

the delivery he took a spin of a dozen or more miles in his car, and everywhere along the road farmers were planting potatoes. Yes, they said is the farmers' potato planting day. Why not make it the same in towns and cities? If we had less auto traffic we would have better roads, the people would have more money for the real necessities of life in war time, and, if they stayed at home and planted potatoes, as we farmers did, there would be less need of so much torturing advice to the farmer, less famine scare, and, methinks, a whole lot better class of Canadian citizens.—"Thaddeus."

What Are We Getting?

FOR Farm and Dairy: What are we getting when we buy mixed feed nowadays? I was passing through the freight yards of a nearby city recently and happened to glance into a car that had just been unloaded by a milling and feed company. There was a liberal sprinkling of its recent contents on the floor of the car, and an examination showed them to be just pure rice hulls. Now rice hulls have no feeding value whatsoever. In fact I have been told that they are positively detrimental to live stock and have in their composition 20 per cent. of pure silica, or to give it a more common name, sand. What were those rice hulls used for? I remember that some years ago there was quite an agitation in Canada over the adulteration of bran with rice hulls, and I fear that those same hulls are probably being sold in the form of mixed feeds for from \$40 to \$60 a ton.

There is another question I would like to ask. What becomes of the oil hulls discarded when oats are made into rolled oats for breakfast food? There must be thousands of tons of them, and yet I have never heard of any of them being sold for bedding or burned. Are they, too, combined with other foods and then sold under a brand name for about 10 times their value?

It is factors such as these that have made me suspicious of mixed feeds. The government requires that the composition of mixed feeds be plainly marked on the outside of the bag. The trouble is that to the average buyer of feed a brand showing the amount of protein, fat and crude fibre is about as intelligible as an equal number of Egyptian hieroglyphs. Unless a man is fully conversant of his ability to determine the value of a feed from its analysis, I would advise him to stick strictly to the standard feeds, such as bran, oil-cake, cottonseed meal, ground feed, brewers' and distillers' grains, etc. I have no doubt there are a few standard feeds put up under brand names that are excellent, but there is always a special danger in buying chopped feeds nowadays when all feedstuffs are high in price, and the temptation to adulterate is stronger than usual.

I notice, by Farm and Dairy that the agricultural branch of the Organization of Resources Committee suggests the putting up of a standard mixed feed for dairy cows, hogs, etc. This feed would be excellent if it were compounded under the supervision of competent and honest government inspectors. Otherwise I would not be inclined to trust it. This feeding problem nowadays is too tough to give a dairy farmer grey hair.—"Dairyman," Brant Co., Ont.

I can do any favors for Farm and Dairy any time I will do so gladly, for it is of immense value to any home. I wish you many years of success to come.—James A. Adair, Floodsby, Kings Co., N.B.

I received the pure-bred Berkshire pig from Mr. Palmer, and am well pleased with it.—W. B. Sturgeon, Sherbrooke, Que.

A Farmer as a Business Man

THINGS have changed since the days of our grandfathers, 50 or 75 years ago. The community in those days was almost a self-sufficing one. The major portion of the farmers' supplies were grown on the spot or else purchased at the village store. A few dollars a year were sufficient for the family needs.

Then the age of machinery upset the even tenor of their ways. Money has now become as necessary for the farmer as for the capitalist. Hence a knowledge of how to handle it is necessary.

We have always been a conservative class of people, and we handle our money conservatively. The jump from the self-sufficing age to the business age was too broad and too sudden. We did not have time to become used to the sudden change. Since those days business has played an even greater part in our farm life, and few of us have kept pace with the rapid advancement.

We have been too busy farming to study business methods, and it has gone against us. Farmers who mortgaged his farm to buy a bit more land. The sole and only ambition of

Farmer Brown after that was to pay off the mortgage. The interest was a thorn in the flesh until it was paid. Now, a business man wouldn't think twice about the mortgage or the interest. In the first place he wouldn't mortgage anything and buy something unless the new business would pay a dividend over and above the interest on the mortgage; secondly, if it did pay a higher dividend then he thought this was good business and therefore invested his dividend in more business and thus he continued, never thinking of paying off the original mortgage.

I say we farmers have been a bit conservative along business lines. Perhaps, though, we have been justified in this course. We didn't know anything about it and decided we wouldn't risk it. When it comes down to real common sense, we have the business men licked. We had enough sense to keep out of business, but they have not had enough sense to keep out of farming. They consider farming a purely business proposition, and for that reason have often come to grief. They figure on dividends without any regard to weather conditions. If a few pigs make a profit on the farm, why not make a fortune

out of pigs? The result invariably is a failure. We farmers don't like to advise Mr. Business Man; he figured that there was money in a few hogs, and therefore must be money in a lot of hogs. We don't do things that way, and probably it is because we are unbusinesslike. The great uncertainty of Nature has made us slow to act. We feel that the risk is too great for plunging in farm practice. Perhaps, after all, it is good business for us to be conservative.—Thomas Featherington.

Willie's Perplexity

Little Willie was left alone with sister's beau.

"Mr. Chumpley," he presently said, "what is a popinjay?"

Sister's beau wrinkled his forehead. "Wh-wh, a popinjay is a vain bird."

"Are you a bird, Mr. Chumpley?" "Certainly not."

"That's funny. Ma said you was a popinjay, and pa said there was no doubt about your being a jay, and sister said there was small hopes of you poppin', an' now you say you ain't a bird at all. That's funny."



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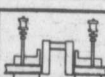
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