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EDITORIAL.

THE PROFESSOR, THE FARMER AND THE SCHOOL.

Over in the Empire State they have a voluntary organization called "The New York Farmers," a highly commendable club, where men like Chauncey M. Depew, J. Pierpont Morgan, White-law Reid, Wm. Rockefeller, Wm. K. Vanderbilt, W. Seward-Webb, Joseph H. Choate, John S. Barnes, Francis R. Appleton and others meet from time to time to discuss with some of the foremost experts of the country certain aspects of farming which concern them in the management of their country places. The American is intensely practical. When he takes to farming, even for recreative objects primarily, he wants it to "go" successfully and give him a good net return in satisfaction and likely money. These shrewd millionaire agriculturists, like other farmers, make discoveries, and one of these is that it is difficult to get farm managers with the requisite combination of knowledge, capacity and integrity. When they advertise for managers they receive applications in plenty, but the deficiencies of the men appear to show themselves in one or more of the three directions specified in the foregoing sentence. They lack the technical knowledge, for example, of how the roots and limbs of a fruit tree should be pruned before planting; they do not know enough to make the soil yield its increase; or though very completely endowed with technical or scientific knowledge, they have not the natural capacity developed by actual experience in farm management; and others unhappily tainted with the infection of "graft," or, to be plain, thievery, have been standing in with horse-dealers and bleeding the funds of the estate or buying bulbs at \$5 per hundred and charging the estate \$10 therefor.

In the admirable records of the club we find that the members have been discussing this particular subject at one of their meetings where Professor Powell, of Cornell University, was present and delivered a suggestive address. The Agricultural Colleges, he said, were turning out many young men, but frequently they were specialists. They are seized upon by the great business demands of the country, particularly in chemistry, and taken in every direction but upon the land, so that, he said, "we are without trained men at the present time for the responsible work of handling hundreds of acres, or even a few acres of land," and in view of the fact that the demand is so much in advance of the supply, he suggested farm training schools where men could obtain the necessary equipment, say in two years, instead of four. Now, upon that point we ought to say that just as in the case of Agricultural College graduates, unless they have the requisite age and actual farm experience as a groundwork upon which to build, there will inevitably be disappointments. But it does seem to us that to turn out students who can successfully run farms, specialized or general, is precisely the function in which the Agricultural College should shine. The successful conduct of a farm, large or small, is a complicated problem, and the reason many men get so little out of it is that they do not properly appreciate the task and the education required for its proper discharge.

This line of thought naturally brought Professor Powell to the very subject that has been receiving special attention in these columns—public-school education. He took the ground that the rural public-school training should be such as to retain in the country for its proper development some of the best blood, instead of having it all absorbed and ground out in the cities. We must begin, he

said, with the youth in the country school, giving them a training designed to awaken their love for nature, and from choice and adaptability they will find themselves becoming competent, intelligent and skillful men in the management of the land. He proposed to lay the foundation well in the English branches, expanding the system in a manner calculated to provide a wholesome adaptation to the needs of the individual. This discussion by "The New York Farmers" is simply additional testimony to the fact that on all sides, thoughtful men are discerning that our public-school machinery has been gradually adjusted and run, under the special stimulus of an examination system, to carry grist to what are called "the learned professions," instead of being conceived in the highest interests of the masses of the people who depend for their education upon the public school, the improvement of which should be the first duty of the State.

ONE HUNDRED PURE-BRED COWS UNDER "RECORD OF PERFORMANCE" TEST.

Within the year and a half or thereabouts that the system of official testing of pure-bred dairy cows has been carried on by the Dominion Department of Agriculture for such dairy breed societies as were willing to subscribe to the uniform rules and conditions proposed, a large number of cows have been entered for tests. The decision of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association at their last annual meeting to recognize tests conducted according to the proposed Government plan, and publish the names and records of animals qualifying in their Record of Merit as officially supervised tests, brought in the last important dairy-breed organization represented in Canada. Ayrshire, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey and French-Canadian breeders may now have cows so officially tested if they wish, and if their performance comes up to the prescribed standard for two-year-old, three-year-old, or mature cows of the breed, (the standard being in each case fixed by the breed association), and if in addition the animals prove regular breeders, dropping calves within fifteen months of the commencement of the test, then the name of every such heifer or cow will be published in a Record of Performance kept by the breed society, together with the facts of her yearly record.

Up till a very recent date the number of applications for cows to enter the test were 150 Ayrshires, 26 Holsteins, and 7 French-Canadians. Owing to various causes there are always some cows being withdrawn, due to being sold, falling prey to sickness or accident, or failing to do as well as the owner expected.

The number of heifers and cows whose tests are now being supervised by the Department is 70 Ayrshires, 26 Holsteins and 5 French-Canadians. About 20 Ayrshires have already qualified, having produced the necessary amount of milk and butter-fat to entitle them to registration in the Record of Performance for their breed, and each dropped a calf within fifteen months after the beginning of the testing period.

Attention of breeders is drawn to a change of rules that has come into force within the past year, in accordance with the expressed wish of breeders and the urgent representations of "The Farmer's Advocate."

It was originally provided that the owner of the cow should keep a daily record of her milk, and about the middle of each month take a composite sample from all milkings for three consecutive days and express them to an official tester as directed. The Government inspector would then visit him at least four times a year, and un-

announced, and would remain for two full days, weighing all the milkings and taking samples for test, which samples would form the basis for computing the average percentage of fat, the breeder's sample not being depended on for this purpose.

The new rules provide that the inspector shall visit the stable at least eight times during the year, and the owner is no longer required to take any composite sample, thus lightening the obligations on him and doing away with a superfluous task. The official tester secures all necessary samples for Babcock test. The breeder still continues to keep the daily milk record.

To supervise the work under the new system a second travelling official was secured, Mr. G. W. Clemons now assisting Mr. D. Drummond in this work.

It should be said to the credit of the Canadian breeders that up to date no evidence has been found of effort on the part of any breeder to "stuff" or "pad" his daily milk records. The frequent unannounced visits of the inspectors act as a check to prevent it, but better than this is the evident veracity and good faith of the owners of the cows. It may not be amiss, however, to throw out a hint lest any unscrupulous breeder should be harboring surreptitious intentions. If any suspicious facts were observed at any stable, more frequent and critical visits of the inspector would follow, and if positive evidence of fraud were discovered the offender would be quietly dropped, and be unable to have any more official testing done. As the Government is doing the work free of charge, no breeder has any claim on its services, and it would have a perfect right to mete out such punitive and deterrent measures in the interests of reliability and for the protection of honest breeders and the purchasing public. So far no such measures have been called for and the system of official testing is working well.

WHENCE CAME THE DAIRY COW?

She is the product of an evolution and the epitome of thrift. The four great dairy breeds of Canada are likewise typical of the races of men who had mainly to do with their creation—the Scots, the Dutch and the Channel Islander. They have proved their adaptability to conditions on this continent and responded marvellously to the enterprising intelligence of the Canadian and the American.

The cow in her natural conditions gave no more milk than her calf could take, and it was well it was so, as otherwise udder trouble would frequently develop and often death from inflammation or congestion. That the milking function in cows fails to improve where the calves do the milking is evident from observations under the ranching system. The same fact is noticeable under the nursery system in pure-bred herds of any breed.

The milking propensity, irrational as it may appear, has been most highly developed by artificial rather than by natural means. Milking by hand at regular stated periods has evidently improved the producing capacity of cows to a much greater extent than has the more frequent and irregular calls of the calf when left constantly with its dam, or even when nursed at regular intervals. This may be, and doubtless is, partly due to the fact that under hand-milking the defective milking cows are more readily recognized and more quickly discarded by the weeding out process. But it remains an indisputable fact that heavy milking capacity in cows has been most successfully developed through hand milking, together with selection, mating the cows with bulls bred from superior producing dams, and reserving the heifer calves from the best milking