

MILK PRODUCTION OR BEEF

Plea For Dry Stock Industry

CASE FOR 200 GALLON COW

Address To County Limerick Farmers

"Why the Creamery Industry is Being Abolished" was the title of a lecture delivered to some Young Farmers Clubs in County Limerick recently by Mr. Liam Barry, of the Kilmallock Club. The lecturer made a plea for the dry stock industry and the keeping of the 200 to 300 gallon Aberdeen Angus or Hereford cows required only for breeding stores "and cut out the costly and laborious idea of milking." In that way, he argued, less food would be needed for the cows, and so much fertility would not be drawn off the land "at great expense and labour." The following is the lecture in full:—

Butter at its present price is not profitable for the producer, is too expensive for the consumer, and costs the Exchequer 2½ million pounds a year. The dairy industry is unsatisfactory for producer, consumer and State, has been so for about 20 years, and there are no prospects of improvement. The logical thing to do, therefore, is to abolish the industry, and this is being done systematically for the past 25 years.

It is not necessary to quote figures showing the definite downward trend during this period. If the industry were abolished outright or too quickly, there was nothing to fill the void, substitute the employment given, or save the Government responsible from much unpopularity, so according as the process of abolition moved too quickly, our governments wisely slowed up the movement by a suitable subsidy, which was never sufficient to revive the industry, or place it on a competitive basis with other systems of farming, but which, however, was really effective in keeping it from passing away too fast.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS NO ADVICE.

Supposing that the Government did really wish to revive the dairy industry, it needed no advice as to what to do. It knows quite well what has been done in every county where there is a flourishing dairy industry, and, indeed, our Department of Agriculture has already a quarter of a century's experience in operating a plan which would excel any foreigner in ingenuity; all it need do is, *mutatis mutandis*, substitute "milk" and "Jersey" for "beef" and "Shorthorns" in its Livestock Breeding Act, which has so quickly secured for us a monopoly of the British store trade. There could be no undue injustice in this step, seeing that the reverse is the order for a quarter of a century, and it would create the necessary confidence in a dairying future, and much of our rich land in the dairying areas and in the Midlands would promptly turn to dairying.

The Minister for Agriculture has made it quite clear that if a case could be made showing that the farmer lost 200 gallons a year through keeping a Shorthorn rather than a Friesian cow, there seemed to be an unanswerable case for paying him the price of 200 gallons of milk for continuing to keep a Shorthorn cow in the national interest. It did not occur to the Minister that in such circumstances the farmer should be encouraged to keep a Friesian cow, because the Government is willing to pay you indefinitely for being inefficient with a Shorthorn cow, rather than incur any risk that intense dairying as carried on in Denmark and New Zealand with a view to maintaining or acquiring denser populations, might make the use of land too profitable here and therefore a menace to our livestock trade.

BEEF STANDARDS.

You are, therefore, obliged by law to keep cows bred according to beef standards in the acknowledged interests of the nation. In pursuing a purely milk system you are stubbornly resisting State policy, and you cannot successfully resist the State. It is much easier to swim with the tide before you become utterly exhausted.

You all know of several farms, comprising 200 to 300 gallons of milk

slightly over one-half the food and practically no attention. Moreover, this 200 gallons of fertility is not drawn off at great expense and labour and carted for sale to a creamery, and even if skin is subsequently fed on the farm, it is doubtful if one-fourth of the manurial value is returned to the land. On the contrary, under the recommended system the yield in the form of 200 gallons of fertility is returned directly to the soil, and so increases vastly the carrying capacity of the farm, for the purpose of producing a 2-year-old beef heifer superior in quality and value to our present 3 or 4 year-old stag, which has been reared on the skins from the creamery. Indeed, the ideal answer to our present policy is not, as you are told, an 800-gallon cow drawing so much fertility off the land, but two four-hundred gallon two-calf cows adding to the land's fertility. It is a very conservative estimate that the present stupid 24-cow farmer, employing two men and a girl at a cost of over 1400 a year, could, off the same land, market at least twenty-four well finished, home-reared, fat beasts per annum at 150 or 160 each, or 1,200 to 1,440 per annum, from which he need only pay rent and rates. He could also expand his business through renting any adjoining farms which offered

KEEP ONE MORE COW.

The best system is, therefore, to keep one more cow but do not kill or sell her calf to the man who can beat you in bidding for your neighbour's land, for you make a present of the profit if you do. You lose through producing more milk and less beef, while the other fellow gains by producing no milk and all beef. Rather, then, keep one more calf and one more cow to produce that calf.

Our Government has of late secured a very valuable trade agreement with Britain which makes the production of beef as compared with that of milk more profitable than ever in history. If last year you barely existed as against the drystock man who had a bumper year, there is every indication that 1949 and 1950 will be still more favourable for drystock. Your over-heads and labour are likely to increase, while those of drystock are static.

Other advantages of this commonsense system of farming are that you are no longer slaves. You are not tied Sunday and Monday, night and morning, to your byres. Instead of using your creamery cheques to maintain labourers, tradesmen and shopkeepers, together with their families, you will raise your standard of living by buying imported motor cars and luxuries and so increase our adverse trade balance, the need for fostering further our drystock exports, and hence your own prosperity. You will not have labour troubles and strikes. You will have modern standards of comfort and ample leisure and a better life than any of your fellows in towns. You will have ample time to organise yourselves and study public affairs; you will be accepted in society as leisurely gentlemen, and acquire valuable political influence by drifting into all political parties and backing them financially so that whatever party comes to power, you will be able to secure, protect and further your interests.

DRY STOCK IN THE GOOD

ROAD TRAGEDY

Aged Man's Death

EVIDENCE AT INQUEST

Dr. M. J. O'Connor, Kilmallock, Deputy Coroner for East Limerick, and a jury, held an inquest at the Co. Hospital, Croom, touching the death of George Simpson, pensioner, aged 71 years, of Oola, who died at the Co. Hospital, Croom, on the 26th April, 1948, following injuries received in a collision with a cyclist at Oola on the 22nd April.

Dr. B. Houlihan, house surgeon, Co. Hospital, Croom, stated in evidence that deceased was admitted to the hospital on the 22nd of April, and was unconscious. He (Dr. Houlihan) examined him on admission and found that deceased had a two inch wound on the temple, and some abrasions on the hands. He remained unconscious until he died on the 26th of April at the hospital. On the instructions of the Coroner, witness performed a post-mortem examination, and found that death was caused by pneumonia, due to laceration of the brain, and haemorrhage.

Patrick Ryan, Lattin, Co. Tipperary, brother-in-law of deceased, gave evidence of identification, and stated in evidence that he last saw his brother-in-law about two months previous to the accident, and that he (deceased) was then in good health.

James Coghessy, Cologogue, Pallasgreen, stated, in evidence—"I am a caretaker, about 35 years of age, at Cologogue. I travelled to Limerick Junction races by bicycle on April 22nd. There was nobody with me until I caught up with Michael Ryan and another man, on the road. We stopped at Oola at a public-house and had about three pints of stout each; we then travelled to the races. After leaving the races I returned to Oola, arriving there at about 5.30 p.m., and called to Ryan's public-house for a drink. Michael Ryan and another man were at the bar when I called. Ryan and I had about three or four half-pints. We left (Ryan and witness) at about 7.30 p.m. We got up on our bikes outside the public-house and proceeded home."

"I was travelling on my own side of the road and Ryan was on my right, cycling near the centre of the road. We were travelling at a very moderate pace, and there was no other traffic on the road at the time. Coming towards the Catholic Church in Oola, an old man crossed the road. He had a jug in his hand. He was about two or three yards in front of me when I saw him. Michael Ryan was about one yard behind me, to my right-hand side. I had no difficulty whatsoever in passing the old man. Having passed out the old man I heard Michael Ryan give a shout, and I also heard a crash. I looked back and got off my bicycle. I then saw the old man lying on his face on the road. Michael Ryan was standing alongside the man, who was lying down. The fallen man was about three-quarter ways across the road on my side."

Questioned by Dr. O'Connor, Acting Coroner, witness stated that Simpson was unconscious and made no move. He was lying on his face, with his head facing towards where he (witness) dismounted. There was a broken jug under the body, and he was bleeding from one of his eyes. Ryan and witness and another man took deceased into his own house and witness reported the matter to the Guards. Both Ryan and witness were sober. The accident occurred at about 8.30 p.m. (summer time).

Sergeant John Blake, Garda Stochana, Oola, gave evidence of the measurements of the road, which he stated was about 30 feet wide.

The jury returned a verdict that death was due to pneumonia, caused by laceration of the brain, following a collision with a cyclist.

The Coroner, on behalf of himself, Inspector Byrnes, G.S., and the jury, expressed sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL.

ABBEEFEALE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS.

Tenders are invited from competent Public Works Contractors for

LIMERICK LEADER

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1948.

Things That Matter

Memoirs of politicians who have become prominent world figures are invariably interesting. They are as a rule also very illuminating as information as to what can happen behind the scenes in the sphere of international relations. They usually give a "clear-up" of villainy in high places and of intrigues in which the fate of peoples count for little or nothing.

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Mr. Winston Churchill's memoirs and reminiscences of the two world wars are a startling and disgusting revelation of the horrors brought upon mankind through the manoeuvrings and indecencies of statesmen who may well be described as criminals in view of their deplorable conduct. What amazes one is the candour with which details are given of the playing for power and privilege and the utter disregard of the interests of justice and honour shown in pursuing such mean and selfish purposes.

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Ordinary shame seems to have played no part whatever in the power-politics of most of those who have had the fate of humanity in their hands for several decades back. This is clearly the conclusion forced upon any right-minded person who has been reading in the *Irish Independent* of late the articles from the writings of Mr. Churchill. These instalments make it abundantly clear that in nearly all the parleys, interviews and negotiations referred to the principles of right were almost completely ignored.

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No hesitation was shown, it appears, in "throwing a small state to the wolves," as Mr. Churchill himself has phrased it. In April 1938, for instance, "an Anglo-Italian agreement was signed giving Italy, in effect, a free hand in Abyssinia and Spain in return for imponderable value of Italian good will in Central Europe." This agreement was the result of a desire by Britain to "make a settlement with Italy in the Mediterranean." In plain language, Britain was ready to throw both Abyssinia and Spain "to the wolves" in order to further her own interests.

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Germany at that time was anxious to get a footing in Czechoslovakia and contemplated action against that country. Italy, France and Britain were interested and they decided, for what they thought best suited themselves, "to persuade the Czechs to be reasonable." In other words, the Western powers mentioned were quite prepared to have the territory and the liberties of another nation trampled upon for their own ends. There was no such thing as deciding the rights or the wrongs of the question, their whole attitude being shaped and governed by their respective self-interests.

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The particular fact to bear in mind in connection with

CEMENT

Case

THE R

Work O

The Irish Transport Workers' Union, in case for an increase in wages to the Labour Union of 150 workers, Central Factory, in possession that had the Union and the Company stated that demand represented 17.5 per cent. The Company's offer of living had 5.7 per cent since the was given to the 20th April, 1947. The Company submitted they could be asked wages was 5.7 per cent on this submission statement went on:

"On the basis of it was contended that firm could do was to 5.7 per cent."

"We then directed the formula provided between the Federated players, the Congress and British against the Labour Court's pointed out that in view that the majority of indicated their acceptance statement of p feeling the formula had expect a firm of Cement, Ltd. to agree to an increase week is provided for note."

"DIFFERENT"

"We added that our in this case for having claim in excess of the to the fact that the existing between the Co and Drogheda works been a matter of routine, and we were under narrow down still further our differential."

"The Company's reply replied that in their of was no obligation on the 117 increase through formula, and in any event industry was strictly covered were unable to conce create in excess of an 5.7 per cent on existing."

"In respect of the figures showing the increase of living, we will mark that our members themselves in difficulty attempted, when their wage due, to inform their present, etc., that the had merely advanced by 5 and in consequence they no more."

"It is quite futile to the real cost of living advanced by a parties arrived at by reference figures, and it is significant when the Company's offer challenged did they find own economy that the had evolved representative create in the cost of living they were silent on the m

WAGE HISTORY OF V CONCERNED.

"We attach herewith setting out the wage history workers concerned, and some details in respect of who have been granted th of 11/2 per week."

Employment, Wo
ESB.
Fertilizer Industry
Packing Case Manufactur
Fuel Importers
Coal Trade
Wexford Gas Co.
Wexford Traders
Millinery Manufacture
Shipping Carters & Store
Structural Steel
Master Carriers

"The above represent fraction of the cases"