



We Welcome Practical Progressives In Us

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land—Lord Chatham.

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A Venture in Live-Stock Prophecy

My Estimate of the Outlook for the Breeder—By Wade Toole, Prof. of Animal Husbandry, O.A.C., Guelph

PROPHESY or prediction is generally more or less dangerous policy and yet when such is applied to the future of the live stock business in a country like Canada the undertaking can scarcely be called a venture for there is little in it that is uncertain. We all believe in the future of Canadian Agriculture. We all know that Canada must continue to progress as a pre-eminently agricultural country. No one disputes these facts. Therefore, we know that the live stock business must for all time continue to flourish for live stock breeding and feeding is the foundation upon which progressive agriculture is built. "What we shall discuss, then, is the "Outlook for the Breeder."

Looking over the past and attempting to peer into the future the student of the live stock situation is compelled to conclude that bright things are in store for the breeder of good stock who understands and stays in his business. It never pays to be an in-and-outer in any legitimate business. Go, live, is a safe motto for the beginning, lead, don't stop is a motto for the average Canadian farmer business will have, in the future as it has had in the past, periods of depression but these will always be followed as they always have been by similar up and down and the live stock breeder has his feet to changing conditions just as is the case of the farmer in many another occupation. On the whole, however, prospects were never so bright for the breeder of high-class stock and no breeder should be satisfied with anything but the best.

Why are we led to believe that the Canadian breeder has such good business in store for him? Many are the reasons. When everyone is or has been talking war let us first see what effect the war is likely to have. Almost famino prices have for many months prevailed for table meats and dairy products of a high order. Breeding stock has been in great demand. Breeders, looking ahead, fully realize that some day prices are bound to drop to a certain extent, but they know that war conditions have depleted Europe of her breeding stock to such a degree that America must be looked to for large numbers of foundation breeding stock in the very near future. Up to the end of last year the decrease in live stock in France alone amounted to 2,599,900 head of cattle, 4,383,000 sheep and 14,000 hogs. In normal times France carries over fourteen million cattle, nearly seven million pigs, and about sixteen million sheep. Nearly one-third of her cattle are gone, away over one-third of her pigs, and much more than one-third of her sheep. Belgium's two million cattle and one and one-half million pigs are gone. Russia is practically starved of her million cattle and million pigs, together with nearly four million sheep have been stolen and slaughtered. Rumania is stripped bare. Even the United Kingdom has suffered and while we in America are consuming dairy products and meats less than half the normal supply. This means that when the war clouds clear away and transportation facilities are available Europe is sure to call upon America for more meat and dairy products for table use, and undoubtedly for breeding stock of all classes to rebuild her home supplies. Not only has the war affected the supplies of milk products and meat in the warring nations, but it has may towns of breeding hogs. In Denmark, the great bacon producing country, has only a small fraction of her usual holdings of breeding hogs. All nations are practising conservation to stave off starvation. And so it goes.

In Canada and the United States, under increased demands from Europe, it has been impossible to build up greater herds and flocks. High prices have prevailed and high prices, lasting over a period of years, tend to increased slaughter. For instance, 600,000 lbs. of beef a year to Europe. Last April alone, she exported over 13,000,000 lbs. Europe has been going very short of butter along with her products. I need not go further along this line. Readers will see on the face of it that demand for dairy products and meat must be great for years to come. Herds and flocks cannot be rebuilt in a breeder's world are putting forth every endeavor to increase their breeding stock the big markets will ever be hungry for more meat and milk. The ultimate end of all breeding effort is dairy products or the butcher's block. Demand for these products will always have an effect upon the demand for breeding stock. At present our numbers can they do so and meet the demands from Europe in the very near future? Not likely.

Some here are, vegetarians, perhaps, who prate about the changed tastes of people, tastes which have been forced upon them by the war and war prices for the products of the dairy and for meat. They say that people have learned to eat substit-

utes and will continue, and that the demand for milk, butter, cheese and meat will be injured. Non-sense! Did you ever see a man who had spent seven years in the frozen north where he had never seen a strawberry consume this luscious fruit when first he got out to where it was procurable? And I don't believe he enjoyed the berries any more than will those who have been sipping up, under a return to sweet, wholesome butter, clean milk, nourishing cheese, juicy steak, tender and toothsome leg of lamb. There is likely to be a great re-acton, and those people feel that they can have their fill of their favorite dishes that they can than likely to miss most of the substitutes good-by and return to their old friends.

It has not occurred to most of us that we have right here in Canada a rapidly increasing urban population, as compared to rural. These city dwellers must be fed. According to our own government statistics there was an actual decrease of 34,336 in Ontario's rural population from 1872 to 1912, while the urban population in the same time was increased 1,664,417. In ten years, therefore, the rural population of all Canada increased only 17.1 per cent, while the urban increased 62.2 per cent. The trend of population, even in this young country, is cityward and will continue to be so. No one should be fooled into thinking that the great majority of the returned soldiers will return to the farm. Not so. Large numbers of them will agree with the returned hero, who, when pressed to take up new land, replied: "What have I done to deserve such a penalty?" True, those who desire to do farm and have a taste for it should be encouraged, but the vast majority will more than likely choose intercourse and pleasure. After many months of hell the soldier will look for a few years for a place of comfort and amusement, and no one can blame him. What is said of Canada is true of the United States. City population in that country has for years been growing more rapidly than the production of the comparatively smaller numbers on the farm has been able to keep pace with. The danger marked. Home demands for choice dairy products and good meat are sure to be greater year after year.

The demand for meat and milk and the demand for breeding stock to replenish the herds and flocks purchased stock. He is the great improver. To him more rapid gains, by his efforts earlier maturity, economical production of milk and its products are made possible. He it is who has been responsible for the 20,000 lb. dairy records, the twelve-hundred-pound two-year-old steers, the two-hundred-pound six-months bacon hog, and the lamb you like so well. These could never have been without the purebred men who breed pure-bred stock.

Will the day ever come when the pure-bred stock will be so generally owned that there will be no extra necessity in their ownership? No such tendency is shown in a farm survey conducted in a good township in old Ontario it was found that only nine per cent of the farmers were breeding pure-bred sires. In another survey of conditions in a dairy district it was found that only slightly over fifty per cent of the dairymen keeping dairy milk records were using pure-bred sires, and the best records were using pure-bred sires, and the best prove that a good deal of mislabeled work is done necessary before all have seen the light. There is

Christmas: A Prayer

BE born anew dear Lord, be born again,
Unto the hunger of the sons
men!

Whose famine is too bitter to be fed
By any lower food than sacred bread,
We thirst for hope and tasting, drink
it not.

We choke for joy denied a barren lot.
We crave for love and starving thro
the dot.

That may or may not pay love's
price; for
Our trembling hands, infirm have lost
the wit
To give Thy holy cup, Lord give us
it!

Fill it with strength despaired of by
Fill it with brimming rest the weary
seek,

Out of the chalice let the lonely
drink,
Restrain the wild soul crouching on
Of shameful purposes, that he man
knows,

Watch Thou the desert where the
desperate goes!

Unto white hearts give purity anew;
And of the false the power to be
true;

Wipe away all tears from the eyes
And to all sorrowing hearts Thy comfort
speak,

Give us the friendly shrinking and
apart,
The happy throbbing of the Christ-
mas heart.

—Elizabeth Stuart Phelps.