

comparatively recent development—he buys on the seller's terms and sells on the buyer's terms.

Legislation will not cure the fundamental difficulty of the farmer's position. He himself by his own efforts must work the cure. Certain legislation has helped and will help to clear the way for effective measures of selfhelp. The mere machinery created by legislation will not function unless the power of intelligent direction and co-operation is applied.

The real solution must rest on the transformation of the farmer as a class from mere tiller of the soil into a business man, fitted and empowered to control his own industry as other business men control theirs—plus the realization on the part of those not engaged in agriculture that the farmer is a most essential part of our economic organization and is entitled to the treatment of an equal.

The farmer must have a greater control over the marketing of his own products, a control approaching at least that which is exercised by producers of other commodities over the marketing of their products. This is a difficult task.

Wise, intelligent co-operation between farmers and men in other lines of industry—all business men—will extend and strengthen the power of the farmer to help himself. (*Country Gentleman*—U. S. A.) reproduced.

(From Journal of Jamaica Agricultural Society—June 1927.)

HOW THE DUTCHMAN LIVES.

BY T. J. MANSHOLT, THE HAGUE.

In his interesting book published seventeen years ago, Mr. Robertson Scott called us "Free farmers in a Free State." This characterisation of our farmers is still absolutely correct.

As to the land, in more than half of the country, from day to day, from year to year, from century to century, our farmers have had of course to fight against water. Nearly 35 per cent of the surface of our country is alluvial. This explains the great fertility.

A great part of the land along the North Sea coast, below the level of the sea, was originally peat moor. In olden times the peat was removed and used for fuel; what remained was constantly flooded and lakes were formed which especially in the 16th and 17th centuries were pumped dry by windmills, leaving very fine pastures. It is clear that in such circumstances it was hard work to shut off the high tide of the sea and the floods of the rivers and also to keep the land free from all the water the rain left behind. This could not be done by individuals, only by co-operation throughout large districts. The State did not organise this co-operative system of fighting the water. The system was at work a thousand years ago by private initiative. This drilling in of co-operation has been of great value to us.

The expense of maintaining the advantage which has been gained over the water is high, in several districts from 10 shillings to a pound an acre.

In most parts, human efforts have succeeded in gaining sufficient control over the water level to keep it at the desired height the whole year round. This marsh soil being of great natural fertility, not only is a high production per acre obtained but the crop is regular and reliable. In abnormally dry seasons, as in 1911 and in 1921 when the crops of potatoes, vegetables, hay etc., in a greater part of Western Europe were insufficient, Holland has been a storehouse.

The damp climate, the low level of our country and the natural fertility of our soil account for the great development of the dairy industry. Arable land occupies 27 per cent of the country, permanent pasture 38 per cent. But these figures do not give a correct idea of the importance of pasture. Most of the best soil is in meadows. There are great districts in the western and northern parts of the country where not a single acre of arable is to be found but only absolutely flat, square meadows of about 5 to 10 acres, never touched by plough, where you seldom see a horse, but, instead innumerable quantities of milch cattle and occasionally some sheep and pigs.

During the last 50 years cattle breeding, cultivation and dairying have been subject to such great technical improvements

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that, notwithstanding the ever increasing population and consumption, the export surplus of dairy products has kept going up. Although since 1900 the population has increased from 5 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions the export of butter has gone up from 22,000 to 45,000 tons; of cheese from 47,000 to 84,000 tons and of condensed milk from nothing to 148,000 tons. The fact that Holland with all its handicaps is the greatest exporter of cheese proves how much the production of food can be increased.

It is remarkable that this high production is possible in a country where most of the farms are comparatively small. Large estates are not to be found. In the meadow districts, the size of the farms is mostly between 40 and 100 acres. The cattle are out of doors from the middle of April to the end of October.

That agricultural production has been lifted to such a high level is due not only to the practical skill of the farmers but also to the excellent organisation of agricultural instruction by the State. It is now possible for every farmer's son to enjoy technical farm training and for the farmers to obtain sound advice about all sorts of things without spending much. Conditions are such that a young farmer who has not attended an agricultural winter school or has not at least been at a winter course is not taken seriously by his fellows. Consequently the younger generation of farmers no longer holds on to the old fashioned working methods of its forbears but eagerly applies each improvement. For example, no country in the world uses more artificial manure per acre than the Netherlands.

It is noteworthy that in a country where small farmers, not strong in capital, form the backbone of agriculture, the breeds of cattle should have been worked up to such a high standard. In other countries the progress in agriculture specially in the cattle breeding line is mostly the work of a few expert large farmers specially interested in this branch of farming, who face a large expenditure to attain their aims. In our country such fancy farms are not to be found. It must be borne in mind that breeders have always been influenced by economic considerations. A Dutch farmer cannot indulge in the luxury of breeding fancy cattle. Experience taught him that *raising milk production to an abnormal height would in the long run give a smaller financial result if attention were not simultaneously given to constitution.*

Neither does our country set great value on artificially screwed up high milk production of individual animals especially when the fat percentage is not taken into account. One shrugs one's shoulders when one reads of the fuss that is made in England about so-called "2000 (sometimes even 3000) gallon cows.

We attach great importance to milk testing. More than 65 per cent of the milk cows in Friesland are regularly tested. Not only the milk production but the fat percentage is regularly determined and in selecting breeding cattle, greater importance is attached to the latter than to the former. By applying this method the average production of milk cows inscribed in the Friesian herd-book has been raised from 4'357 kilos in 1912 to 4.586 kilos in 1924 and the fat percentage from 3.20 to 3.52 per cent and the production of butter from 150 to 175 kilos within the same period.

We have no duties on agricultural products.

(From the Countryman, July 1927).

LAND POLICY IN EAST AFRICA.

The Governors who recently met in conference at Nairobi submitted a memorandum. It reads as follows:—

Land (i) There are those lands which were indubitably unoccupied and unclaimed at the time when British Government was established. (ii) There are those lands to which only there was a doubtful claim. (iii) There are lands effectively occupied by a large and settled native population. These lands mentioned in (iii) should clearly be reserved to its original native owners. In (i) and (ii) sufficient land for their own use should be secured to the native tribes originally sprinkled or wandering over it but the rest is clearly the property of the British Government to develop in the manner which it considers most suitable and effective.