fair to all and if we had reason to believe that an increase of the British Preference would ruin manufacturers and leave laboring men without employment, we would go very slow in advocating such a change. But would an increase be followed by such dire results?

If there is any industry in Canada that should fear Old Country competition it is the manufacture of cream separators. English manufacturers are selling their cream separators in every country in the world. One machine of English manufacture, the Mellotte, is everywhere recognized as a standard make. And yet Canadian manufacturers of cream separators have been conducting a thriving business without tariff assistance. English cream separators can enter our market without any tariff hindrance and yet the separator manufacturing industry in this country is one of the most prosperous that we have and is making much more progress than the great majority of protected industries. May we not ask, if separator manufacturers can meet British competition why cannot manufacturers in other lines?

A concern that is ever loud in its denunciation of the British Preference is the Dominion Textile Company. A few years ago the employees of this concern in their factory at Valleyfield, Que., struck for higher wages. The company

circulated a statement among its employees that they would like to give higher wages, but that it was impossible as the protective tariff was not sufficient to justify them in so doing. An investigation was conducted by the Department of Labor, Ottawa. It was found that while the nominal dividend of the concern was only five per cent, on common stock that that common stock was ninety per cent, of water, and that the company was paying fifty per cent, dividends on every cent of capital actually invested in the concern. A farmer who could make five thousand dollars on a ten thousand dollar investment in his farm over and above his own salary would be a wonder. And yet this is the profit that was being made by this protected concern that did not believe they could successfully compete with the manufacturers of Great Britain.

The farmers' organizations of Canada can give many such instances as the two we have mentioned in support of their request for an increase in the British Preference, gradually leading to free trade. They object to the principle of the tariff against British goods. They believe that this would be the most practical method that could be adopted to prove their loyalty and at the same time build up the ties with the Mother Country.

We would like to know if Our Folks are in favor of increasing the British Preference until we have free trade with the Mother Land? We ask you to fill in the Farm and Dairy Referendum ballot that will be published in the January 29th issue, and in this way aid us in making known the real views of our farmers on this and kindred subjects of national importance.

Dollars and Cents Values in Bulls

At a recent sale of pure bred Holstein cattle, a pair of twin heifer calves, scarcely a week old, changed hands at two hundred and forty dollars each. Fifteen or twenty years ago such a transaction would have been considered, even by Our Folks, on a par with buying gold bricks, or investing in wild cat mining stock. To-day we can see such incidents duplicated at any sale of high-class cattle. Why the change?

There is an old saying that has been handed down from our fathers,—"A good cow is better than a good cow's calf." Observation and experience taught our fathers that a good cow did not always transmit her milking qualities to her offspring. But they realized only the half-truth. Had their observation taken them farther, they would have seen that the reason a cow was often better than her calf was because she had been bred to a nondescript sire.

Nowadays we have learned to profit by their mistakes; we realize the importance of the sire in the development of the herd. Those twin calves were out of a fine cow, but that fact alone would not account for the value that was placed upon them. They were sired by a bull that has in his veins the best producing blood of the breed.

At that sale the mere fact that a cow was bred to that bull added from fifty to one hundred dollars to her own intrinsic value. If then that bull adds at least fifty dollars to the value of every cow to which he is bred, what is his capitalized value? He is cheap at several thousand dollars.

Possibly some of Our Folks are considering the purchase of a bull, or are pondering on the merits of the one they already have. Is he one that is producing, or likely to produce, heifers that will be better than, or at least as good as, their dams? If not, then he is dear at any price, for everyone of his offspring is decreasing the per head value of the herd. Would it not be the part of wisdom to pay the bigger price for the sire that will increase, rather than decrease, that value? His ability to do so is the true criterion of his worth.