

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 Dairymen's Associations and of the Canadian Holstein Cattle Breeders' Association.

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

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

THOSE IDLE HOURS

What are we going to do with our idle hours this winter? Now that the snow is on the ground and fall plowing, silo filling, corn husking and for the most part, threshing, at an end, we can afford to reduce pressure somewhat. Even on the dairy farm there will be more time on our hands than there has been for some months past. Are we going to read and plan, are we going to visit our friends, or are we going to put in our time in just plain "loafing?"

Calling on our friends is a first class way to put in time. We don't do enough of it. Family visiting is to be highly recommended. Also we deserve a little time to loaf after the hard work and long hours of the summer. But let us not forget that the profession of farming is one that requires much knowledge and thoughtful planning. In the rush of summer work we don't get much time for

either reading or planning, and we seem to get out of the habit of doing either. Spare hours this winter will give us the needed opportunity of adding to our knowledge and planning for the future. We are sure to reap big dividends on the time put in in this manner.

WHERE EDUCATION IS NEEDED

Over in the United States, farmers and farm papers are speculating as to who Woodrow Wilson will appoint to the position of Secretary of Agriculture. The present secretary, who has held this office under the Republican administration for sixteen years, is a strong man from the standpoint of production. Under his administration the United States Department of Agriculture has done much to disseminate agricultural information throughout the country. The researches of his subordinates along agricultural lines have brought much valuable information to light. The chief critic of Secretary Wilson is that he has entirely neglected the selling end. He has been too prone to believe that all of the economic ills of the farmer will be ended when he learns to produce more economically. The attribute most desired in the new secretary, when he is appointed, is well summed up in a recent issue of The Nebraska Farmer as follows:

"The biggest problems in agriculture now are economic ones, and it would be a calamity to have a secretary of agriculture during the next four years who could see nothing but the production side."

What of the situation in Canada?

We believe that our Departments of Agriculture may be criticized for exactly the same failing as has drawn on Secretary Wilson the rebukes of the farm press of the United States. Here in Canada, it costs us almost as much to market our produce as does to produce it. We believe that our Departments of Agriculture, Dominion and Provincial, would do much more good by encouraging the formation of cooperative marketing societies and in disseminating information along marketing lines, than they will by devoting their chief energies to encouraging larger production. Education along production lines is all very well and we cannot get too much of it, provided it is well directed, but education on production, unless it is accompanied by information as to the marketing of what we produce, will do little to render farming more prosperous.

WHY THEY GO WEST

The importance of high land values as a factor in explaining why there are 100,000 less people in rural Ontario than there were 10 years ago, was well illustrated by a conversation overheard by an editor of Farm and Dairy at the recent Ontario Fruit Growers' Convention in Toronto.

"And where has Walt gone?" one farmer enquired of another, as they discussed the friends they had both known down in Oxford county.

"Oh, he has gone West," was the reply. "He was a hard working fellow, but you know he was a tenant and he said he couldn't pay the rent and still give a decent living to his wife and children. They say he's doing well out West."

"Walt," apparently a hard-working, self-respecting and ambitious citizen, had been driven out of Ontario by the same factor that is driving thousands of others out of Ontario—high land values. This little conversation with variations has probably been repeated in every blacksmith shop and cross roads grocery store in rural Ontario. With land values as high as they are in our best farming sections, it is next to impossible for the farmer with average knowledge and average ability to pay interest or rent as the case may be, pay for his hired help, the feed and fertilizer that he may buy, and then have enough left to pay himself a decent living wage. Is it any wonder that tenant farmers, farmers whose places are heavily mortgaged, and young men who are starting in without farms and with little capital, are flocking to the cheap lands of the West where all of their profits will not be absorbed by the landlord or mortgage holder?

THE NEIGHBOR'S SMILE

"Do you grow alfalfa?" we recently asked an Eastern Ontario dairyman.

"No," replied he, "I don't; but I would like to give it a trial. The trouble is that if I fail, the neighbors will have the laugh on me."

This is a reply characteristic of many that we hear when farmers are asked as to why they have not adopted progressive methods, which we know they favor. Too many would-be progressive farmers fear the scorn of their stand-pat neighbors, and rather than give them an opportunity to laugh at them, they toll along in the same deep rut as those around them.

We need to take council with our courage and not with our fear. Success does not come from thinking what our neighbors may say or do, but by making our conclusions carefully and then following them out resolutely. When Jas. Sangster down at Ormstown, Quebec, bought the first Holstein in the country, he was ridiculed on every hand. His neighbors now look back on him as one of the truly great men of their district. Jas. Rettie, in Oxford county, Ontario, bought Holsteins when a person who invested in black and whites was not considered right in the head. Oxford county is now known as one of the great Holstein centres of Canada. R. R. Ness got but little encouragement when he decided in favor of the Ayrshire, but he braved all ridicule, and to-day he is the best known and one of the most respected men in the Chateauguay district of Quebec, the greatest Ayrshire centre on the American continent. When W. H. Gibson, down on the Ontario Lake front, put in 20 acres of orchard, his father left the

farm, and his neighbors did their best to dissuade him from making such a foolish expenditure. Mr. Gilbert is now one of the largest apple growers in Ontario, his income runs into thousands of dollars a year, and the whole section is being devoted more and more to orcharding. We could cite many more instances that have come directly under our observation, in which men who, regardless of the smiles of their neighbors, followed out their convictions, and have come out on top.

There are many young men, and old men, too, who in the dawning of this new year of 1913, would like to branch out into some form of agriculture more remunerative and more interesting than the farming of their fathers; also there are almost sure to be some who, by their smiles, will endeavor to withhold the progressive ones from their good purpose. Let us remember in the carrying out of our New Year's resolutions that "he who laughs last laughs longest," and in the long run our neighbors will be following in line with us in our new venture.

The Evil of Land Speculation

Land speculation is one of the greatest hindrances to progress in Canada to-day. This is true in both East and West. In discussing Western problems in a recent issue of the Grain Growers' Guide, Mr. Geo. F. Chipman, the editor, gives the land question first consideration, placing it even ahead of the tariff. He writes: "The land question is one which affects with great seriousness every citizen of the Prairie Provinces. At the present time land speculators, many of whom have no real business in Canada, are putting in their pockets at a moderate estimate at least \$50,000,000 yearly. It is nothing uncommon to meet a man in the Western cities who has 'made' from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 in the space of three or four years through land speculation. Thousands are doing it on a smaller scale, yet none of these speculators have given one dollar's worth of value in return for this vast sum of money."

"All of the value in the land was created by the presence of the people, and in proportion as the speculator pockets what he does not earn so the farmer and worker are cheated. They are not allowed to pocket. The peculiar result of conditions is that in this country where millions of acres of virgin land that is there are millions of acres of unused land lying close to the railways, but a farmer who wishes to use this land is not permitted to do so until he has paid tribute to the 'dog in the manger' speculator."

"Every one can see the facts as set forth above, but not every one realizes to what an extent the land problem complicates every other problem in this country. Immigration is pouring into this country at an enormous rate. Thousands and tens of thousands of farmers and their families are forced to go from fifteen to a hundred miles from the railway to get cheap or free land when there is room and to spare to give each family plenty of land within ten or twelve miles of the railway lines. The hardship thus imposed upon the women and children on the frontier is often times desperate. Domestic help in such cases cannot be secured. There are no nurses in such places to assist at maternity, and