

## A DAIRYMAN'S FIRST DUTY.

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Sometime ago when consulting Superintendent McKerrow concerning the Institute speakers of our corps being called to other states, he remarked that occasionally he liked to have his workers avail themselves of such an opportunity to bring back knowledge that might be helpful to the people of Wisconsin. Since then, while doing work outside our boundaries, I have watched eagerly for any stray bits of wisdom that might be useful in our own state. A few weeks ago I enjoyed the honor and pleasure of attending a meeting similar to this in the city of St. Thomas, Canada. And while I gave careful attention to all scientific methods advocated for the betterment of dairying during the course of the regular program, the most pleasing impression was received when, at the close of the day's work the audience and workers together arose and, amid the waving of tiny flags, sang to the air of our own America, "God save our gracious King." As I stood lost in admiration of those strong, earnest and intellectual faces I felt as never before my own insignificance—I, an American woman, who had ever been taught to regard a Republic as the most desirable form of government. And now I saw before me what I had never seen in my own land,—the loyal benediction offered up after a day's labor in a heart-felt devotion to king and country. And while the dairy interests of our state have reached the gratifying figures of \$55,000,000, there is yet a subject of more vital import even to the dairymen of this state, and that is a fostering of loyalty and respect to a country where greed and self-aggrandizement is fast blotting out the finer qualities of many a noble nature; where shrewd cunning is too often regarded in the light of profound business knowledge, and where the sentiments of loyalty and honor are seemingly manifest only in the pages of by-gone history. For, without a stable government, the live-stock or any other interests will be based on so insecure

a foundation that few will have the courage or ambition to put forth their best efforts in providing for the uncertainties of a clouded future.

No claims of the mother country were ever more oppressive or exasperating than the unjust, selfish demands of the trusts and monopolies of today; no manacles of bondage so cruelly galling as the edicts of the labor organizations that dictate alike to employer and employe.

Where is our boasted freedom? And what constitutes our cherished liberty? Were all the heroic lives laid down at Bunker Hill and Gettysburg sacrificed for naught? The women of our land are debarred the privilege of voting, and I very much doubt if many would care to exercise the right were they permitted to do so. But every woman may justly demand the right to be proud of the country in which she lives. And in the name of many mothers, wives and sweethearts, I ask you, men of influence and power, to see to it that, regardless of party or platform men of sufficient courage and character be chosen to grapple with the greatest and most humiliating danger that has yet threatened our Republic.

See to it that an appropriation at once be made, sufficiently large, to place conspicuously in every public room or building in our state the symbol of the freedom that we are supposed to enjoy and respect. Perhaps the very influence of the stars and stripes, mingled with our state motto, would serve to inspire the officials with a dignity and sentiment that would hold them above corruption. I would ask the members of this Association to use their best efforts to inculcate throughout the land a heart-felt loyalty of a steady, sturdy growth, rather than the mushroom quality that quickly springs into prominence when some slowly-developed evil at last culminates in a crisis; a business integrity that shall be rated above sordid profit; a sincerity of purpose that will be held in higher esteem than the mineral wealth or the over-flowing oil wells of our land; a standard of moral honor that must command the respect and confidence of the entire world.

Then, and not until then, in all truth may our country be called, "The land of the free and the home of the brave."