

Farm and Dairy

AND
Rural Home

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

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

The Pure Bred Sire

TWO splendid illustrations of the value of the pure-bred sire have come to our attention in the past month, one of them afforded by the dairy test at Guelph, the other by some experimental work conducted in the State of Iowa.

At Guelph, four of the six cows that stood highest in general standing in the three-day public tests were grades. In all cases these grade cows came from sections where good pure-bred sires were available. It is possible that the winning grade cow was a pure-bred whose papers have been neglected, but the others, who stood almost as high, were genuine grades with just one or two top crosses of Holstein blood. As a result of this infusion of strong producing blood, however, the grand-daughter of very ordinary cows competed successfully with the pick of the pure-bred producers of the country. Their merit was due altogether to the merit of their sires.

At the Iowa Experiment Station, a start was made with scrub cows. The first cross of pure blood resulted in increased production in the daughters of 94 per cent. for milk and 62 per cent. for fat, while in the second generation the increase amounted to 245 per cent. for milk and 168 per cent. for fat. The daughter of one scrub cow that gave 161 lbs. of fat produced herself a total of 251 lbs. of fat, while the grand-daughter produced 451 lbs. of fat. This increase can be attributed only to the sires.

We do not wish to be understood as arguing for the grade cow as against the pure-bred. Without the presence of pure-bred herds in the country, good grade herds would not be possible. The man who is fitted by nature to handle pure-bred cattle should have them. They are the source of all herd improvement, and successful breeders are the salt of the dairy industry. But for the average

dairy farmer the safest and surest road to greater production is by way of the pure-bred sire and a grading up of the herd already on hand.

Chinese Labor

THE labor problem will bulk larger and larger in the public eye as the war goes on. The demand for cheaper labor is becoming insistent. Manufacturers, contractors, transportation companies, and even farmers, are now turning their eyes toward the Orient and asking why the great surplus of labor there cannot be utilized in our factories, mines and fields. This demand is usually equipped with a rider to the effect that all of this imported oriental labor should be transported back to their own country immediately the war is over.

Such a solution of our labor difficulties should not be considered seriously until the whole problem has been given the most mature consideration. On its very face, the introduction of oriental labor looks dangerous. The United States once solved the difficult labor problem in the cotton fields of the south by importing negroes from Africa. She solved the labor problem, but she has not yet solved the negro problem, although because of it she has passed through a civil war which, up to August, 1914, was the bloodiest in all history. Even at present, the Asiatic problem is causing much heartburning on the Pacific coast, where Chinese and Japanese laborers are most numerous and come into strongest competition with white labor. We already have a racial problem in Canada. Would it be wise to add another problem of the kind, but with an Asiatic flavor?

A Real Danger

M. R. E. C. DEURY has called attention to a very real danger which confronts the food producer in connection with the fixing of maximum prices on food products. Maximum prices come as a result of the demands of city people who find their voice through the city press. The granting of their demands in one direction is an incentive to them to redouble their efforts to secure maximum prices on still other food commodities. It is safe to say that once maximum prices have been secured on all of the leading articles of food, the same influence will then be directed to securing reductions in the prices already established. Should there be a period of depression and unemployment after the war, this demand for cheaper food would grow in intensity and there is a very real danger that maximum prices might be reduced below the level of cost of production.

This reasoning is in line with all human experience. The more we get the more we want. Every surrender of the food controller and his advisors to the demands of the city public, far from satisfying the consumer, will merely cause him to continue his demands for still further favors. For this reason farmers should exert themselves to the uttermost in opposing every infringement of their right to sell their goods on a free market. Failing this, we would be justified in demanding that price fixing be extended to goods of city manufacture and to the wages of labor.

Safeguarding the Show Herd

THE fair has long been recognized as a possible source of tubercular infection. Every cattle breeder who exhibits at fall and winter fairs runs a risk of his best animals becoming infected when on the show grounds with tuberculosis. In recent years a few fair boards in the United States have recognized the danger and have ruled that no cattle shall be shown at their fairs unless the exhibitor can guarantee that all his animals have successfully passed the tuberculin test.

These Fair Boards are pioneers in a movement that will soon be general among fair executives. Breeders themselves will soon be demanding the protection that such a ruling gives them. Already there are instances on record of exhibitors who keep their herds clean by using the tuberculin test regularly, finding that some of their best animals have reacted on the return from the show circuit. Others are wary of exhibiting their animals at public fairs because of the increasing demand of buyers that their whole herds be clean and because of the ever narrowing market for the tuberculin animal due to provincial and state regulations such as have been adopted in British Columbia and several states of the United States. We believe we are safe in predicting that it will not be many years before an "open" fair will not be tolerated by exhibitors. Fair Boards will be wise to cooperate with breeders when the demand comes for them to "clean up."

Saskatchewan's Suggestion

IN Saskatchewan the people believe that land which is held vacant is a detriment to the community and country, and that this is especially true in times such as these when it is important that every possible acre shall be placed under cultivation. Three years ago the Province of Saskatchewan placed a tax of six and one quarter cents an acre on vacant land. In 1914 this produced a revenue of \$756,000, in 1915 \$719,000, and last year a revenue of \$659,000. The decline in the annual returns to the Government was due to more and more land being placed under cultivation and thus there was less idle land to tax.

Food Controller Hanna is anxious that the people of Canada shall increase production. If he could only realize it he could do more to accomplish this result by inducing the Government to remove the tariff taxes on agricultural implements and machinery and on the other articles farmers must buy and substitute instead a tax on vacant land. This would be a fundamental reform that would do much more to accomplish results than any step the Government has yet taken.

Why Rural Depopulation

IN a recent circular, issued by the Toronto Milk and Cream Producers' Association, the following paragraph may be taken as indicative of the farmers' attitude toward the economic problem of the day:

"For many months there has been a campaign urging farmers to increase production. If the returns from the farm were made more profitable so that the farmer should receive fair wages for himself and his family and a reasonable percentage on his investment there would be no such need to urge an increase in production, because in such case the farmer could afford to pay more and secure more and better labor by increasing wages and lessening the hours of labor. The reasons so many leave the farms may be summed up as follows: Long hours, hard work, and lower wages than are paid to labor in other employments."

It is refreshing to find the executive of such an extremely practical organization of farmers as the Toronto Milk and Cream Producers' Association, giving voice to sentiments such as these. Not so many years ago we can all remember when every ill of the farming industry was attributed to poor methods of farming and small production. Now we know that the trouble lies deeper and that the rural problem is not to be solved by installing bath tubs in farm homes, growing bigger crops, improving country roads or by any other of the score of palliatives that once found so many advocates. Rural depopulation would never have become a fact and the present plea for greater production would never have been necessary, had the farmer been given a square deal and a fair field along with the other industries of the land.