

# FARM AND DAIRY

## AND RURAL HOME

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1. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairywomen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein Cattle Breeders' Association, U. S. Representative: W. H. Stockwell, 629 Peoples Gas Building, Chicago, Ill.

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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Readers 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.

**FARM AND DAIRY**  
PETERBORO, ONT.

### THE MANURE WASTE

A well-kept manure heap may be safely taken as one of the surest indications of thrift and success in farming. Neglect of this resource causes losses, which though little appreciated, are vast in extent. Waste of manure is both so common as to breed indifference and so silent as to escape notice. Many of us have no idea what a valuable fertilizer we have in farmyard manure. But without it or its equivalent our farms would not continue long to produce crops.

Experiments indicate that the average fertilizing value of the manure produced in a year by different farm animals is as follows: Horses, twenty-seven dollars; cattle, twenty dollars; hogs, four dollars. Reckoning on this basis the value of the manure produced on a farm supporting six horses, twenty-five head of

cattle and twelve hogs would be seven hundred dollars. This estimate is based on values usually assigned to the fertilizing ingredients of commercial fertilizers and is possibly somewhat too high from the practical standpoint. Offsetting this, however, is the value of farmyard manure to the mechanical condition of all soils, which value is not found in commercial fertilizers.

Experts who have studied the fertilizer problem tell us that it is safe to assume that fully one-third of the fertilizing value of farmyard manure is lost through careless management. At this conservative estimate the yearly loss through indifference in the handling of manure amounts to over \$300 on the average 150 acre farm.

We may not appreciate how serious this loss is while the natural fertility of our soils will stand the strain that we make upon it. The time is coming, however, when we will have to consider this loss and when it will take many years to bring our soils back to the state of fertility that they would have been in did we start right now to make the best use of farmyard manure. Let us do it now.

### RURAL INFLUENCE ON MORALITY

"Uncle Henry" Wallace, editor of "Wallace's Farmer," and chairman of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission, never tires of telling of the advantages, both to the individual and the nation of life on the farm. Speaking recently at a farmers' gathering in Nebraska, "Uncle Henry" declared that a survey of Iowa statistics showed that the million people on the farms of that state, furnish but ten per cent. of the criminals, while the million and a quarter of the city dwellers furnish ninety per cent. of the criminals. It is safe to infer that some of that nine per cent. of country criminals owe their criminal instincts to contact with city influences.

We believe that if we had a similar survey of Canada it would have proved that in this country, too, the cities are furnishing the criminals, and that the maintenance of a highly moral population in our country depends on our maintaining a numerous and contented rural population. Here we have another reason why our Canadian people should regard with apprehension the depopulation of our rural districts.

As we have stated many times, the population of rural Ontario is now 100,000 less than it was ten years ago. In the three maritime provinces rural population also shows an actual decrease. In Quebec there has been a slight increase in the rural population, and in the Western Provinces decided increases. But in no province of Canada has the country population increased proportionately with the city population. The effect that rural depopulation will have on our economic status is serious enough to make this problem one of first importance. But it is more than an economic problem. The continuation of this exodus from the

farms is a menace to the well-being and the morality of the Canadian people. It must be checked. How? We believe that the solution is easy. Give the farmer a chance to make his occupation as remunerative financially as are other occupations, and the question will solve itself. This solution involves "the elimination of all special privilege monopolies."

### LAGGING BEHIND

Canada is one of the very few civilized countries of the world without an adequate parcels post system. We, in this new country, generally consider that we are much more progressive than are the peoples of the older continents; but in this one department at least we are lagging behind. The people of Spain have long had parcels post. The same is true of Italy. And these are countries that we are inclined to look down on; we regard their people as being intellectually our inferiors. We would never think of placing the people of the South American Republics in the same class with ourselves; and yet in spite of the revolutions and counter-revolutions that have characterized their political career, several of the Latin Republics of America have instituted parcels post. The more progressive of the older countries—Great Britain, France, and Germany—all have their parcels post system. We formerly had the United States for company in our laggard ways, but now our neighbors to the south have seen the errors of their way and adopted a parcels post measure. We are left alone.

It might be illuminating to discover why the United States and Canada, two countries that have made so much progress economically than any other two countries in the world in recent years, should have been the last to harness our Post Office Departments for the carrying of parcels. We believe that the principal reason for our backwardness lies in the fact that we have allowed private corporations to gain control of our transportation facilities, that these corporations in their turn have gained control of our legislators, and through the influence that they (the companies) have brought to bear, post office reform has been kept in the background. In the fight for parcels post in the United States, the retail merchant associations fought the measure bitterly, but most of the opposition came from the express companies and their accomplices, the railway companies, who feared that parcels post might seriously compete with them, making a reduction of express rates necessary.

It took the farmers' organizations of the United States almost a score of years to convince legislators at Washington that they were deserving of more consideration than a few express companies. The farmers of Canada have now opened a similar fight. Both eastern and western farmers' organizations have endorsed parcels post. We have not yet heard

**F**REIGHT rate extortion is bad. Tariff extortion is worse. And land extortion is responsible for more poverty than the other two combined and multiplied many times. These evils can be remedied only by legislation secured through the united action of all. Many of us, however, are subjecting ourselves to greater extortion than do these outside agencies. Poor seed, poor cows and poor business methods are making thousands of farmers poor. These sources of extortion we can eliminate, each man for himself.

from the opposition, the transportation companies and the merchants, but there is nothing surer than that the same bitter fight must be waged in Canada as was waged in the United States. Every farmer in this country should write his representative in Parliament, stating his views on parcels post. Did the member find that a good percentage of his constituents were interested enough in the subject to write him about it, he and other members would very soon see to it that satisfactory legislation was enacted.

### Selling the Farm

(Hoard's Dairyman)

There seems to be a regular bewitchment in the minds of many farmers to sell their farms when they get to be about fifty years of age and in some villages. As a general thing, these farmers are very poor judges of what it costs to live in town and they are also poor judges of how much the farm helped them to make a good living.

A few years ago a farmer informed us that he could sell his farm for \$12,000 and he thought he would do so and move to Fort Atkinson. We urged him strongly not to sell the farm, even if he moved to town, for as we observed, "the interest on the money will not support you anywhere near as comfortably as the farm does now, nor as it will if you keep it and let it out on shares of one-half." We figured it out in his mind this wise.

"After buying a home in town you will not have more than \$9,000 left. This will earn at 5 per cent only \$450. Taxes, repairs, and other expenses will cost you up \$50 a year and how can you live on \$400? The old farm furnished lots of vegetables, eggs, milk, cream and meat that you never gave credit for, but which you must now pay for in cash. The farm with its herd of cows ought to earn at least \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year and it will do it if it is in the hands of an industrious, honest tenant. But your old head, Bill, is just as good for management as it ever was. Why not hire some good married man, with a helper, and run the farm yourself? It will keep your blood stirring, your mind employed and you will get double out of it in the way of support that you will if you depend upon the interest from its purchase price."

Bill concluded to take our advice and has the old farm yet and all the increased value that has come from the rise in land.

We have seen some very sad mistakes come from selling the old farm. The poor house of this country is the refuge to-day for several of these mistakes, and it must be the same in other countries. It is best to hang to the old farm as long as possible.

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