

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Get rid of the old birds in the flock when they stop laying. Young ones will be more profitable from that on.

The tax on turn-over is simply a method of taking from the ultimate consumer by the so-called painless method.

Don't allow land to remain idle. It is not yet too late for corn and there are still crops that can be successfully seeded at this time.

It will pay to go a good way to find a suitable stallion to which the mares may be bred with some guarantee that the offspring will have merit.

With a national debt of over two billions of dollars every man, woman and child in Canada is in debt to the extent of approximately \$225.

The spirit of unity and co-operation which existed in war time is gradually disappearing. That spirit is a valuable asset and should be kept alive.

Take all reasonable precautions against joint-ill when the mare is foaling. One cannot be too careful and persevering in preventing this scourge.

Milk producers in some districts would be glad to have their cheese factories back. It was a sad mistake in allowing so many good cheese factories to disappear.

Scrub sires and tuberculosis constitute a dual menace to the live-stock industry. The first is easily gotten rid of and it ought to be the aim of every breeder to eradicate the latter.

The Budget brings home the fact with startling emphasis that thrift and honest toil alone can bring us through the era on which we are now embarked. Agitation, dissatisfaction and under-production are going to make hard sledding for us all.

F. L. Davis, member of the House of Commons for Neepawa, has suggested a non-partisan committee of the House of Commons (the majority to be formed of members of the minority with an ex-Finance Minister as chairman) to consider the estimates before they are brought down in the House. At present, members have very little opportunity of getting information regarding various items in the estimates, except that of a very general character from the different ministers presenting them. The committee suggested would have the power to call in the executive chiefs of the various departments of Government, and get detailed information. In view of the great need for retrenchment this suggestion has much to commend it.

Canada exported goods amounting to \$1,246,341,600 for the twelve months ending February, 1920, as compared with exports of \$1,216,316,432 for the preceding year. Of our exports for the past year the following principal agricultural items were included: Live animals, \$52,220,850; bacon and hams, \$38,241,183; beef, \$74,432,363; canned meats, \$1,284,369; pork, \$1,728,388; other meats, \$3,838,213; wheat, \$181,750,202; wheat flour, \$98,278,003; oats, \$8,556,442; other grain, \$24,829,836; butter, \$8,746,597; cheese, \$35,646,442; milk and cream, \$10,125,462; flax seed, \$5,491,504; and vegetables, \$10,398,305. These items make a total of \$555,568,159. Of these items, live stock provides over \$222,000,000 aside from hides, skins and leather, which amount to \$37,000,000.

## Let us Keep Our Importations Clean.

A very important and forward step has been taken in the control and reduction of bovine tuberculosis. The Dominion Department of Agriculture, working in co-operation with representatives of the producers and packers, are endeavoring to evolve a scheme of disease-reduction that will do our live-stock industry good. However, tuberculosis should be attacked wherever it reveals itself, and a prominent Quebec breeder has pointed out, in the Live-Stock Department of this issue, a weakness in our import regulations that demands attention. There is no use trying to clean up tuberculosis in Canada while we keep on importing it from Great Britain, and by simply marking a "T" in the ear of a cattle beast we do not render it any less a menace as a carrier and spreader of disease. It will not prevent contagion if we punch the whole word "Tuberculosis" in both ears; we must keep tuberculous cattle out altogether.

Other countries, we understand, are more progressive in their antagonism to imported tuberculous stuff, and we interpret the United States regulations to prevent reactors being forwarded to their destination in that country. We have gone so far as to prohibit the importation of reactors from the United States; why should we not do the same with those from Britain?

In the issue of February 5 we took occasion to make certain recommendations regarding control, and action is already being taken along lines suggested there. At that time we urged Dominion Government assistance to importers on the other side, thus enabling them to ship only clean cattle to Canada. We are confident that something along this line will eventually be evolved and we would again suggest that the Department confer with breeders and importers with the object of constructing a policy that will encourage the importation of clean cattle for the improvement of our live-stock industry.

## A Sane Policy for the Agricultural Representatives.

A correspondent whose article appears in the Farm Department of this issue is asking for an expression of public opinion concerning the policy which should be laid down for the Agricultural Representatives in the Province of Ontario. There is a suggestion in this communication that the Representatives be expected to take a more active part in all rural movements, but it would be unfortunate indeed if a new commandment were given unto them which in anyway annulled the orders by which they have always been guided, namely, that where politics are concerned they are to take an absolutely neutral stand. The Agricultural Representatives, like the Department of Agriculture of which they are a part, are there to serve all the people. They are public servants and they are paid out of the public funds. If townspeople desire agricultural information the Representatives are duty-bound to give it, just the same as is the Department. In the execution of their duties they are required to know no class distinction or religious differences; in private life they are entitled to the full privileges of citizenship. The Agricultural Representatives were, of course, primarily placed in the various counties to serve farmers and bring to them the latest and best that agricultural colleges or departments of agriculture could provide. To this end they found organization essential and they became organizers in the various communities where by getting farmers together they accomplished a hundred fold more than would have been possible by working with individuals; and more than that, they laid the ground work for the great organization movement which later swept the Province. In fact, some of the best and staunchest U. F. O. locals were organized by Agricultural Repre-

sentatives who saw the need of farmers' clubs and assisted them into existence. Even when there was open hostility between the late administration and the U. F. O., the Representatives remained neutral as a group, and in many cases even advised the affiliation of the farmers' clubs they had formed with the United Farmers of Ontario for business purposes. The representatives can still render valuable assistance to the United Farmers' Clubs, and they ought to do so where agricultural advancement is the object. However, the Hon. Manning W. Doherty cannot do better than instruct the Agricultural Representatives to use their own discretion as in the past, assist farmers all they can, and keep out of politics.

## Using the Government.

"The Government should do it," is an expression that is altogether too common in this country. In the past, our Governments have tried to curry public favor by doing things for the individual voter that the individual voter ought to do himself. The result of this paternalism is that this country is cursed with an army of disgruntled people who are forever asking their Government to do chores for them. The man who is continually asking the Government to help him with his chores is a poor citizen; he lacks the independence of spirit that is characteristic of all solid citizens. Incidentally, he is the kind of citizen who is forever condemning Governments. He is ready, at all times, to put forth arguments which prove, to his own satisfaction at least, that Governments are wholly incompetent.

True, our Governments are not as efficient as they might be. But they are not altogether to blame, for as soon as they are elected they are pestered and embarrassed by political friends and enemies who regard Governments as mere agencies for distributing favors of one kind or another. We will get good government in this country when the people demand it—and not a day sooner. And that day will not arrive until more people are saying: "Let us help the Government." "The Government should do it," is a phrase that is common in all badly-governed countries. "Let us do it ourselves," is the unspoken slogan of all self-reliant, industrious and stout-hearted peoples.

## A Half-Holiday for Farmers.

The question of a half-holiday for farmers has been aired considerably of late, and one or two clubs have gone so far as to endorse it in their districts. It will, no doubt, receive consideration elsewhere unless the rush of work dispels the idea and banishes it for another season. In principle the half-holiday is as sound for the farmer as for the townsman, but in practice it does not work out. Imagine the pleasure a farmer would get out of a half-holiday while his hay was drying up in the fields, while his grain was ripe and calling for the binder, while the corn needed cultivating and the weeds were smothering out the hoed crop. Only by a most advanced and modern method of reasoning could the present-day farmer make himself believe that he was actually enjoying the time off. Farmers and their families are entitled to recreation and rest, but it would be far better to take a week in an off season, if such there be, than one day when the work is particularly pressing. There are so many half-days, and whole days too, that one cannot work in the fields on account of rain and other causes that a set half-day seems out of place in agriculture.

The argument has been advanced that if town workers can labor short hours and enjoy their holidays, thereby making the work go round and keeping wages high, farmers can likewise work less, decrease production and keep prices up. This is false doctrine, and while we condemn it in others we have no right to subscribe