

Farm and Dairy

AND
Rural House

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
Published every Thursday by
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Peterboro and Toronto.

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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy approximate \$2,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent to subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 20,000 to 22,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rate.

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

OUR GUARANTEE.

We guarantee that every advertisement in this issue is reliable. We are able to do this because the advertising columns of Farm and Dairy are as carefully edited as the reading columns, and because to protect our readers, we turn away all unscrupulous advertisers. Should any of our paid-in-advance subscribers, we will make good the amount of your loss, provided such transaction occurs within one month of the date of this issue, that it is reported to us within a week of its occurrence, and that we find the facts as stated. It is a condition of this contract that in writing to advertisers you state "I saw your advertisement in Farm and Dairy."

Requests shall not pay 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, Ltd
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider"—Bacon.

More Hogs

THE various provincial departments of agriculture are all starting out with a will to boost the greater hog production campaign. Some of the provincial departments, notably that in Ontario, will depend for their increase almost solely on well organized propaganda work. Others, as in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, have plans completed for supplying well bred sows to farmers at cost. But whatever the method adopted, the object is the same everywhere—the production of more pork as one of war's vital necessities. The patriotic appeal alone will reach every local farmer. Of itself it will be sufficient to greatly increase the hog output of many farms. And many other farmers, equally loyal, will hesitate about that extra sow. Why?

Well, in the first place, the farmer has not yet gotten over his distrust of market fluctuations. He knows that in the past greater production has always resulted in lower prices and the price has been low in proportion as the supplies were great. "If we produce this winter as never before, to where may the market not go?" is his natural question. And as Mr. Ames remarked at the recent U. F. O. convention, farmers have not yet had it demonstrated to them how they can live on patriotism. This is a point of which many propagandists seem to lose sight—that it is from the profits of production that a farmer feeds, clothes and shelters his family. The farmers who can afford to lose heavily on a single department of their farms are decidedly in the minority. As yet, however, neither the government nor the Food Controller has taken any real measures to prevent these fluctuations in the hog market.

Viewing the situation as a whole, we grant that there is much cause for optimism. The great reduction in the world's hog population, the tremendous demands of the allied governments and the decreased output in America, all seem to be guarantees of a strong future hog market. Packers, too, may be fearful of allowing the market to fluctuate as in other

years for fear such action might result in further drastic regulations on the part of the government. Probably our best guarantee of a stable market, however, is the promise of the United States food administration to keep the price of live hogs up to \$15.50 by buying heavily on the open market when the live stock market shows weakness. With all of these guarantees, we believe that the future of the hog market is safe. The situation is certainly much more promising than it has been many times in the past when farmers have gone in for greater hog production without any patriotic stimulus. We dislike the idea, however, of placing our main dependence for a profitable market on the financial support of Uncle Sam in his own market centres. It favors too much of dependence. Farmers are still asking if it should not be possible for our own government to take some action whereby the Canadian hog market will be guaranteed. Two courses have already been suggested—the fixing of a minimum price, and government operation of packing plants. Possibly neither of these suggestions offers the best solution of the problem. Probably the new minister of agriculture, the Hon. T. A. Crerar, is already working toward a solution. If so, an early announcement of his decision would do much to stimulate pork production for the next year.

Our Political Bias

THE following two letters are typical of a goodly number received by Farm and Dairy since the recent Dominion election:

"Farm and Dairy is the farm paper for the farmer who milks Union cows. As I have none of that kind, the paper is of no use to me, so stop it at once."

"I have rejected your Farm and Dairy. I have no use for a Laurier man."

These letters speak for themselves. In one we are accused of being too strongly Laurier; in the other our imputed Unionist tendencies prove equally objectionable. As Farm and Dairy took no part editorially in the campaign, the viewpoint of these partisans must be that "who is not for us is against us." Evidently, however, a brief re-statement of our policy is in order. In the first place, let us state emphatically that Farm and Dairy is non-partisan. The only political campaigns in which we take any active part are those in which the paramount issue is one vitally affecting agriculture. Such, for instance, was the reciprocity campaign in which not only Farm and Dairy, but all the independent farmers' organizations in Canada and all of the other farm papers actively supported the administration which had negotiated the agreement. In the campaign of last December, on the other hand, the paramount issue was not agricultural but national in character. That it was so regarded by Canadian farmers generally is indicated by the non-partisan stand taken by all of the farmers' organizations in the Dominion and by all but two of the leading agricultural publications.

When it comes to our advertising columns we have a different policy. In these columns all parties are at liberty, within reasonable bounds, to express their views. During the recent campaign advertising space was used by both parties in placing their position before the people. No matter what our personal views may be, Farm and Dairy does not consider that it has any right to suppress the opportunity of any party to place its case before the people. To do so would be a curtailment of freedom of speech, one of the liberties which English speaking people hold dear. Democracy thrives on full and complete freedom of expression. The democratic citizen desires to hear both sides of the case, balance the arguments pro and con and cast his vote according to his judgment rather than according to the dictates of prejudice. An attempt to suppress the publication of the opinions of one side or the other is an unwarranted interference with this freedom of thought. In the long run it is a two-edged sword, as were such a policy generally sanctioned, the views of one party would be suppressed in one publication, the views of the opposing party in another and the

net result would be that both parties would be given less opportunity to express their viewpoint and the people would have just that much less opportunity to study the questions before the country. Farm and Dairy reserves the right to espouse any cause in which the interests of the farmer predominate, but we must refuse to totally suppress the views, even of the parties with which we disagree. We could not be true to democratic ideals and do otherwise.

The Seed Outlook

TO order seeds early will be good business this year. This advice applies to seeds of both foreign and domestic origin. Our supplies of foreign seed, principally roots and vegetables, have been steadily growing scarcer since the war commenced. Originally we depended almost altogether for root and vegetable seed on Germany and the Scandinavian countries, but, principally on the former. These supplies have now largely been shut off. Stronous endeavors have been made, with the cooperation of the Departments of Agriculture, to increase the home grown output and, as a result, the production of root and vegetable seed in Canada and the United States has been wonderfully stimulated. We are still, however, far from making up the deficiency caused by the shutting off of European supplies. Prices will be higher next spring than they were last spring, and in many cases the seed will be of poorer quality; perhaps even then there will not be enough to go around.

In the case of home grown seeds, the greatest scarcity will be that of corn. A few weeks ago Farm and Dairy reported that there would be no surplus seed corn in the southwestern counties of Ontario and fuller information does not engender optimism as to the outlook for even a small supply of home grown seed. Most of the seed corn for the 1918 crop will have to be imported from the United States. Even in that country, with a bumper crop of feeding corn, supplies of well matured seed corn are limited and prices are expected to reach new high record levels. In the case of spring wheat most Canadian farmers are happily situated if they have abundant supplies of their own.

The Real Test

WILLIAM J. FRASER, Professor of Dairy Farming at the University of Illinois, believes that the dairy farmer is now up against "the real test." In a recent issue of Hoard's Dairyman, Prof. Fraser writes:

Present conditions make imperative the elimination of all poor cows and heifers, but at the same time sound a warning against the slaughter of those which are productive, for the need of more good, efficient cows grows greater every day. Dairy farming now is up against the real test which haphazard dairying cannot withstand. There is but one wise way for dairymen to move at present and that is to weigh and test the milk of every cow in the herd often enough to determine her production, and then hang on to the good cows and their heifers and send the poor ones to the butcher."

This goes to the root of the situation. Conditions are changing and we must change with them. In the early days, when land was cheap and rich, anybody could grow good crops; farming was not a skilled occupation. Then land increased in price with the influx of population and the soil lost much of its virgin fertility. Farming became a skilled occupation and new methods were demanded, requiring the application of both brain and brawn. The evolution through which dairying is now passing is similar to the evolution in tillage methods just described. We must be more efficient in all our dairy work. Even more important is it that our cows be efficient producers. Not otherwise can we stay in the business with profit to ourselves. To quote further from Prof. Fraser:

"It is nothing short of a calamity to continue keeping poor cows and raising their heifers in these times of high feed prices and short food supply, and it is an even greater calamity to sacrifice the good, high productive cows and their heifers for new ones. We need the good cow so much as now."